# **Flexible arrangements involving an alternative education provider – Information for parents/students**

**What is a flexible arrangement?**

Under ss.182 and 183 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*, a flexible arrangement is an agreement which allows a student to engage in an arrangement instead of participating in the school’s educational programs in the usual way.

A flexible arrangement allows for all or part of a student's educational program to be delivered by an alternative education provider, where it is in the best educational interest of the student.

An alternative education provider could be another state or non-state school (including schools of distance education), a private education provider, or a registered training organisation.

There are a wide variety of circumstances in which a flexible arrangement might be appropriate for a student, such as:

* a secondary student (e.g. in Year 10) who wants to study a subject at another school
* a student attending a Positive Learning Centre full time while remaining enrolled at their school
* a young person who is acting in a movie for a number of weeks, who will participate in an educational program delivered by a tutor while on the set of the movie
* a home-based student enrolled in a school of distance education who also attends another state school one day every fortnight when their parents travel to the nearest town 300 kms away to conduct personal business.

All or part of the arrangement may occur on or off the school site, and the program should be equivalent to the student’s full-time participation at school.

Where a flexible arrangement involves another school (including a special school), the student would also need to meet enrolment eligibility requirements for that school.

Flexible arrangements are usually for a specified time.

**Who can have a flexible arrangement?**

Flexible arrangements are more common among secondary school students, but may be appropriate for primary school and special school students, including those enrolled in the Prep Year.

**How is a flexible arrangement made?**

A flexible arrangement can be suggested by the school, a parent, or a student.

The student’s teacher(s) will assess the student’s needs, expected learning outcomes from the flexible arrangement, and suitability of the alternative education provider. The teacher(s) will then provide advice to the authorised entity.

The authorised entity is the chief executive (or their delegate, i.e. principal, regional director). The authorised entity decides whether to approve the proposed flexible arrangement.

If the student is of compulsory school age, a parent must give written consent to the arrangement. If the student is in the compulsory participation phase and the alternative education provider is not a recognised provider delivering an eligible option, the student must sign the agreement.

Written agreement must also be sought from the alternative education provider.

**Is the student still enrolled at their school during a flexible arrangement?**

Yes, during a flexible arrangement the student remains enrolled at their school.

**Are there any times when a flexible arrangement is not required or not appropriate?**

A flexible arrangement plan is not required for students in the compulsory participation phase who are participating in an eligible option being delivered by a recognised provider, or for school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

A flexible arrangement is not appropriate:

* in situations where parents cannot agree on which school to enrol their child in; or
* for services related to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as the NDIS does not fund educational programs for school-aged students.

**Need more information?**

Please talk with staff at your school.