

The **Pyramid of Disability Support** in education aims to create an inclusive environment where all students have the opportunity to thrive academically. By tailoring support to individual needs and providing a range of services, this framework seeks to empower students with disabilities to reach their full potential within the educational system. The pyramid typically has 4 tiers, each with more-specialised support requirements.

Tier 1 - Universal supports: At the base of the pyramid are universal supports, which benefit all students. These are inclusive strategies and practices implemented in the general education setting. Examples include differentiated instruction, accessible materials, sharing of teaching materials in advance of a teaching setting, additional time for students with processing issues, and classroom accommodations like flexible seating.

Tier 2 – Generalised supports: The second tier offers more focused assistance for students who require additional help beyond the universal level. This typically involves small-group interventions or specialised programs. For instance, students struggling with reading might receive targeted reading interventions.

Tier 3 - Intensive Supports: This tier represents the most intensive level of generic support. These services are more individualised to students with less-common and/or significant disabilities. This might involve one-on-one instruction, specific support or equipment requirements in an examination, provision of additional bespoke resources or assistance.

Tier 4 – Personalised individual support: The top of the tier represents students who may require very specific personal support. For example a personal assistant for a student with very significant movement disabilities, a sign language interpreter for a student with substantial hearing impairment, or an amanuensis for a student with motor-control issues.

Progression and Flexibility: Importantly, the Pyramid of Disability Support is not a static structure. Students can move between tiers as their needs change. Regular assessment and monitoring help determine when a student should receive more or less support.

Collaboration: Collaboration between educators, support staff, parents, and specialists is key to the success of this model. Teamwork ensures that students receive appropriate and effective support.