



# Information for parents and carers about take-homes



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Take-homes are used by schools to respond to 'behaviour emergencies'.

A 'behaviour emergency' is when:

- the student's behaviour puts themselves or others at risk of harm
- the student cannot be safely supported at school.

A Principal may decide your child needs to go home for the rest of the school day to be with you or their carer.

## What to do if your child gets a take home

The school will contact you to explain why your child got a take-home and share information about what happened.

If you are not available, the school will try all listed emergency contacts to find someone to collect your child.

Stay calm and talk to your child about what happened. Talk to the school and work together to make a plan.

## Reasons why Principals use take-home

Most students behave safely but sometimes they:

- don't have the skills they need to be safe
- are still learning communication, emotional or social skills
- can't use their skills because they feel upset, stressed or unwell
- try to get their needs met in ways that can hurt themselves or other people.

A Principal may need to give a take-home in a behaviour emergency when:

- a student's behaviour is unsafe, severe and lasts a long-time
- reasonable efforts have been made to support the student without success
- the student remains too angry, upset or distressed to safely remain at school.

## Collecting information about what happened

The school will try to find out from your child what happened. If your child is too upset to talk, the school might use information from other people. They'll keep collecting information to understand what happened and support your child in the future.

## Reconnection after a take-home

Your child gets a fresh start the next day. The school will talk to you about a plan to help your child get back to learning.

## Frequent take-homes

If your child has frequent behaviour emergencies, the school will arrange a reconnection meeting to:

- look at your child's needs
- discuss what supports might help
- develop or update a behaviour support plan.

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## Behaviour support plan

A behaviour support plan is developed to support your child's safe and positive behaviour. The plan should include:

- the skills your child needs for safe and positive behaviour
- how your child will learn these skills and who will help them
- how things can be safe and positive while your child is still learning and practicing the skills
- how everyone will know that your child is making progress
- how your child will be supported if there are concerns about their behaviour in the future
- everyone's roles.

If your child already has a One Plan, their behaviour support plan can be included in the One Plan.

## If you are unhappy with the Principal's decision to give your child a take-home

If you think your child's take-home was not needed, try to work things out with your child's school. If you can't sort things out with the school, you can make a complaint to the Department for Education Customer Feedback Unit:

- Phone 1800 677 435 (toll free).
- Go to <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/> and search [School complaints](#) or [Support making a complaint](#).

You can find out more about the take-home process by:

- making an appointment with the Principal or another school leader
- contacting your local education office
- calling the Department for Education on 8226 1000
- going to the Department for Education website <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/> and search 'take-home'.