

2009/2010 Financial Guideline 05

Government Budget 2010

Main Provisions Applying to Voluntary Secondary Schools

From a management point of view, the following are the main provisions outlined in Budget 2010 as they apply to voluntary secondary schools:

Current Expenditure

- The existing Capitation and School Support Services grants remain unchanged. However, an additional €19m is being provided to take account of increased student numbers and to enable extra funding to be provided for school books and for particular curricular activities such as transition year, LCA and JCSP. The manner in which these additional grants will be distributed has not yet been decided but will be discussed with the management bodies including the JMB prior to implementation. It is our understanding that the additional grants will be incorporated into the main capitation grant and distributed to schools on the basis of information supplied in the October Returns. It is also our understanding that the book grant will be targeted primarily at schools operating a book rental scheme. The additional €19m covers both primary and secondary schools.
- A guideline will be issued to schools as soon as we receive clarity around the additional funding outlined above.
- €12m is being provided in 2010 for the implementation of the Government commitment to provide 500 extra teachers at first and second level over the next three years. The allocation will allow the employment of an additional 200 first and second level teachers from January 2010. The manner by which this allocation will be distributed is currently under discussion.
- €14m is being provided from September 2010 to meet demographic changes and to ensure no further increase in the pupil-teacher ratio.

Capital Expenditure

- The school building programme continues in 2010 with €579m allocated for the year. A further batch of new school or extension projects is expected to proceed in the coming year. Funding for the Summer Works Scheme 2010 has also been allocated.
- Provision has also been made to continue the public-private partnership building programme in 2010.
- €50m is being allocated to ICT in schools for 2010. This represents the first tranche of the already announced outlay of €150m to first and second level schools over the next three years for the purchase of a laptop and a digital projector for each classroom.

Teacher Education

There is a significant reduction in the provision for teacher in-service education from €40m in 2009 to €29.8m in 2010. The in-service programme will target priority areas such as Project Maths, special educational needs and child protection training.

Teacher Sick Leave and Substitution

From the start of the 2010/2011 school year, the maximum number of uncertified sick days allowed in the school year for all teachers will be reduced to seven days.

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