



Circular Number: 0030/2026

To: The Management Authorities of Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme

Revision of Schools Services Support Fund Grant Rates for Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme

1. Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to inform management authorities of the revised per capita rate applicable to the Schools Services Support Fund (SSSF) grant allocated to Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme for 2026.

This circular replaces Circular 0082/2020.

2. Rate applicable in 2026

The SSSF grant rates will be increased effective from January 2026 to cater for the introduction of the State-sponsored retirement saving scheme MyFutureFund.

The SSSF Grants are based on the enrolment figures on 30 September of the current school year. The grant paid to a school with an enrolment of equal to or fewer than 200 pupils is based on a minimum enrolment of 200 pupils.

Appendix A of this Circular sets out the revised rates of the School Services Support Fund grant and the rates of Secretary and Caretaker Grants.

3. Timing of payment

The department will aim to pay the SSSF Grants in three instalments in November, April and June.

4. Common Grant

The Capitation grant and the SSSF grants may be regarded as a common grant from which the board of management can allocate according to its own priorities. Please see Circular 0048/2009 for more information.

5. Ancillary-related grant reductions

After Fórsa accepted the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) agreement on salaries and leave for grant-funded school secretaries, the secretaries who accepted the agreement were added to the Department of Education and Youth's payroll from September 2023. Because of this, the ancillary-related grant funding has been updated, since schools are no longer paying these salaries directly. The department has communicated with schools regarding ancillary-related grant reductions since September 2023.



6. Circulation and Queries

Please ensure that the contents of this Circular are brought to the attention of all members of the board of management and all relevant staff in the school.

Please note that any references to schools in this Circular refer only to Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme.

Queries from schools in relation to this Circular should be addressed to Schools Division Financial section at sdfinfo@education.gov.ie.

Shirley Kearney
Principal Officer
Schools Financial & Database Unit
27 April 2026

.....



Appendix A

Rates of School Services Support Fund Grant, Basic Secretarial Grant, SSSF Secretary Grant, Basic Caretaker Grant and SSSF Caretaker Grant to Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme

| | Grant Type | Rate | Details |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------|--|
| a) | School Services Support Fund (SSSF) | €227.90 | <p>The SSSF grant is increased from €224.50 to €227.90 per pupil.</p> <p>The grant is calculated at a minimum enrolment of 200 pupils and thereafter according to enrolment.</p> |
| b) | Basic Secretarial Grant | €40.60 | <p>The grant is increased from €40.00 to €40.60 per pupil.</p> <p>The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p> <p>Schools employing secretaries under 'the 1978 scheme' do not receive any secretary grants.</p> |
| c) | SSSF Secretary Grant | €26.90 | <p>The grant is increased from €26.50 to €26.90 per pupil.</p> <p>The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p> <p>Schools employing secretaries under 'the 1978 scheme' do not receive any secretary grants.</p> |
| d) | Basic Caretaker Grant | €34.50 | <p>The grant is increased from €34.00 to €34.50 per pupil.</p> <p>The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p> |
| e) | SSSF Caretaker Grant | €20.80 | <p>The grant is increased from €20.50 to €20.80 per pupil.</p> <p>The grant is calculated by multiplying the enrolment figure by the rate up to a maximum of 350 pupils.</p> |

.....