



Supporting High Ability Students

Policy

This policy outlines arrangements for supporting high-ability students in government schools, including implementation of the Student Excellence Program.

Summary

- Government schools work to enhance the educational opportunities of all students, including high-ability students.
- The [Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0](#) outlines the importance of including a planned approach to learning extension for high-ability students as part of a school's documented whole-school curriculum plan.
- All schools receiving funding through the Student Excellence Program must appoint a high-ability practice leader (HAPL) to lead the school's support for high-ability students.
- High-ability students should be supported to access the department's range of extension and enrichment opportunities, including the Victorian High-Ability Program, the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series, and programs offered by the Centre for Higher Education Studies. Information on these programs is available in the [Guidance tab](#).
- Each year the [Victorian Education Excellence Awards](#) recognises schools with an outstanding approach to supporting high-ability students.

Details

'High-ability' is defined as having advanced learning capability and potential compared to same-age peers in one or more domains of learning.

Within their approach to supporting high-ability students, schools are encouraged to:

- access guidance and professional learning for school leaders and classroom teachers in supporting high-ability students (refer to the [Resources tab](#))
- have a structured approach to identifying high-ability students
- develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for high-ability students, if required
- facilitate high-ability students' access to enrichment and extension programs and supports, either within or external to the school.

As part of the Student Excellence Program, all funded schools must appoint a high-ability practice leader and facilitate access to the:

- Victorian High Ability Program
- Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series.

Schools are also encouraged to facilitate access to other programs for high-ability students such as those offered by:

- [Centre for Higher Education Studies \(CHES\)](#)
- [Koorie Academy of Excellence](#)
- [Science and mathematics specialist centres](#)
- Victorian State Schools Spectacular
- [School Sport Victoria Competition Pathway \(PDF\)](#)
- National and international competitions.

For further information on the Student Excellence Program, refer to [Student Excellence Program](#).

There are a range of schools and settings targeted to high-ability students. For more information, refer to [Schools and settings targeted to high-ability students](#).

Each year the Victorian Education Excellence Awards recognises one primary and one secondary school with an outstanding approach to supporting high-ability students. The winning schools each receive a grant of up to \$25,000 to further support their programs for high-ability students. For further information, please visit the [Victorian Education Excellence Awards](#).

Related policies

- [Enrolment](#)
- [Individual Education Plans \(IEPS\)](#)
- [Specialism Schools and Programs](#)
- [Student Resource Package – Targeted Initiatives \(Student Excellence Program\)](#)
- [Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0](#)

Contact

For general queries regarding support for high-ability students, including the Student Excellence Program and selective entry high school admissions, contact: student.excellence@education.vic.gov.au

For queries regarding funding under the Student Excellence Program, contact Schools Financial Management Support: schools.finance.support@education.vic.gov.au

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the school's three-year review cycle.

Last ratified by School Council in May 2025