

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX



How will the school support your child?

Is your child starting school or already a pupil at a state school in Geneva? Each pupil's educational pathway changes and evolves over time. Perhaps your child is experiencing learning and/or developmental difficulties. Or perhaps they need specific support to assist with their education.

What support will your child be offered by a state school in Geneva?

- The school's aim is to support your child with their learning, allowing your child to prosper as they grow up and start to build their future. The education provided can be tailored to your child's needs.
- The teacher knows your child in class, so this is the person to talk to about your child's situation and who will answer your questions or, if necessary, point you towards the right people.
- The school may put specific support in place for your child, which will last for as long as it is needed. This support will evolve over time, depending on your child's situation.

As a parent, you support your child outside school and at home. Your collaboration with the professional who knows your child in other settings is also very important to ensure that your child's education progresses as smoothly as possible, especially if your child is having difficulties.

The professional may be, for example, a class teacher, subject teacher, teaching assistant, social worker, head teacher, head of year/subject department/pastoral care ("doyen/doyenne"), school nurse, paediatrician, speech therapist, child psychiatrist, psychologist or psychomotor therapist.

In Geneva, educational support and special needs teaching are provided by the state school in collaboration with "Astural; La Cédille; AGAPé – École de Salvan; L'ARC, une autre école; Centre FEE, Fondation Enfants Extraordinaires; Clair-Bois; Ensemble; EPA – École protestante d'altitude; École SGIPA; École La Voie Lactée"

Assessing your child's needs

To provide the best assistance and support in line with your child's needs, an assessment will be made of your child's skills, difficulties, academic level, aspirations, performance, capabilities, environment (school and family), behaviour, health, etc.

How are your child's needs assessed?

1. Start by talking to the professional who knows your child, for example their early years teaching assistant, class teacher or paediatrician. They will help you to assess what your child may need.
2. They may suggest that you consult a specialist with your child, such as a speech therapist, psychomotor therapist, child psychiatrist or psychologist. After they have met your child, the specialist will give you their opinion and assessment of your child's needs.
3. If your child needs specific support, the specialist or professional will explain to you how to apply for this. Depending on the situation, they may suggest that you have a more comprehensive assessment carried out: a standard assessment procedure known as a "procédure d'évaluation standardisée" (often referred to simply as a "PES").



The standard assessment procedure (PES)

The PES enables you to access one or more types of special needs support provision.

The PES assessment manager is usually the professional responsible for the institution attended by your child (for example the head teacher) but may also be the specialist who has assessed your child's needs (for example the child psychiatrist).

You are a key partner in this assessment and your child is also entitled to give their opinion about their situation.

Here are the steps in the PES:

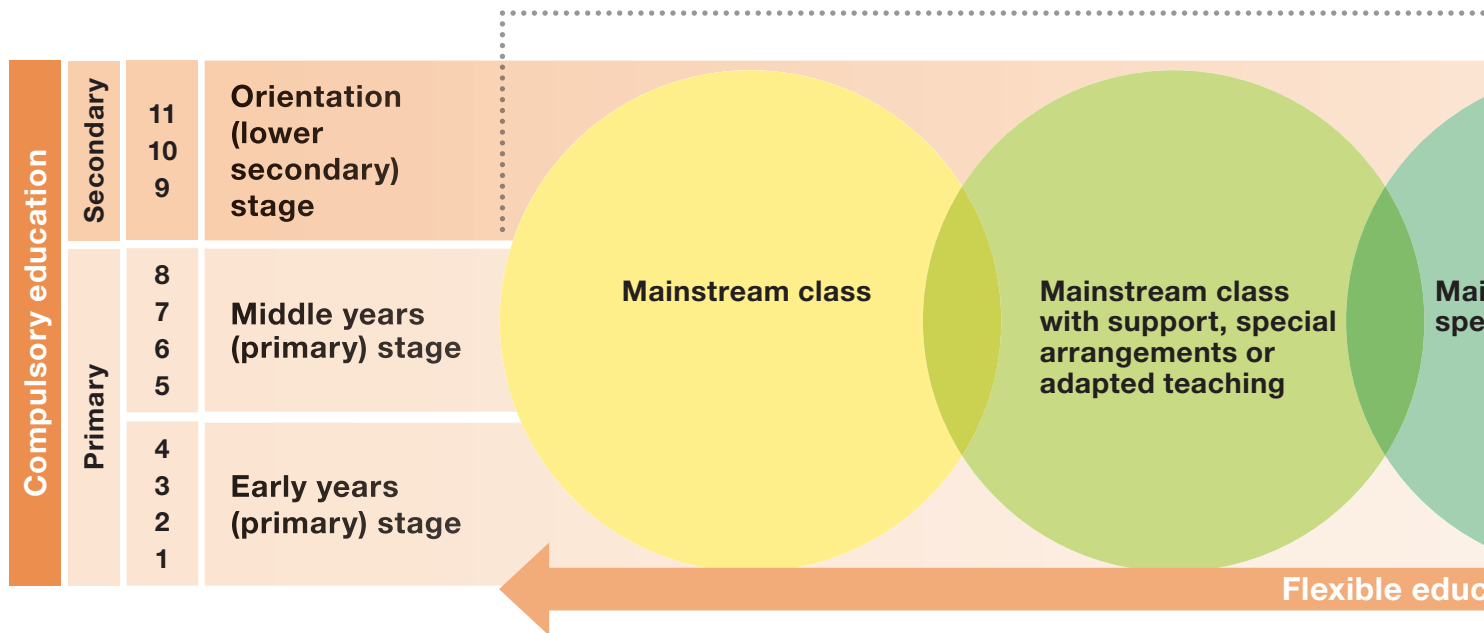
1. The assessment manager arranges one or more meetings with you and all the other professionals or specialists to jointly assess your child's situation and needs to enable the PES form to be completed.
2. The form is then sent to the special needs educational department (*service de la pédagogie spécialisée* SPS) which will carefully consider your child's situation on the basis of the PES form and other additional documents (for example a specialist's report).
3. The SPS will send you its decision by letter stating whether it is granting (allowing) or refusing your child the special needs support. The decision to grant the support will state who must implement it, that is the "service provider" department or institution which will contact you to arrange the next steps.

This procedure may take **several months** before you receive the decision from the SPS. If you have any questions, you may contact the assessment manager or the SPS.

What you may be offered by a state school in Geneva

The education and support provided to your child can take **several forms** depending on what is needed:

Mainstream teaching at the local school enables all children in a local area to follow the school curriculum. If needed, a pupil can benefit from support provision of various types enabling them to learn in the best possible conditions.



Mainstream class

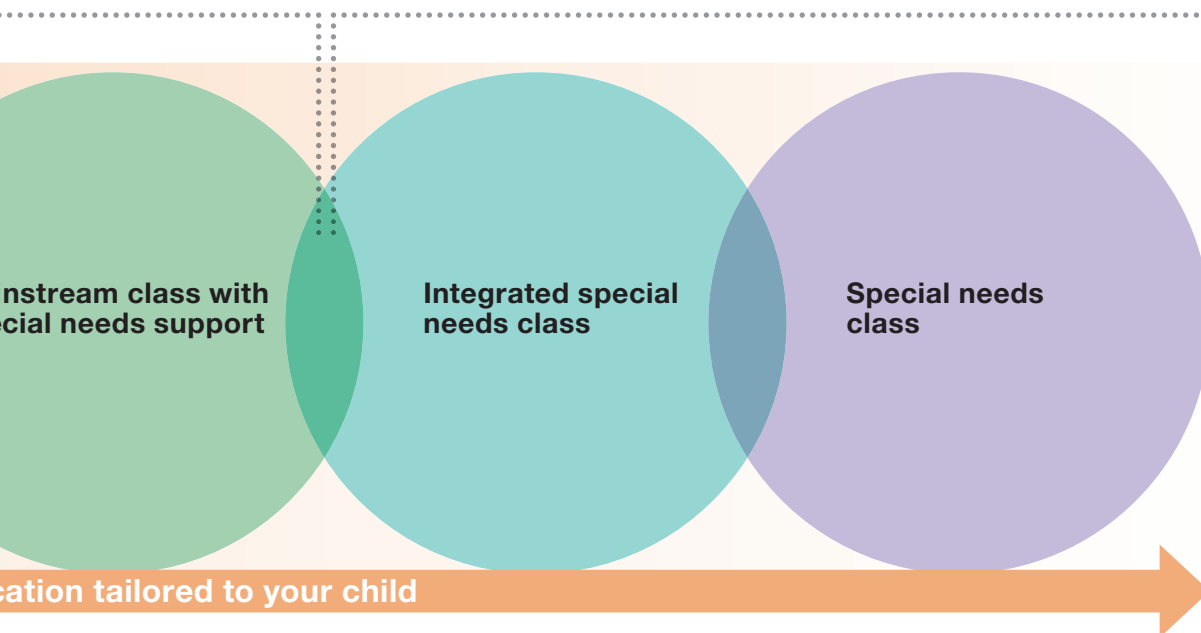
Your child is monitored by the teacher without the need for any additional provision.

Mainstream class with support, special arrangements or adapted teaching

Your child may require **support provision** at the **mainstream school** in their local area: help or special arrangements for your child in class or at school.

This provision may, for example, involve a support teacher being present in class, extra lessons, teaching in an integration class, adjustments to the working documents or use of tools (computer, screen magnifier, dictionary), making extra time available for a task to be carried out, an educational integration assistant, rearrangement of the educational pathway (being put up a year, deferring the start of schooling) or adaptation of the school curriculum.

Special needs teaching is available to children who have significant specific needs. Class sizes are small, enabling the school curriculum to be followed at each child's pace. In addition to the teacher, other professionals support children and help them work on other functional or behavioural difficulties.



Mainstream class with special needs support

Your child may require **special needs support provision** within the **mainstream school** in the local area: a special needs worker will help your child in class or outside school.

The special needs worker may be a special needs teaching assistant [*éducation précoce spécialisée* EPS; early years special needs education], a special needs teacher [*soutien pédagogique en enseignement spécialisé* SPES; pedagogical support or special needs teaching], French sign language interpreter [*langue des signes française* LSF], cued speech transliterator [*langage parlé complété* LPC], low-vision support specialist, speech therapist, or psychomotor therapist.

Integrated special needs class

Your child may require **special needs teaching** in a class integrated into the **mainstream school** in the local area.

The child may attend an integrated special needs class [*classe spécialisée intégrée* CLI] which takes place at the local mainstream school. The CLI is attended by fewer pupils than other classes and your child will have the support of a special needs class teacher along with other professionals.

Depending on your child's needs and skills, they may be able to spend some time in a mainstream class.

Special needs class

Your child may require **special needs teaching** at a **special needs teaching establishment** (*école de pédagogie spécialisée* ECPS).

They may attend a special needs class taking place at a small school with reduced class sizes. Your child will have a special needs class teacher and will have access to teaching assistants and other specialist professionals available to meet all their educational and therapeutic needs.

Depending on their needs and skills, your child may attend this school on every school day, or only part-time while also attending mainstream school.

Contact

Service de la pédagogie spécialisée

Rue des Granges 7

1204 Genève

+41 22 388 68 00