

Principals' initial perspectives of action planning in new DEIS primary and post-primary schools



An online survey was conducted with principals in April/May 2023

>80% of primary principals responded

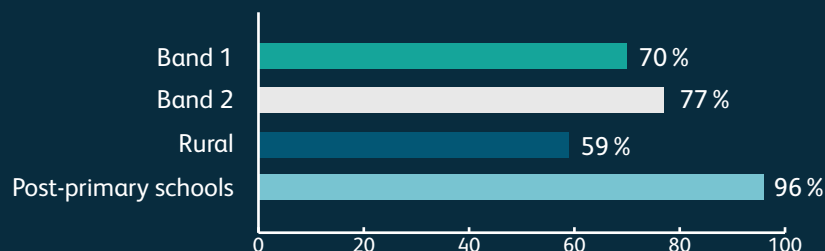
>70% of post-primary principals responded

The focus of the survey was on the DEIS action planning process

Action planning: Getting started



Most principals indicated that a DEIS action planning team was in place in the school



Key priority areas for use of the DEIS funding were:

- Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) activities for parents (in Urban DEIS schools and at post-primary level)
- Wellbeing-related activities
- Improvements to resources and infrastructure for learning and teaching



Action planning: Priorities



- Attendance patterns at both the school and class/year levels
- Student punctuality and the impact of the timetable on attendance
- Student retention

Positive aspects of entry to DEIS



- Increased resources
- Support for students and their families
- Professional development opportunities

Challenges of entry to DEIS



- Increased administration
- Increased workload
- Additional training
- Staff adaptation

Findings suggest a need to consider how:



- to reduce the administrative burden of the DEIS planning process, particularly for teaching principals in Rural DEIS schools



- DEIS planning can better incorporate an active review of teachers' professional learning/development needs



- to ensure highly effective home-school communication and best practice regarding involvement of parents in DEIS planning



- to further support principals in DEIS planning using formal and informal approaches