GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of
Education

Students at Educational Risk in Public Schools policy

Effective date: 8 September 2026

Version: 3.0

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1. Policy statement

The Department of Education identifies, responds to and supports the diverse needs of all students so that they are able to engage with the content and standards defined in the Western Australian Curriculum.

2. Policy rules

Principals and teaching staff will develop and implement processes to identify, provide for, monitor and report on students who may be at educational risk.

Principals and teaching staff will comply with the Students at Educational Risk in Public Schools procedures.

3. Responsibility for implementation and compliance

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the principal and teaching staff.

Compliance monitoring is the responsibility of line managers.

4. Scope

This policy applies to principals and teaching staff in public schools.

5. Supporting procedures

Students at Educational Risk in Public Schools procedures

6. Definitions

Documented plan

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.

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

Personalised learning

The way in which schools tailor education to enable every student to achieve the highest standard possible. The rationale for personalised learning is to raise standards by focusing teaching and learning programs on the aptitudes and interests of students.

Protective factors

Promote resilience and help to buffer groups and individuals against the adverse effects of stressful situations or risk factors. They refer to anything that prevents or reduces vulnerability for the development of a disorder.

Risk factors

Risk factors impact on individual and groups of students at educational risk.

Irregular school attendance, apart from being an indicator of other forms of risk, is a critical factor that can impact on student engagement, educational achievement and social integration within the school community.

Other risk factors may include, but are not limited to: socio economic status, family structures, medical/biological/genetic/cognitive factors, environmental factors (school, family and community), cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD), and geographic location.

Students at educational risk

Students whose academic, social and/or emotional attributes are a barrier to engagement with the content and standards defined in the Western Australian Curriculum.

7. Related documents

Relevant legislation or authority

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.

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

Disability Standards for Education 2005

Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)

School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997 (WA)

School Education Act 1999 (WA)

School Education Regulations 2000 (WA)

Related department policies

Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting in Public Schools policy

Employee Performance and Development policy

Enrolment in Public Schools policy

Gifted and Talented in Public Schools policy

School Improvement and Accountability in Public Schools policy

Student Attendance in Public Schools policy

Student Behaviour in Public Schools policy

Other documents

Early Years Learning Framework

Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration

Student Diversity and the Australian Curriculum (ACARA)

Support documents planning and case management of individual students

The School Education Act Employees' (Teachers and Administrators) General Agreement 2023

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8. Contact information

Policy manager:

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Policy contact officer:

Principal Consultant, Student Engagement and Wellbeing

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9. History of changes

Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date **Policy version no.**	2.0
Notes	Major review undertaken, Student at Educational Risk Policy and Procedures endorsed by Director General on 19 September 2014.
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	11 August 2016
Policy version no.	2.1
Notes	Updated contact information D16/0522722
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	3 November 2016
Policy version no.	2.2

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Notes	Updated link to Documented Plans D16/0600426
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	3 October 2018
Policy version no.	2.3
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	11 March 2020
Policy version no.	2.4
Notes	Minor change to contact information. D20/0130883
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	4 October 2023
Policy version no.	2.5
Notes	Minor change to contact information D23/1582068
Effective date	1 January 2015
Last update date	12 June 2024
Policy version no.	2.6
Notes	Minor change to Other Documents D24/0419525
Effective date	8 September 2026
Last update date	
Policy version no.	3.0

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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

Students at Educational Risk 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.