

Assessment of Budget 2027 against IPPN Priorities

Before the summer, IPPN made its [pre-Budget submission](#) to the Departments of Education & Youth, Finance and Public Expenditure & Reform. The submission detailed IPPN's key priorities.

Following the Ministers' Budget statements in the Dáil on 6th October, the DEY has published its [Main features of Budget 2027 for the Department of Education and Youth](#).

Some progress has been made on some of IPPN's priorities, the detail of which is as follows:

IPPN Priority	Budget 2027 Outcome	Assessment
Leadership Time/Capacity	€11m for enhanced school leadership through additional deputy principals in primary and post-primary schools from 2027/28. Funding also for small-school clusters and pilot projects.	The need for additional leadership capacity has been acknowledged and partially resourced. Further clarity is required as to the specifics of additional DP capacity and what is being made available for the small-school clusters and pilot projects.
	€21 million additional funding for the continuation of important curricular development and related teacher education across senior cycle redevelopment, primary curriculum and Gaeltacht education.	Further clarity will be sought as to what specific support for the leadership of curriculum enactment will be prioritised within this funding allocation.
Special Education Resourcing	1,353 additional SETs working in mainstream and special classes (primary & post-primary) and in special schools 2,339 additional SNAs to support the care needs of children in mainstream and special classes (primary & post-primary) and in special schools.	The Budget goes some way to addressing ongoing concerns regarding SEN capacity. However, it does not fully address the estimated shortfall of 3,000 SET posts identified by IPPN, and it is not clear to what extent it is aligned to the actual level of need that exists in schools.
Formalisation of SENCO Role		This was not addressed in the Budget.
Education Therapy Service Expansion	€24m allocated. Service expanded beyond the initial pilot and extended across all special schools in 2027, with	Some progress but not yet the wider rollout to DEIS schools sought by IPPN. All Special

	progression towards special classes and mainstream schools.	Schools should be in receipt of the service in 2027.
Supports for Educational Disadvantage	€6m additional funding for DEIS Plus; €9m for HSCL expansion; €4m increase for Tusla educational welfare services and Traveller/Roma strategy implementation.	Budget aligns closely with IPPN's call for strengthened disadvantage supports. Further clarity will be sought in relation to where the additional HSCL posts will be sanctioned.
Capitation Funding Increase	€53m permanent increase. Primary capitation rises from €274 to €342 per pupil.	While the figure of €342 falls slightly short of IPPN's ask of €350 per pupil, it represents a 24.72% increase in capitation, which will provide some alleviation to the funding issues experienced by schools
School Buildings and SEN Infrastructure	€1.6bn capital allocation; continued progression of 105 priority projects; special schools and special-class accommodation identified as priorities.	Further detail will be required to determine the extent to which SEN infrastructure in schools is targeted within this funding allocation.

Please note

In the above table, apart from the reference to capitation funding (which is specific to the primary sector), all other funding allocations referenced cover both primary and post-primary sectors.

In summary, IPPN welcomes

- the increased capitation funding
- the increased allocation of SETs and SNAs
- the continued rollout of the Education Therapy Service
- the additional investment in DEIS Plus and HSCL supports
- the recognition of the need for increased support for school leadership.

IPPN remains concerned that

- leadership support for curriculum enactment remains unclear
- resourcing of SEN is still not aligned to the level of need that exists in schools
- there is no formal recognition of the SENCO role or ring-fenced SENCO time
- therapy services have not yet been extended to DEIS schools.

IPPN will continue to work towards the achievement of its priorities in service of children, school communities and school leadership.