

The PPT and special needs education for adults

If you are entitled to primary/lower secondary education for adults, you may also be entitled to some form of special education. There are two different kinds of special education for adults within the Norwegian primary and lower secondary education system.

One type of special education is intended for people who would not benefit sufficiently from standard schooling and where the adult education programme cannot be adapted to meet their learning needs.

The other type of special education is available to people who need to improve or maintain basic skills. This kind of help may be appropriate where people have completed their upper secondary education and still need help, or if they have been injured or become ill and need help to function in daily life.

Both the municipality and PPT (the Educational and Psychological Counselling Service) must be involved in assessing what type of special education is suited to your needs, and advise you. The PPT makes an expert assessment (in Norwegian: sakkyndig vurdering) in the form of a document that shows whether you need special education. The municipality must adopt an individual decision (in Norwegian: enkeltvedtak) about whether you are entitled to special education or not, and what the special education should be. You can always appeal against the decision.

What is the PPT?

The PPT is a public service that gives advice to kindergartens and schools on adaptations for children, young people and adults with special needs. The PPT may engage in interdisciplinary collaboration at the local level, for example with the health service or the Norwegian Child Welfare Services (in Norwegian: barneverntjenesten), and at national level, for example with the national service for special needs education (in Norwegian: Statped). The PPT is bound by confidentiality.

What can you expect from the municipality?

The municipality must

- ensure that your best interests are safeguarded
- hear what you think before they make decisions that concern you
- talk to you, and carry out necessary assessments
- assess whether you need special education
- request that the PPT provides an expert assessment if you request this, or if the adult education programme is of the opinion that you need special education

- adopt an individual decision that states whether or not you are in need of special education and if so, what form this will take
- prepare an individual subject curriculum (in Norwegian: IOP)
- provide the special education as described in the individual decision and the IOP
- prepare an annual written report on the special education and your progress and development
- ensure that you are provided with guidance on what assessment with and without grades entails, before you make a decision

What can you do?

As a recipient of primary/lower secondary education for adults, you

- can demand that the adult education programme looks into whether you need special education
- can discuss your concern with the PPT and the school prior to referral
- must be involved and give your consent before the municipality requests an assessment
- must be involved and give your consent before the municipality decides you are to receive special education
- must receive an annual written report on the special education you are receiving and an assessment of your progress and development
- can lodge an appeal if you are not provided with special education
- can appeal the content, implementation or organisation of the special education
- can decide whether you will be exempt from assessment with a grade in the subjects where you receive special education

If you have a guardian, the guardian has the same rights as you.