



National Principals' Forum

Prioritise Education

Invest in our Children!

The National Principals' Forum is an entirely voluntary, registered grassroots lobby group of practicing Primary School Principal Teachers, established in May 2018. We are seeking to work with the Minister for Education, Management Bodies and Representative Bodies to affect urgent changes needed to sustain us in our roles as school leaders. We aim to provide support to school leaders through dynamic collaboration.

Leadership Support

- The National Principals' Forum calls for an increase in release time to all Teaching Principals, and grant release time to Deputy Principals as a matter of urgency, to support and safeguard school leaders in their work, managing the exponentially increasing demands of this dual role
- Addressing the challenges facing school leaders is essential for maintaining a high standard of education and ensuring the well-being of both educators and pupils
- At a bare minimum the following amount of Principal Release Days (PRD) per week needs to be delivered in schools without Special Classes: 0-44 pupils - 1 PRD, 45-74 pupils - 2 PRD, 75-132 pupils - 3 PRD, 133-160 pupils - 4 PRD, 161+ pupils - 5 PRD. (and the Gaelscoileanna / DEIS equivalent levels)
- Grant release time to Deputy Principals Pro Rata based on the number of Special Classes attached to the school

School Funding

- Align primary education funding (currently at 13% in Ireland) with the OECD average, increasing expenditure per student to at least 27% of per capita GDP. Establish a consistent funding schedule to aid in school budget planning
- Provide additional financial support on a permanent footing, to cover rising costs of utilities, insurance, and other operational expenses, reducing the need for schools to engage in extensive fundraising. Align primary capitation in parity with second level pupils
- Ensure that smaller schools are not disadvantaged by per capita allocations
- Reassess the Ancillary Grant urgently to ensure it adequately covers the wages of secretarial staff as well as cleaning and caretaking costs, maintaining hygiene and employment standards in schools
- Allocate additional resources and support for schools integrating refugee and asylum-seeking children, ensuring they receive the necessary academic and social support

Special Educational Needs Support

- Huge funding increase needed. Reverse austerity cuts
- Update allocation models to reflect current needs with individual profiling.
- Enhance support for testing and diagnoses
- Simplify and improve the appeals process for additional resources from the NCSE
- Reinstate "Complex Needs" as a criterion and support early intervention
- Utilise existing systems like the Primary Online Database to gather SEN Data directly from schools.
- Develop a strategic plan to improve SEN provisions over the next three years. All students with special educational needs must receive the necessary support for their academic and social development
- Address the chronic Teacher Supply Shortage plaguing our system



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[@forumteaching](https://twitter.com/forumteaching)



info@principalsforum.org