

# Autism diagnosis and school funding in Western Australia

Western Australian public schools can apply for additional disability resourcing to support autistic students. If approved, the school receives funding aligned with your child’s support needs and the adjustments required for their learning and participation. This funding is called an **Individual Disability Allocation (IDA)**.

## Who needs to sign off on my child’s autism diagnosis?

To be accepted for disability resourcing in WA public schools, the Western Australian Department of Education requires that you child’s autism diagnosis must be made by:

- **Two eligible practitioners,**
- From **different disciplines,**
- Who **agree on the diagnosis and level of severity.**

### OPTION 1

Paediatrician or Psychiatrist



+

1 of the following



Speech Pathologist



Occupational Therapist



Psychologist

### OPTION 2

Endorsed Psychologist<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clinical Psychologist, Neuropsychologist or Educational & Developmental Psychologist



+

1 of the following



Speech Pathologist



Occupational Therapist

### OPTION 3

Psychiatrist



+

Paediatrician



### IMPORTANT:



All assessment reports must show that the diagnosis was made by **CONSENSUS**.



Both clinicians must agree on the diagnosis and level (Autism Level 1, 2 or 3).



All clinicians must be suitably qualified and experienced in autism diagnosis.

## INFORMATION SHEET

### Who applies for school funding?

School staff complete and submit the application on your behalf. This might be completed by your Deputy Principal, Learning Support Coordinator or Principal.

The Department of Education then assesses the application against its criteria.

If approved, the school receives a funding level related to the level of adjustment required for your child.

### What support can be provided?

Support might include:

- Access to specific technology or specialised equipment
- Modifications to the curriculum or teaching approach
- Alternative assessment methods (e.g. oral instead of written, extra time)
- Support from an education assistant
- Adjustments to the school environment (e.g. quieter spaces, visual supports, accessibility changes to buildings or grounds)

Read answers to questions most asked by parents [here](#) or scan the QR code



### Interim support while waiting for an autism assessment

Your child may be eligible for interim disability resourcing if you can provide a letter from the assessing practitioners or government agency confirming that your child:

- Has been accepted for an autism assessment, and
- Is on a waitlist or
- Has an assessment date booked.

### Do I need to provide the full assessment report to the school?

No, it is up to you what information you share with the school.

To apply for disability resourcing you do need to provide to the school a **signed letter or a statement** that is embedded within the text of a full report from eligible practitioners that:

- **States the diagnosis and current levels of severity** e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorder Level 2
- Specifies if the diagnosis **with or without accompanying intellectual impairment or language impairment**
- Lists the **names of the diagnosing practitioners**
- States that **all practitioners agree** with the diagnosis and levels of severity.



Perth Kids Hub is a mum-run Perth directory helping families find paediatricians, therapists and support services for their children's development, learning and mental health.

[perthkidshub.com.au](http://perthkidshub.com.au)

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This handout has been prepared by Perth Kids Hub for general parent education purposes only. The information provided is based on guidance and feedback shared with us regarding autism diagnosis requirements for Western Australian Department of Education disability resourcing processes at the time of publication. Requirements, policies and interpretation may change at any time, and the Department of Education is not obliged to notify Perth Kids Hub of these changes.

While we aim to provide accurate and practical information, Perth Kids Hub does not guarantee that this information is current, complete or accepted in every individual circumstance. Families are strongly encouraged to confirm the latest requirements directly with their child's school or relevant school contact, such as the Principal, Deputy Principal, Learning Support Coordinator or school psychologist, before proceeding with an assessment.