



# MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Verity Firth MP  
Minister for Education and Training

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## NEW GUIDELINES TO HELP PROTECT SCHOOL STUDENTS

The NSW Government today announced that new guidelines to assist schools in managing students with behavioural issues will be in place for the start of Term 1.

The guidelines will enable agencies and schools to share information about violent students and take steps to minimise risks to other students, staff and the student concerned.

“Schools are already among the safest places in the community for our children and these guidelines will ensure this continues to be the case,” Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth said.

“Principals will be able to obtain relevant information about a student’s history that may affect the conditions of their enrolment.

“This is about minimising the risk of violent incidents occurring in our schools.”

Ms Firth said a range of NSW Government agencies, including the police and NSW Health, would now be able to provide detailed reports on students who have exhibited threatening or even violent behaviour.

“Accessing such information will allow schools to introduce strategies that ensure risk is minimised for other students, staff and the child concerned,” Ms Firth said.

“It also allows principals to maximise the learning opportunities for all students at the school involved.

“Special protection is contained in the guidelines to ensure information is obtained, used and stored properly.”

The guidelines follow legislation allowing the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training to direct a student whose conduct was a risk to others to enrol in a government school that was able to control their behaviour.

Extensive consultation in developing the guidelines occurred with a broad range of government agencies and other groups, including those representing parents, children Aboriginal people, and children with a disability.

The Department will closely monitor the program to ensure it’s implemented according to strict guidelines to protect the privacy of children.

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