

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 3****7 March 2025****Question No. 164****Ms Clay MLA:** To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood

1. What are the eligibility criteria for public specialist schools like Cranleigh.
2. Are students eligible if they have (a) an intellectual disability, (b) autism and (c) level three autism; if so, how is each assessed.
3. What are the other eligibility criteria and assessment processes for non-physical disabilities.

Ms Berry MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT has four specialist schools. Cranleigh and Malkara Schools cater for students in Kindergarten to year 6. Woden and Black Mountain Schools cater for students in secondary school (years 7-12). Eligibility for all specialist schools in kindergarten to year 12 requires a moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability. Eligibility must be confirmed by an ACT Education Directorate school psychologist.

The diagnosis must be validated by a report from a psychologist detailing the diagnosis of an intellectual disability based on a clinical assessment and approved standardised testing of intellectual functioning and adaptive functioning. Where the use of a standardised cognitive assessment is not possible due to the severity of disability, a report from a psychologist or paediatrician detailing the disability may be accepted.

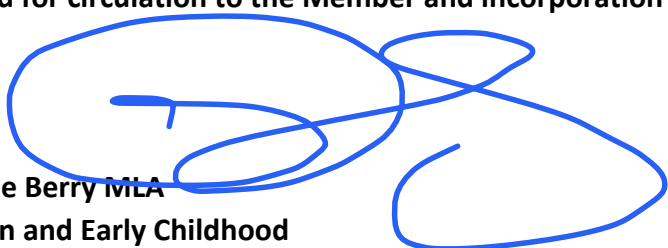
2. a) Students are eligible if they have a moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability.
b) Students with autism are eligible if they also have a moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability.

c) Students with level 3 autism are eligible if they also have a moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability.

A student is considered to have intellectual disability where a student has a diagnosis of an intellectual disability that is consistent with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 5) or International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10) including level of severity. As a result of the disability, significant adjustments are required to curriculum, school activities and assessment procedures to ensure the student can access and participate in education on the same basis as a student without disability

3. There are no other eligibility criteria for specialist schools.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


Ms Yvette Berry MLA
Education and Early Childhood

Date: 02/04/25

This response required 65 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$108.35.