

The Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

What it means for your child



Welsh Government have reviewed the processes and systems around additional learning needs (ALN). There is new legislation that has been in place since September 2021, which will be fully implemented from September 2024. There are changes that may impact you and your child.

The principles underpinning the ALN system aim to create a fully inclusive education system where all learners are given the opportunity to succeed and have access to an education that meets their needs and enables them to participate in, benefit from, and enjoy learning.



SEN to ALN

The term 'Additional Learning Needs' will be used rather than 'Special Educational Needs'. All local authorities will have Statutory Officers and an Early Years ALN Lead Officer to support children in early years settings. All schools and colleges will have an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator.

Children or Young People are considered to have an additional learning need if:

- They have a learning difficulty or disability, requiring additional learning provision. Additional learning provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age.
- They have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.



0–25 Years old

There will be one system of support for children or young people with additional learning needs (ALN) from 0 to 25 years old.

Participation of children and young people

A person-centred approach is used to gather the child or young person's views, wishes and feelings, and the views of the child's parents or carers. This is central to the planning and provision of support and will inform the development of their Individual Development Plans.

Collaboration

All services will work together to ensure appropriate coordinated support is put in place to enable children and young people to achieve positive expectations, experiences and outcomes.

Individual development plan

Children or young people identified as having ALN that requires additional learning provision will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) to describe their needs and the support required to meet these needs.

The IDP may include the advice of a range of professionals supporting the child or young person.

IDPs will be reviewed at least annually or when anything significant changes for the child or young person.

Disagreement resolution and rights of appeal

Disagreements will be dealt with as quickly as possible with the local authority and the key people involved.

Independent support groups will listen and help if there are disagreements which haven't been resolved. Children, young people, parents and carers have the right to appeal decisions made by the local authority about the child or young person's additional learning needs or additional learning provision.

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