



Documented Education Plans

Education makes a vital contribution to the development and wellbeing of children and young people. It also plays a significant role in a child or young person's ability to access future employment and life opportunities.

Children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (the Department) often have unique educational needs, and meeting those needs requires planning and support.

To help promote the educational participation and performance of children in care, Memoranda of Understandings (MOUs) have been agreed to between the Department and the:

- Department of Education;
- Department of Education Services;
- Catholic Education Office of Western Australia; and
- Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia.

The intention of these MOUs is to make certain that every child in care enrolled in a government or non-government school has an individualised Documented Education Plan.

What is a Documented Education Plan?

A Documented Education Plan is a document developed by the child's school in partnership with the Department and people significant to the child.

The plan outlines the agreed strategies that will be undertaken in order to meet the educational needs of a child in the CEO's care. The child protection worker uses the Documented Education Plan to inform the education component of the child's overall care plan.

The development of the Documented Education Plan should involve key people relevant to the child's success – like the child's teacher, child protection worker, education assistant and carer(s) – as well as the child where appropriate. A meeting of all key people takes place for everyone to contribute to the development or review of a Documented Education Plan.

A Documented Education Plan should:

- outline a meaningful and realistic educational program;
- be appropriate to the child's age and developmental level;
- clearly outline individual and shared responsibilities;
- focus on the child's potential to achieve positive educational, social and behavioural outcomes;
- be a record of regular assessments and evaluation of the child's progress;
- address any attendance issues; and
- be reviewed at least twice per year or as often as required.

What are the Department's responsibilities?

The Department is responsible for:

- advising the child's school that the child is in the care of the CEO;
- providing the school with any relevant information about the child's needs and care arrangements; and
- participating in education planning.

While the child's school is responsible for developing the Documented Education Plan and arranging for all key people to meet, the Department child protection worker is a key partner in developing and recording the plan.

What is the carer's role?

Providing day-to-day care for a child means that foster carers, family or significant other carers are often in the best position to provide advice about a child's education needs, and support the academic development of the child.

Carers will be invited to be key participants in developing and implementing a Documented Education Plan.

Find out more from the Department's website at www.childprotection.wa.gov.au