

NSW Department of Education

Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools

P&C Federation NSW Webinar
10 March 2022

education.nsw.gov.au



Agenda

- Acknowledgement of Country and Introduction
- Update for parents and carers on current flood and COVID-19 settings
- Panel presentation and discussion on the Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools policy, supported by live Q&A

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES IN NSW & ACT



Acknowledgement of Country

NSW Floods

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety>

COVID-smart settings for remainder of Term 1 2022

COVID-19 changes

Changes now in effect

- **Masks no longer mandatory (except in Schools for Specific Purposes, support units)**
- **RAT testing changed to symptomatic testing** at discretion where a student or staff member is unwell and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms
- **Visitors are welcomed** back to school, regardless of vaccination status
- Families, students and staff are encouraged to **continue following COVID-smart measures**

Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools

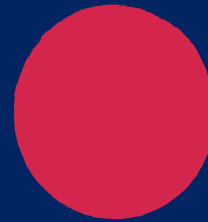
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/whole-school-approach/inclusive--engaging-and-respectful-schools.html>

Panellists

- **Ruth Owen CBE**, Deputy Secretary, Learning Improvement
- **Professor Donna Cross**, School of Population and Global Health, University of Western Australia, and Program Head, Health Promotion and Education, Telethon Kids Institute
- **Dr Sylvia Corish**, Executive Director, Student Support and Specialist Programs, School Performance
- **Laura Milkins**, Executive Director, Inclusion and Wellbeing
- **Dean White**, Executive Director School Performance - Rural South and West



Why is this work important?





Our vision is to be Australia's best education system and one of the finest in the world. To do so, we must build an inclusive education system in which every student has the opportunity to access high-quality education and to fulfil their potential. Embedding inclusive education across our schools requires effective behaviour support and management.

Decisions based in data

To keep students engaged in learning at school



4x

Demand for disability support is growing at **4x rate of enrolment growth**



3.9x

Students with **disability** are **3.9x** more likely to be suspended. **32,608 suspensions** issued in 2020 (**16% decrease** from 2019).



-9

Students with disability lost on average an **additional 9 days of learning time per annum** compared to a student without disability



3 out of 10

Mainstream educators told us that teachers at their school have the skill & confidence to differentiate their teaching for students with disability



900+

Submissions received during **public consultation in 2020** provided a strong case for change and basis for understanding the needs of students and staff



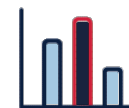
63,604

suspensions were issued (**14% decrease** from 2019) in 2020, across all NSW public schools.



3.7x

Aboriginal students are **3.7x** more likely to be suspended. **18,456 suspensions** were issued in 2020 (**15% decrease** from 2019).



128

Students were **expelled from NSW public schools** in Semester 1, 2021.



Number of children with complex behaviour in schools is growing



2.6 & 3.1

Average days (length) of a **short suspension** in 2020 for primary & secondary schools



9.1 & 13.3

Average days (length) of a **long suspension** in 2020 for primary & secondary schools



Introduction of the Persons with Disability (**Regulation of Restrictive Practices**) Bill 2021.

What we all know

Early-life impacts on life-long outcomes



Feeling supported, safe and connected



More likely to be **active participants** in their learning



Learning environments which are positive and respectful



Improve student engagement and **academic achievement**



Support early in school life

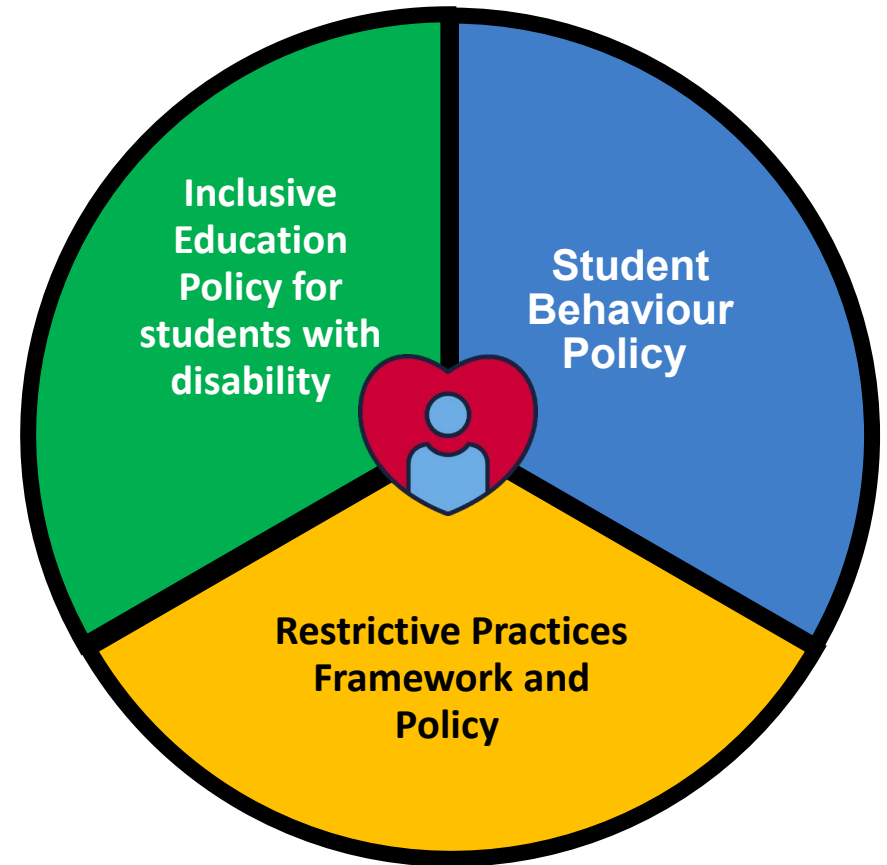


Most likely to develop positive behaviours and have improved **post-school outcomes**

What are the new policies?

To ensure every student is included, engaged and respected

- ✓ Safety in school remains our top priority
- ✓ We want to change practices in our schools to make our schools more inclusive
 - ✓ This includes reducing duration of suspensions
- ✓ We are expanding the support we provide to schools to address all forms of behaviour



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Thank you

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