Equal rights and opportunities in education or no less favourable treatment of any person on the grounds of race, gender, ethnic, social or cultural background, religion, political and other convictions, education, social status, disability or any other personal circumstances are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. In the White Paper [1](1996), “equal opportunities and non-discrimination” is one of the core principles of the public education system. The White Paper [1] (2011) set out “fairness” under core principles and within it the provision of equal education opportunities. Furthermore, one adopted several relevant regulations on education, healthcare, elimination of barriers and obstacles in the environment, social and financial aid, employment, and social integration have been adopted. Solutions important for provision of equal opportunities have been integrated into different national and development programmes. The Protection against discrimination Act ([en](2).pdf) makes additional provision for equal opportunities. Equal opportunities have been regulated in detail for the educational process of children with special needs.

Education of children and young people with special needs is a public service; in special circumstances, it may also be provided in private kindergartens and schools without concession or private institutions and as home schooling.

The education of children with special needs has been integrated into all sector-specific laws. The Placement of children with special needs Act ([sl](3)) is an important step towards setting up conditions for a successful inclusive paradigm. It provides for continuous support to children with special needs in education. In terms of early childhood intervention, it allows for a counselling service for preschool children even before the placement procedure if so recommended by a doctor. As specified by the Act, the counselling service is additional professional assistance for children, parents and teachers that may be provided by kindergartens or schools, but also in cooperation with external professional institutions.

In 2019, the Act on integrated early treatment of preschool children with special needs ([sl](4)) shall start to apply. The integrated early treatment of SEN preschool children and preschool children with risk factors will after this include treatment of preschool children and their families to foster the child’s development, improve the family’s competence, and advance social inclusion of families and a child. The state has set up a legislative framework for equal opportunities of deaf and deaf-blind. Both groups now can use the support of professional staff for communication in the Slovenian sign language or to work with deaf-blind children.

The Act on special rights of members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities in education ([sl](5)) provides additionally for special rights of those two groups. Members of the Roma community have their special rights specified with the Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia Act ([sl](6)). The common laws in education lay down the rights of disadvantaged or vulnerable children and students, as well. Rules and other instruments consider talented children or students, migrant students whose mother tongue is not Slovenian, and students with learning difficulties.

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