

The Special Educational Needs (SEN) system in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

It can be overwhelming navigating the special educational needs system for your son or daughter and ensuring that they are receiving the right support.

Throughout the country, legislation is in place to support those with additional needs when it comes to their education. In the tables below, we will look at what is in place in each area of the UK and how to request a plan for your child. All of the plans outlined below are legal documents and the Local Authority must provide the support that is written into them. #

We are happy to provide support letters if you are at the beginning of this process and can offer support and guidance with plan content. We can also support you through tribunal should you find yourself in that position.

ENGLAND	
What is the plan called?	Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
What criteria must my child meet?	Your child has or may have special educational needs and it may be necessary for special education provision to be made.
How do I apply?	You can make a request directly to your Local Authority, or you can go through your child's school or early years setting. The request should be in written form
Where can I find further information	Education, Health and Care plans (IPSEA) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND): Extra help - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

NORTHERN IRELAND	
What is the plan called?	Statement of Special Educational Needs (SSEN)
What criteria must my child meet?	Your child's learning difficulties are significant and/or complex and have not responded to relevant and purposeful measures taken by the school and external agencies
How do I apply?	You can make a request directly to your Local Authority, or you can go through your child's school or early years setting. The request should be in written form
Where can I find further information	https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/special-educational-needs-sen

SCOTLAND	
What is the plan called?	Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP)
What criteria must my child meet?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your child must need support due to 'complex or multiple factors' that negatively and significantly affect their education. It is the impact on the pupils learning that is important, rather than the reason they need support. 2. They have need that will, or are likely to , last more than a year. 3. They must need 'significant additional support' from education and another department of the Local Authority or another agency to reach their educational goals. This can include an NHS board, another Local Authority, Skills Development Scotland or a further or higher education institution.
How do I apply?	You can make a request directly to your Local Authority, or you can go through your child's school or early years setting. The request should be in written form
Where can I find further information	Enquire - The Scottish advice service for additional support for learning Chapter 5 Co-ordinated support plan - Supporting children's learning: code of practice (revised 2010) - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) Types of plan How schools plan support Additional support Parent Zone (education.gov.scot)

WALES	
What is the plan called?	Individual Development Plan (IDP)
What criteria must my child meet?	IDPs are provided to children and young people with Additional Learning Needs irrespective of the severity or complexity of their needs.
How do I apply?	You can go through your child's school or early years setting. The request should be in written form
Where can I find further information	The additional learning needs transformation programme: frequently asked questions [HTML] GOV.WALES Additional learning needs (ALN) system: parents' guide [HTML] GOV.WALES Wales aln-factsheet-how-will-the-act-affect-non-maintained-early-years-education-providers-in-receipt-of-local-authority-funding.pdf