

Referral Policy

Purpose

This policy has been developed to provide information for the school community regarding referral to sessional outreach educational services provided by Avenues Education.

About Avenues Education

Avenues Education is a South East Victoria Region (SEVR) outreach government school that works in partnership with Child Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS).

Schools and CYMHS refer students to Avenues Education to provide targeted educational services for students experiencing social, emotional, and/or mental health difficulties in accessing education.

CYMHS provides a comprehensive range of psychiatric assessments and services for children, youth and families experiencing mental health, social, emotional, behavioural and developmental difficulties and refer to Avenues Education for a range of educational interventions.

Avenues Education also provides tiered support directly to SEVR schools, including:

- Mental health prevention and promotion activities
- School capability building sessions and professional learning
- Consultation and liaison

Policy

Avenues Education accepts referrals from schools and CYMHS to provide educational services to students to reduce the barriers to them accessing the education environment. Avenues Education staff provide tiered educational interventions including individual student support, targeted groups for students, mental health prevention and promotion, professional development, consultation and liaison. Avenues Education provides early intervention to prevent educational disadvantage of students whose learning has been interrupted due to social, emotional, and/or mental health difficulties.

Students participating in Avenues Education retain enrolment in their school of origin. Depending on the program and individual health needs, students undertake sessions with Avenues Education either at their school of origin or at Avenues Education locations.

Student referral criteria

Individual students referred to Avenues Education by CYMHS or schools will:

- Be under the care of CYMHS or referred by a SEVR school where the student's learning has been interrupted due to social, emotional, and/or mental health difficulties.
- Be enrolled in primary or secondary school
- Need signed consent of the parent/carer (and student where appropriate)

Students cease to be part of Avenues Education programs when they are discharged from the CYMHS program or when the reason for referral has been addressed.

Information sharing

Avenues Education values the privacy of participating students and their families and follows the Department's [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) when collecting and managing person and health information.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Published on the school's website

Further information and resources

For further information about Avenues Education and the programs we offer, see [our website](#).

This policy should be read alongside and in conjunction with the following Department policies:

- [Enrolment](#)
- [Exemptions from School Attendance and Enrolment](#)
- [Schools' Privacy Policy](#)

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	19/08/2021
Approved by	Principal and Regional Director
Next scheduled review date	Before August 2025