Special Class Grants for School Year 2026/2027

1. Introduction

Schools approved by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) to open a new special class for the 2026/2027 school year will receive a Start-Up Grant of €30,000. This grant is designed to support schools in setting up appropriate learning environments for students with more complex or severe special educational needs (SEN). Further guidance on grants for the opening of special classes is available in Department of Education and Youth Circular 0039/2025.

Schools are encouraged to use the term **"special class"** rather than "unit".

2. Summary of Grants:

a. Start-Up Grant (€30,000)

The Start-Up Grant will be paid to each school that is approved by the NCSE to open a new special class for the 2026/27 school year. This grant payment relates to each new special class and does not require an application from the relevant schools. This grant is paid automatically to schools (mainstream or special) once a special class is sanctioned by NCSE.

This grant will provide good flexibility to schools to facilitate the opening of a new special class and encompasses the existing start-up grant, sensory room fit out grant/creation of a quiet space and also Furniture & Equipment grant and ICT grant all of which have been updated to an overall total of €30,000.

If core requirements are fully met, any residual funding may be used for other minor improvements within the school that support the inclusion of students with SEN.

b. Small-Scale Re-Purposing Works (Up to €80,000)

Some schools may require small-scale re-purposing works to facilitate the establishment of a new special class in existing accommodation. The start-up grant of €30,000 will be paid initially regardless of if a re-purposing grant (up to €80,000) is being applied for. The increase of the small-scale re-purposing works to a maximum of €80,000 can be found in Section 4.2 SEN Repurposing Design Guidance Technical Note 05.

c. Re-Purposing Works Above €80,000

Significant refurbishment needs requires detailed assessment and is treated as part of the capital programme. The start-up grant of €30,000 will be paid initially regardless of if a re-purposing works grant (above €80,000) is being applied for.

d. Modular Accommodation

The Department will provide modular accommodation as necessary where it is satisfied there is insufficient capacity within existing accommodation to facilitate the opening of a new special class that is sanctioned by the NCSE.

e. Specialised Furniture/Equipment Grant

Schools can request funding for specific items needed by individual students, supported by an occupational therapist's report.

f. Assistive Technology Grant

Schools can apply for a grant to purchase specialist equipment, where this is essential and will be used throughout the school day, for students with a diagnosis of:

- a serious physical disability and/or
- a sensory or communicative disability

g. Special Transport Scheme and Bus Escort

The school transport scheme applies to children with special educational needs recognised by the Department of Education and Youth. Application forms, with supporting professional reports, are submitted to the SENO, who forwards them to the Department for a decision.

Where a School Transport Escort is required on a service, sanction must be issued by the Department before the recruitment process. See Information Note School Transport Escort Section 2 Sanction for a School Transport Escort for further information.
The School Transport Section of the Department will issue grant funding to the board of management for the salary of the escort. Further information on employing a bus escort can be found here.

h. Enhanced Capitation Grant

➢ **Primary Schools**

Enhanced capitation rates are payable in respect of pupils attending special schools and special classes attached to mainstream schools. These rates depend on the particular level of need involved. Grant rates are available in Circular 0040/2025.

➢ **Post-Primary Schools**

The Special Class grant is paid annually for students who have been psychologically assessed with a mild or moderate general learning disability and are in a special class approved by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE). Voluntary Secondary School Grant rates are available in Circular 0066/2025.

Schools can check if they have a sanctioned class for mild or moderate general learning disabilities on the NCSE website here.

3. Financial Oversight

The grant income and expenditure should be recorded appropriately in the school's accounts.

Click here for Special Class Grant Income and Expenditure Chart of Accounts nominal codes.

4. Further Information

Further information or clarification on any of the issues raised in this guideline can be obtained from the FSSU.

Financial Support Services Unit
Tel: 01-910 4020 / 01-269 0677
Primary: primary@fssu.ie
Post-Primary: info@fssu.ie

12th May 2026

Deontais Ranga Speisialta 2026/2027

1. Réamhrá

Gheobhaidh scoileanna a fhaigheann cead ón gComhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta (NCSE) chun rang speisialta nua a bhunú don scoilbhliain 2026/2027 Deontas Nuathionscanta de €30,000. Tacaíonn an deontas seo le scoileanna timpeallachtaí foghlama oiriúnacha a bhunú do dhaltaí a bhfuil riachtanais speisialta oideachais (RSO) níos casta nó níos déine acu. Tá tuilleadh treorach faoi dheontais chun ranganna speisialta a bhunú ar fáil i gCiorclán 0035/2025 na Roinne Oideachais agus Óige.

Moltar do scoileanna an téarma “rang speisialta” a úsáid seachas an téarma “aonad”.

2. Achoimre ar na Deontais:

a. Deontas Nuathionscanta (€30,000)

Íocfar an Deontas Nuathionscanta le gach scoil atá ceadaithe ag an NCSE chun rang speisialta nua a bhunú don scoilbhliain 2026/27. Baineann an íocaíocht deontais seo le gach rang speisialta nua agus ní gá do na scoileanna ábhartha iarratas a dhéanamh ina leith. Íoctar an deontas seo go huathoibríoch le scoileanna (príomhshrutha nó speisialta) a luaithe a cheadaíonn an NCSE an rang speisialta.

Tabharfaidh an deontas seo a dhóthain solúbthachta do scoileanna chun bunú ranganna speisialta nua a éascú. Cuimseoidh sé an deontas tosaithe reatha, deontas chun seomra céadfach a fheistiú/spás ciúin a chruthú, chomh maith le deontas Troscán & Trealamh agus deontas TFC a bhfuil luach iomlán de €30,000 aige.

Má chomhlíontar na bunriachtanais ina n-iomláine, is féidir le scoileanna aon mhaoiniú iarmharach a úsáid le haghaidh mionfheabhsuithe eile a dhéanamh laistigh den spoil a thacóidh le cuimsiú daltaí a bhfuil RSO acu.

b. Oibreacha Athchuspóra ar Scála Beag (suas le €80,000)

D’fhéadfadh go mbeadh oibreacha athchuspóra ar scála beag de dhíth ar roinnt scoileanna chun bunú rang speisialta nua sa chóiríocht atá acu cheana féin a éascú. Íocfar an deontas nuathionscanta €30,000 ar dtús is cuma cibé an bhfuil nó nach bhfuil an t-iarratas á dhéanamh ar dheontas athchuspóra freisin (suas le €80,000). Tá an méadú ar oibreacha athchuspóra ar mhionscála go €80,000 ar a mhéad le fáil in Alt 4.2 de Nóta Teicniúil 05 a ghabhann leis an Treoir Dearaidh um Athchuspóiriú RSO.

c. **Oibreacha Athchuspóra a chosnóidh níos mó ná €80,000**
Riachtanais athchóirithe mhóra beidh measúnú mionsonraithe ag teastáil agus caitear leo mar chuid den chlár caipitil. Íocfar an deontas nuathionscanta €30,000 ar dtús is cuma cibé an bhfuil nó nach bhfuil an t-iarratas á dhéanamh ar dheontas athchuspóra freisin (suas le €80,000).

d. **Cóiríocht Mhodúlach**
Cuirfidh an Roinn cóiríocht mhodúlach ar fáil d'fhonn rang speisialta nua a bhunú, arna cheadú ag NCSE, de réir mar is gá sin agus sa chás ina bhfeictear di go bhfuil easpa acmhainneachta sa chóiríocht reatha.

e. **Deontas le haghaidh Troscáin/Trealaimh**
Féadfaidh scoileanna maoiniú a iarraidh le haghaidh míreanna sonracha a theastaíonn ó dhaltaí aonair, ar an gcoinníoll go soláthraítear tuarascáil ó theiripeoir saothair mar thaca lena n-iarratas.

f. **Deontas Teicneolaíochta Cúnta**
Is féidir le scoileanna iarratas a dhéanamh ar dheontas chun trealamh speisialaithe a cheannach, sa chás ina bhfuil sé seo riachtanach agus go n-úsáidfear an trealamh i rith an lae scoile, do dhaltaí a rinneadh aon cheann de na diagnóis seo a leanas ina leith:

- dian-mhíchumas coirp agus/nó
- míchumas céadfach nó cumarsáideach

g. **Scéim Iompair Speisialta agus Coimhdire Bus**
Baineann an scéim iompair scoile le leanaí a bhfuil riachtanais oideachais speisialta acu, arna n-aithint ag an Roinn Oideachais. Ní mór foirmeacha iarratais, mar aon le tuarascálacha gairmiúla tacaíochta, a chur faoi bhráid SENO, a sheolfaidh ar aghaidh ansin iad chuig an Roinn le haghaidh cinnidh.

Is í Rannóg Iompair Scoile na Roinne a cheadaíonn fostú coimhdire iompair scoile (busanna). Is é an bord bainistíochta a fhostaíonn an coimhdire ina dhiaidh sin.

Soláthróidh Rannóg Iompair Scoile na Roinne maoiniú deontais don bhord bainistíochta chun tuarastal an choimhdire a íoc. Tá tuilleadh eolais faoi choimhdirí iompair scoile fhostú ar fáil anseo.

h. **Deontas Caipitíochta Feabhsaithe**

- **Bunscoileanna**
  Tá na rátaí feabhsaithe iníoctha i gcás daltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna speisialta agus ranganna speisialta a bhfuil nasc acu le scoileanna príomhshrutha. Braitheann na rátaí seo ar an leibhéal riachtanais ar leith atá i gceist. Tá eolas maidir le rátaí na ndeontas ar fáil i gCiorclán 0040/2025.

- **Iar-Bhunscoileanna**
  Íoctar an deontas Ranga Speisialta go bliantúil le haghaidh daltaí a ndearnadh measúnú síceolaíoch orthu, ar deimhníodh go bhfuil míchumas foghlama ginearálta éadrom nó measartha orthu agus atá i rang speisialta arna cheadú ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta (NCSE). Tá eolas maidir le rátaí na ndeontas ar fáil i gCiorclán 0066/2025.

Is féidir le scoileanna stádas a n-iarratais maidir le rang nua do mhíchumais foghlama ghinearálta éadroma nó measartha a sheiceáil ar shuíomh gréasáin NCSE anseo.

3. Maoirseacht Airgeadais

Ba cheart an t-ioncam agus an caiteachas deontais a thaifeadadh mar is cuí i gcuntais na scoile.

Cliceáil anseo chun cóid ainmniúla Chairt na gCuntas Ioncaim agus Caiteachais don Deontas Ranga Speisialta a fháil.

4. Tuilleadh Eolais

Is féidir tuilleadh eolais nó soiléiriú a fháil ar aon cheann de na saincheisteanna sa treoirlíne seo ach dul i dteagmháil le FSSU.

An tAonad um Sheirbhísí Tacaíochta Airgeadais
Bunscoileanna: 01-910 4020 / primary@fssu.ie
Iar-Bhunscoileanna: 01-269 0677 / info@fssu.ie

12 Bealtaine 2026