

**To: Each ASTI School Steward**

**Re: Special Educational Needs**

Dear School Steward,

Earlier this year, ASTI issued detailed advice to members regarding planning for students with special educational needs together with a clarification that the advice does not impinge on current arrangements in place for these students or any adjustments that become necessary during the year. These include differentiated teaching, feedback and assessment, assistance with communication, visual supports etc. Standing Committee issued this advice in reaction to the overly bureaucratic requirements set out in Circular Letter 0014/2017.

Members have sought further clarification with regard to the respective roles of mainstream teachers and special education teachers (formerly learning support and resource teachers) in drawing up plans for SEN students.

The ASTI reiterates its advice to mainstream subject teachers that they do not prepare and implement Individual Education Plans/Student Support Files.

If a special education teacher has received appropriate training and is in receipt of adequate time allocation, ASTI advice does not preclude them from drawing up plans for students with SEN.

Members will also have noted recent critical media commentary on the above mentioned advice. ASTI is quite satisfied that our advice to members is fully consistent with current obligations regarding provision for SEN students. ASTI will continue to take every opportunity to insist that inclusive education provision is fully and properly resourced into the future.

Best regards,



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Kieran Christie  
General Secretary

March, 2019