

# Physical Disabilities

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# Physical Disabilities

## Needs of student

### SUPPORT FOR PHYSICAL DISABILITY

A student at your school has a physical disability that impacts their ability to access the school environment and the curriculum.

### SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH THE VERY HIGHEST NEEDS

A student at your school has very high needs in learning, vision, hearing, mobility or language use and social communication.

Their needs are likely to remain high or very high throughout their schooling and they will require significant curriculum adaptations. These students may also require support from specialist staff, additional teaching time and teacher's aide support.

## Help available

An occupational and/or physiotherapist (from the Ministry of Education, Special Education or another provider) will work with your school and the student's family to identify and overcome physical barriers to them participating and learning.

The Ongoing and Reviewable Resourcing Schemes (ORRS) provide resources for a very small group of students who have the highest need for specialist assistance in New Zealand. These resources enable these students to receive an education at their local school.

## How to get it

In collaboration with parents or caregivers, you can complete the application form on the Ministry of Education website:  
[www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

The 'physical disability' page also includes the list of other providers (school specialist providers). Look to see if the Ministry of Education, Special Education, or one of the school specialist providers, provides services to your school.

Because the eligibility criteria for ORRS are complex, it is best to read about this support before you apply. The *ORRS Guidelines* provide you with information about the application process.

Go to the Ministry of Education website:  
[www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

## What to expect

The occupational therapist and/or physiotherapist will observe the student during typical school activities. Then they will talk to the student, parents and school staff, sharing ideas and practical information to enable the student to participate.

These students receive teacher's aide time and specialist services. The level of support provided for each student will be based on the student's needs. The student's school receives an additional 0.1 or 0.2 full-time equivalent teacher depending on whether the child is verified as having high or very high needs.

At least two years before a student receiving ORRS leaves secondary school, an Individual Transition Plan will be developed. This plan outlines what the student wants to do after they leave school and the steps they need to take to get there.

# Physical Disabilities

## Needs of student

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

A student at your school may require technology or equipment to remove barriers to learning and raise achievement at school.

### SCHOOL PROPERTY MODIFICATIONS

A student wants to enrol at your school, or one of your enrolled students becomes disabled, and they need help to access the classroom and playground so they can participate in activities and move around safely.

## Help available

These students may also be eligible to go to a special day school.

The education team around the student – their parents, school staff and special education staff, as well as the student themselves, assess what is needed and then develop and implement assistive technology solutions.

The Ministry of Education, Special Education district assistive technology coordinators can work with the team, if required.

The Ministry of Education will meet the cost of modifications to state school property to enable access for the student.

## How to get it

If enrolment at a special school is being considered, you need to contact your local Ministry of Education, Special Education office or special school. A consultation process will follow before a decision is made about whether an application should be made for a Section 9 agreement for enrolment.

For more information about Section 9 agreements, go to the Ministry of Education website: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

There are pre-requisites the student's education team need to complete before an application is made. Read about these in the online *Assistive Technology Guidelines*. These guidelines also provide a link to the application form. Go to the Ministry of Education website: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

At state schools, the board of trustees should apply to their local Ministry of Education for information about the process.

The needs of the student will be discussed with the board and the student's caregiver.

A budget for the modifications will be agreed with the scope of the modifications being all reasonable work required to support the student's needs.

## What to expect

Special day schools provide specialist programmes for students with high needs.

To read more about special schools go to: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

Assistive technology includes computer products as well as vision equipment, specialised seating, tables and hearing devices.

The process outlined in the guidelines ensures support is available so that the student gets the right equipment or technology for their needs and the student gets the most out of equipment once it is in place.

Modifications can include items and modifications such as ramps, lifts, rails, specialised bathrooms for those who require wheelchair access, adjustments to doorways and door handles, change tables and hoists.

The assessment, design and construction process can take up to 12 months depending on the complexity of the work, so it is important that the process begins well before the student starts at your school.

# Physical Disabilities

## Needs of student

### TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SCHOOL

A student at your school needs transport to school for safety or mobility reasons.

### FACILITATION SERVICES

Your school and the student's family are having difficulty working together to meet the student's extra education needs.

## Help available

For state integrated and private schools the Ministry of Education, Special Education can provide advice but the cost must be met by the school's proprietor (for integrated schools this is an obligation under the integration agreement).

Assistance for travel between home and the nearest school can be provided for students who need this for mobility or safety reasons.

Your school, or the family of any students at your school who require extra support for disability, high health, or behaviour, can call in a special education facilitator if the relationship between you breaks down.

## How to get it

At state integrated and private schools the board of trustees needs to make an application to the school's proprietor.

You will need to apply for assistance.

There are three separate sections of the application form. One section needs to be filled in by your school. The other sections need to be filled in by the student's parent or caregiver, and the Ministry of Education, Special Education.

Applications should be forwarded to service providers approved by the Ministry. More information and an application form can be found on the Ministry of Education website: [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

Search: *Special Education School Transport Assistance*

Call your local Ministry of Education office and ask to speak to a student support manager. They will refer you to a facilitator.

## What to expect

This assistance may be a vehicle allowance or a place in a taxi, minibus or total mobility vehicle.

Impartial special education facilitators are available to provide information, to facilitate and, where appropriate, mediate if difficulties arise. The facilitator will start a problem-solving process, which is focused on achieving consensus among all those involved.

# Physical Disabilities

## Needs of student

### EXAM ASSISTANCE

A student at your school wants to sit an exam and has a proven significant learning difficulty.

The learning difficulty may be related to reading and/or written language and/or sensory/physical impairment.

And, because of the specific difficulty the student is unable to demonstrate their knowledge in a subject area.

## Help available

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) offers a range of assistance for these students.

## How to get it

Potential applicants for assistance should be identified by your school at the beginning of the year. Your school needs to have provided assistance to this student throughout the year.

Applications for exam assistance need to be lodged with the NZQA by August each year.

For more information go to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website:

**[www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)** Search: *Special Assessment Conditions*

## What to expect

Exam assistance may include: a reader and/or writer, extra time to do the exam, enlarged exam papers, or use of assistive equipment.