

ACCESS TO SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

At the 2016 Census there were 1093 people aged between 5-19 years in need of assistance due to disability, living in the City of Whittlesea.



To cater for current residents and Whittlesea's rapidly growing population there is an urgent need to deliver:

- Mt Ridley Autism Specialist Autistic School
- A P-12 special school as part of Wollert East P-12 (for students primarily with an IQ of 50-70, equivalent to Concord School).



Currently, Whittlesea students requiring specialist education and their families face unacceptable barriers to accessing appropriate schools including limited access to school buses, long travel times and minimal access to before or afterschool care.

These barriers can significantly impact children's wellbeing and learning outcomes, and the wellbeing and employment opportunities for their families.

SCHOOLS ARE AT CAPACITY AND DIFFICULT TO ACCESS

- Northern School for Autism is the only autism school available to City of Whittlesea residents. Expected 2019 enrolments for this school will exceed its capacity and may leave families unable to enrol their child.
- With Concord School located outside the southern boundary of the municipality families from the outer north are spending hours in traffic to get to and from this school.

Specialist schools have varying catchments and campuses. Below are the current schools available for families of the City of Whittlesea to access, many of which are located outside the municipality.

SCHOOL	ENROLMENT CRITERIA	ENROLMENTS*	LOCATION
Merriang Special Development School P-12	IQ 50 or below	110 students	2 campuses: South Morang and Lalor
Concord School P-12	IQ 50-70	445 students	Campuses outside the Local Government Area (LGA) in Bundoora and Watsonia
Diamond Valley Special Development School	IQ 50 or below, ages 2.8 years to 18 years	145 students	Main campus and 3 satellites and outside the LGA One satellite at the northern end of LGA with 11 students
Northern School For Autism P-12	Autism and severe behaviour disorder (PSD guidelines)	331 students	Senior campus (100 students) in the LGA Other campus outside LGA

*At March 2018

MORE INFORMATION

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