

Decreto-Lei n.º 54/2018

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SUMMARY IN PLAIN ENGLISH (WITHOUT LEGAL VALUE)

What is it?

This decree-law creates the conditions for schools to be places of inclusion capable of recognizing the diversity of all students and responding to their capabilities and individual needs.

What will change?

There will be a flexible learning model that recognises the students' needs, capabilities and interests, and helps them gain a common knowledge base throughout their school career, regardless of the educational or training course they are enrolled in.

This model will apply to:

- school clusters
- non-clustered schools
- vocational schools
- all pre-schools
- all elementary schools
- all secondary schools.

Plans for implementing guidelines and measures for supporting learning

Schools must establish guidelines that will create cultures that provide learning opportunities to all students and enable them to reach their full potential by the 12th grade. To meet these goals, schools must create action plans and set indicators to measure their effectiveness.

The goals defined in the action plans will be met through a set of measures to support learning and inclusion with special attention on the curriculum and learning methods. There will be different types of measures:

- universal – for all students
- selective – to fill potential gaps in the implementation of universal measures
- extra – to solve proven persistent problems not overcome by universal and selective measures.

A process is created to identify the necessary measures of learning support and inclusion. This process will be based on evidence identified by school professionals with the participation of:

- parents
- guardians
- professionals or support services that engage with the child or student.

Specific resources to support learning and inclusion

Skilled human resources are essential to achieve inclusion in schools. The success of this goal will depend on the participation of:

- special needs education teachers
- skilled professionals
- operational assistants, preferably with specific training.

In addition, other resources will be created, including:

- multidisciplinary teams to support inclusive education
- learning centres.

Existing resources will continue, including:

- benchmark schools for visual impairment
- benchmark schools for bilingual education
- benchmark schools for early childhood intervention
- resource centres for inclusion
- information technology and communication resource centres for special education.

What are its benefits?

This decree-law is intended to create conditions for schools to be places of inclusion, that respect the diversity of all students and offer learning opportunities and solutions for school success up to the 12th grade.

When does it come into effect?

This decree-law comes into effect at the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year. Schools must apply it when preparing this school year.

This text is intended to present the content of the legal act in accessible, plain and understandable language for citizens. The summary of the legal act in plain language has no legal value and does not replace the consultation of the legal act in the Diário da República.