GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of
Education

Student Health in Public Schools policy

Effective date: 8 September 2026

Version: 5.0

Table of contents

1. Policy statement **3**

2. Policy rules **4**

3. Responsibility for implementation and compliance **5**

4. Scope **5**

5. Supporting procedures **5**

6. Definitions **5**

7. Related documents **7**

8. Contact information **8**

9. History of changes **8**

10. More information **10**

Policy review date 10

1. Policy statement

The Department promotes culturally responsive approaches to strengthening student physical and mental health to maximise their engagement with teaching and learning.

It does this in a way that builds shared responsibility for student health between schools, students, parents and the broader community.

All policy and procedural statements contained within this document are lawful orders for the purposes of section 80(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA) and are therefore to be observed by all Department of Education employees.

2. Policy rules

The principal:

- implements a whole school approach to promote student health
- plans for medical emergencies
- implements plans and processes to respond to the health needs of students.

Guidance

In this document, it is the principal's responsibility, as site manager, to manage its implementation. This does not mean the principal will personally undertake the duty, rather to ensure systems, processes and roles are established and staff are aware of these.

In this policy, health incorporates physical and mental health.

Education regions and Statewide Services support schools to promote health in accordance with the Student Health in Public Schools procedures.

Education regional offices:

- provide advice, guidance and support to schools to support student health
- liaise and coordinate support from other agencies within the region that work with families and young people.

Statewide Services:

- provides resources and professional learning to enable schools to develop local approaches to supporting student health
- develops and implements mechanisms to maintain support, engagement and shared responsibility for student health.

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3. Responsibility for implementation and compliance

Principals are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Compliance monitoring is the responsibility of line managers.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all employees.

5. Supporting procedures

Student Health in Public Schools procedures

6. Definitions

Culturally responsive

The ability to understand, interact and communicate effectively and sensitively with people from a cultural background that is different from one's own. It is characterised by respect for culture, ongoing self-reflection, expansion of knowledge and commitment to improving practices and relationships, and is responsive to the diverse needs, backgrounds, experiences and knowledge of all students. In the Western Australian context, this is first and foremost for Aboriginal students.

Documented Plan

A documented plan records the actions in place to address the specific learning support needs of an individual student.

Health needs

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The prevention and management of a disease, illness, injury or disability of a student, in order to maintain or restore physical or mental health. Individualised documented plans are required for students with specific health conditions.

Line manager

A line manager is someone who has day-to-day responsibility for the management of the employee.

Medical emergency

A medical emergency is a sudden or unexpected threat to health which requires an urgent assessment and alleviation of symptoms.

Mental health

A state of wellbeing in which an individual realises their own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to their community.

Physical health

The state of the physical body and how well it is functioning. Physical health covers a wide range of areas including nutrition, activity and hygiene. Disease, injury and disability can impair the functioning of the body.

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7. Related documents

Relevant legislation or authority

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
Disability Standards for Education 2005
School Education Act 1999 (WA)
School Education Regulations 2000 (WA)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Related Department policies

Duty of Care for Public School Students policy
Enrolment in Public Schools policy
Incident Management on Department of Education Sites policy
Work Health and Safety policy
Records Management policy
Risk and Business Continuity Management policy

Other documents

Access the Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework (staff only)

Code of Conduct and Standards (staff only)

Support documented planning and case management for individual students (staff only)

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8. Contact information

Policy manager:

Director, Student Engagement and Wellbeing

T: (08) 9402 6100

Policy contact officer:

Principal Consultant, Student Engagement and Wellbeing

T: (08) 9402 6448

9. History of changes

Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date **Policy version no.**	3.0
Notes	Major review undertaken, Student Health Care Policy and Procedures endorsed by Director General on 19 September 2014.
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	22 February 2016
Policy version no.	3.1
Notes	Updated contact information D16/0154847
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	11 August 2016
Policy version no.	3.2
Notes	Updated broken links D17/0329162

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Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	3 August 2017
Policy version no.	3.3
Notes	Updated broken links D17/0329162

Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	21 February 2018
Policy version no.	3.4
Notes	Updated contact information D18/0075906

Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	29 August 2018
Policy version no.	3.5
Notes	Minor changes to include reference to Public Schools D18/0151652 and updated legislation links D18/0207680.

Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	9 February 2021
Policy version no.	3.6
Notes	Minor changes to Broken Links, Titles of Forms, Legislation Titles and Contact Details.D21/0062242

Effective date	17 July 2023
Last update date **Policy version no.**	4.0
Notes	Major review undertaken (D22/0855653) endorsed by Director General on 23 February 2023

All policy and procedural statements contained within this document are lawful orders for the purposes of section 80(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA) and are therefore to be observed by all Department of Education employees.

Effective date	8 September 2026
Last update date **Policy version no.**	5.0
Notes	Major review approved by the Director General on 3 August 2026 (D26/0116687). Updated definition and language of documented plan.

10. More information

Supporting content

Procedure

Student Health in Public Schools procedures

Policy review date

8 September 2029

All policy and procedural statements contained within this document are lawful orders for the purposes of section 80(a) of the Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA) and are therefore to be observed by all Department of Education employees.