

NCSE Press Release: Thursday 21 May 2015

NCSE Announces Annual Increase of over 9% in Resource Teacher Posts

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) today published the allocations of resource teacher posts to schools for the start of the 2015/2016 school year.

The highlights include:

- 6,454 resource teacher posts in schools for September 2015
- An increase of 554 posts - or 9.4% - since September 2014

NCSE CEO Teresa Griffin said: "The NCSE is allocating 6,454 resource teacher posts to schools for the 2015/16 school year. This is 237 new posts over and above those currently in schools and 554 posts more than were provided during the first round of allocations in September 2014 (up 9.4%)."

The NCSE will provide further posts to schools after September to take account of newly diagnosed students. The table below shows the increase in teacher posts allocated over the past two school years.

NCSE Allocation of Resource Teaching Supports for Schools 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16

	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	End 2014/15 school year	Sept 2015
Number of posts	5,285	5,900	6,217	6,454

Resource teachers are additional dedicated posts to support students with special educational needs. Ms Griffin clarified that the resource teacher service had actually expanded by 22% since September 2013 – from 5,285 to 6,454 posts in schools.

Ms Griffin said: "The NCSE welcomes the Government's continued prioritisation of additional resources for special education. I am also very happy that, during the coming school year, the Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan T.D., will pilot the NCSE's model for a better and fairer way to allocate special education teacher posts to schools."

The NCSE has 251 posts remaining available to respond to emerging needs as the school year progresses e.g. students with a special educational need who enrol during the summer or where their needs emerged after the closing date for this round.

School allocations are published on the NCSE website ncse.ie today. The 2015/16 allocation of Special Needs Assistant (SNA) support to schools will be announced in June.

For further information on media queries, please contact:
Sé Goulding, Principal Officer, NCSE 087 9088608 / 046 9486455 or email
se.goulding@ncse.ie.

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Notes to Editors

National Council for Special Education (NCSE)

The NCSE provides schools with the additional educational supports they need to help children with special educational needs receive an appropriate education. The NCSE commissions and conducts research and provides expert, independent and evidence-informed policy advice to the Minister for Education and Skills on special education for children and young adults. Further information can be found on our website www.ncse.ie.

1. NCSE Allocation of Resource Teaching Supports for Schools 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16

	September 2013	September 2014	End of 2014/15 school year	September 2015
Number of posts	5,285	5,900	6,217	6,454

2. NCSE proposal for a new model of allocating special education teachers to schools

Over 11,000 learning support and resource teachers are currently allocated to schools to support the class and subject teachers provide an appropriate education to students with special educational needs.

In 2014, the NCSE proposed a new way to allocate these teachers as we consider that the current system can be both unfair and inequitable. This is because many of these posts are not allocated on the basis of educational need, rather they are allocated in line with the number of students in a school or the number of class teachers – irrespective of educational need.

The NCSE suggested using a school's educational profile as the basis for allocating additional teacher posts to schools and the Minister announced earlier this year that she intends to pilot this model to allocate posts during the 2015/16 school year.