

Budget 2014



Information leaflet regarding changes to the education budget

Introduction by Ruairí Quinn, TD Minister for Education and Skills

For the third year in a row, this Government has protected the standard pupil-teacher ratio in primary and post-primary schools. The €1.3 billion provided each year to support children with special needs has been protected for 2014.

In total, up to 1,400 additional teachers will be recruited to our schools next year – about two thirds will be mainstream teachers, supporting the growth in numbers in our schools, while one third will be resource teachers, supporting children with special educational needs.

Budget 2014 contains no further changes to the Student Contribution, or to the Student Grant Scheme, beyond the measures announced in previous Budgets.

We will continue to invest in educational reforms. To ensure that every child leaves school with high levels of Literacy and Numeracy a further €9m will be made available in 2014. Overhaul of the Junior Cycle continues with €4.8m being spent in 2014.

Schools

The **pupil-teacher ratio** in primary and post-primary schools is **protected for the third year in a row**.

We expect to **recruit an additional 1,400 mainstream and resource teachers** for the coming school year, on top of the additional 1,400 teachers recruited in 2013.

Overall Expenditure on Education

Exchequer Allocation for current spending - €7,857 million

Exchequer Allocation for capital spending - €540 million

Allocation for the National Training Fund - €362 million

Total Education Budget for 2014 - €8,759 million

Budget 2014 savings measures

- We are satisfied that Higher Education Institutions have significant amounts of cash at their disposal. It is clear that the higher education institutions have some capacity to deal with reduced allocations, even bearing their cashflow needs in mind. Last year the allocations to third-level institutions were reduced by €25m. This €25m will now be restored to the third-level institutions in 2015, rather than in 2014 as previously planned.
- At present, people who have been out of work for more than 12 months receive a €20 weekly bonus if they enrol on FÁS, VTOS or Youthreach courses. This has created an inequity in the training system, where someone who has been out of work for 11 months can be motivated to remain unemployed for an additional month in order to benefit from increased payments. This Budget is ending such payments, for new entrants only.
- From 2014, apprentices – who are paid during their training - will be required to make a pro-rata student contribution for these periods of time which they spend in Institutes of Technology.
- There are a few situations in which people can retain all or part of their social welfare payments, while also receiving FÁS or Youthreach training allowances. These concurrent payments were ended for new entrants to Community Employment Schemes in Budget 2012, and are not payable in respect of participants on VTOS schemes. They are now being ended for new entrants to FÁS and Youthreach training courses.

Investing in our Recovery

The recruitment of up to 2,800 additional teachers in 2013 and 2014 underlines the Government's determination to invest in our recovery.

We are investing an additional €15 million over three years to support the establishment of book rental schemes in all primary schools.

A minimum of 2,000 training places will be ring-fenced for under-25s who are out of work in 2014, at a cost of €6 million, under a follow-up to the successful Momentum Programme.

Since taking office, the Government's School Building programme has seen 2,700 new classrooms constructed in our schools, providing high-quality classrooms for over 66,000 children at a cost of €800m.

The announcement of the 2014 school building programme in November will continue this momentum, including major school building projects worth a further €470m, which will create 4,500 direct jobs, and 900 indirect jobs.