

Program for Students with Disabilities and Inclusion Policy

RATIONALE

Lake Bolac College is committed to an inclusive, accepting and engaging learning environment for all students. The College values of Achievement, Respect and Resilience underpin all interactions and activities by all members of the school community.

OBJECTIVE

To support the inclusion of students with disabilities and students with additional learning, social and/or emotional needs at Lake Bolac College.

PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (PSD)

The Program for Students with Disabilities is a targeted funding program for Victorian Government schools. It provides resources and funding (where applicable) for students with moderate to severe needs who meet one of seven criteria categories:

- Physical disability
- Visual impairment
- Severe behavioural disorder
- Intellectual disability
- Hearing impairment
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Severe language disorder

POLICY

Wellbeing Team

The Lake Bolac College Wellbeing team is led by the Leading Teacher- Wellbeing. The Lake Bolac College Wellbeing Team consists of:

- Leading Teacher- Wellbeing
- Assistant Principal
- Principal
- Classroom teacher/s
- Coordinators/home group teachers
- School support staff
- School Nurse/ mental health practitioner

Funding

Funding for the PSD program is made available through the PSD program and utilised by Lake Bolac College to employ Education Support Staff and/or purchase specific school resources to support PSD funded students. The management of PSD funding lies with Principal class employees at Lake Bolac College in conjunction with the College Business Manager and Leading Teacher- Wellbeing.

Adjustments

To comply with Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines, Lake Bolac College makes 'reasonable adjustments' to accommodate students with a disability.

An adjustment is an action taken to assist a student with a disability to participate in education/learning on the same basis as their peers. Adjustments may or may not require additional resources.

PSD Eligibility and Identification

If a staff member or family seek for a student to be assessed for their eligibility under the PSD program, the following process applies. The Assistant Principal/Principal and Leading Teacher- Wellbeing are made aware of the concerns with data and/or evidence to accompany concerns.

1. The Wellbeing Team will investigate concerns and take further action if necessary.
2. If sufficient data and evidence backs up the concern, the Wellbeing Team will contact the Student Support Officer at the DET and liaise with them on testing and engagement of support for the student

3. The Wellbeing Team will contact the student's family to seek authority for the student to receive support or testing from organisations, individuals or services as deemed appropriate by the SSO.
4. Where applicable and available, the Wellbeing Team will obtain copies of reports and testing from external health and learning authorities from the student's family.
5. An assessment for eligibility will be undertaken. This process is led by the Wellbeing Team.
6. Evidence and data is collected, with supporting documentation compiled by the Wellbeing Team. An SSG meeting is held with a parent/guardian, DET nominee and a staff representative to check eligibility criteria and complete the application.
7. The Wellbeing Team will collate supporting documentation and submit the application.
8. DET advise the school of the application outcome. The school will then advise the family of the outcome. If the application is successful, a meeting will be held to determine how the funding will be utilised to support the student.
9. If the PSD application is unsuccessful, Lake Bolac College will still ensure all school based support services are utilised to best meet the learning needs of the student.

Individual Education Plans (IEP's)

Each student who is eligible and granted PSD funding will have an IEP which is shared with relevant staff assisting a PSD funded student with their learning, and is developed in consultation with the family. The duration of the IEP is for a duration of a maximum of 12 months, unless otherwise agreed with College Leadership and the family.

The family of each student who is eligible for PSD funding is offered at least one Student Support Group (SSG) meeting each semester where the school and family will discuss the educational needs of the PSD funded student.

An SSG meeting can involve but is not limited to the following people:

- Family (Parents/Guardians/Support workers)
- Classroom teacher or co-ordinator
- Leading Teacher- Wellbeing
- Assistant Principal
- Principal
- Integration Aides
- SSOs or other DET support staff
- School nurse/Mental health practitioner
- External health professionals such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists etc.

School Inclusion Strategy

At Lake Bolac College, inclusive education for students with a disability is an ongoing process of reflection, evaluation and re-action. Lake Bolac College will always strive to provide an inclusive educational environment for all students, to meet their social and emotional developmental needs and also meet the needs of the local community.

At Lake Bolac College, operational strategic direction decisions will be made with students with a disability considered. The principles of Lake Bolac Colleges' School Inclusion Strategy are:

1. Student Voice and Agency- Listening to students and supporting their needs
2. Parent and Community Partnership- Regularly seeking feedback from parents/carers and the wider school community on long-term school vision, and with regards to students with a disability
3. Social and Cultural Responsibility- Being sensitive, responsive and supportive of all students, including students with a disability, and their social and cultural ties
4. Physical Inclusion- Lake Bolac College will continually seek to include physical learning and play spaces that cater for all students, including those with compromised physiological needs and students with a disability. Lake Bolac College will seek to provide sensory areas for students with disabilities to be included in safe play.
5. Curriculum Inclusion- Lake Bolac College will work to include all students in the curriculum with adjustments and supports made for students with a disability. Teachers will use evidence based practices to support point of need teaching to all students.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in March 2021 and is scheduled for review in March 2022.