

Leadership: Engaging management

For the IEP process to be successful within the secondary school setting, it is essential the senior management of the school are actively involved.

How can the senior leadership of the school be involved? For the IEP process to be successful there must be:

- Acceptance and support from senior management for inclusion of students on IEPs
- A shared school-wide philosophy and value system which supports the IEP process
- Leadership from the principal and senior management around school vision and values
- Effective teaming within the school

Ways to engage management may include

- an identified senior management support person
- the involvement of a dean/academic tutor/year level co-ordinator
- acknowledgement of school 'gems' – teachers, peers and others
- introduction of the pastoral support, student support team or teaching and learning team to the school community
- board of trustees representation by a parent with experience of special education needs
- parents or parent support groups of students on IEPs talking to the principal

Ways of support may include

- raising the profile of the IEP process within the whole school
- professional development for staff in the IEP process
- establishing a clear understanding of the SENCO role
- allowing release time for subject teachers to attend IEP meetings