

Principals' Priorities for Education Budget 2016 – Survey Results

At IPPN Conference 2015, Minister for Education & Skills Jan O'Sullivan requested that principals feed back to the DES to let them know what principals see as the priorities for education spending, should there be an increase in the budget allocation. This would ensure that principals' voices are heard when decisions are being made. To that end, IPPN's National Council identified the 22 categories of DES funding to be used in a survey of principals undertaken earlier this month. 1,332 principals completed the survey - 40% of all principals. Please note that funding for each of the 22 areas is important. The purpose of this survey is to get a sense of the areas that should be prioritised and dealt with first.

Principals were asked to prioritise five from among 22 options. The ratings were on a scale of 1-5 which means that the maximum response would be 5 and the minimum response would be 1.

The results of principals' choices are below:

Principals' Priorities for Education Budget 2016

Priority	Budget Item	Rating Average
1	TP: Extra administration days for teaching principals – 1 day a week	3.98
2	Role: Restore principals' salary and apply benchmarking increase	3.87
3	TP: Reduce the threshold for administrative principalship	3.39
4	Staffing: Update the staffing schedule for special schools	3.32
5	Staffing: Improve the pupil/teacher ratio	3.28
6	Role: Step-down facility for principals without loss of seniority/pension	3.02
7	Staffing: Restore middle management posts	3.00
8	Staffing: Restore full resource hours	2.96
9	Grants: Increase the Capitation Grant	2.87
10	Staffing: Allocate a classroom assistant to every 1 and 2-teacher school	2.87
11	Role: Major investment in CPD for those in leadership roles	2.66
12	Grants: Increase capital expenditure	2.66
13	Grants: Annual Minor Works Grant	2.59
14	Staffing: Provide full-time, fully-trained administrative support for every school	2.59
15	Grants: Restore the Summer Works Scheme	2.34
16	Grants: Increase the Ancillary Services Grant	2.21
17	Other: Overhaul redeployment panel and supplementary panel	2.20
19	Other: Increase NEPS' capacity to support all schools	2.12
20	Other: Indoor PE facilities available in every school	2.12
18	IT: Adequate broadband capacity in every school	2.12
21	IT: Annual ICT Grant	2.05
22	IT: Technical support in each county / region	2.00

IPPN met with the Minister last week and with the Secretary General and some of his senior staff yesterday to discuss these priorities and to urge them to take heed of principals' views in prioritising Education Budget 2016.