

Riarachán Iarbhunoideachais 3  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta  
Corn a Madadh,  
Baile Átha Luain,  
Co. na hIarmhí



**Circular 0028/2009**

## **To: Management Authorities of Second-Level Schools**

1. Under the Remote Area Grant scheme, provision exists for the payment of grants in respect of pupils whose normal place of residence is outside the range of public transport services to a school providing suitable free second-level education. This scheme of grants was introduced in conjunction with the free post-primary education scheme in the 1967/68 school year.
2. The purpose of the scheme is to give pupils who are educationally disadvantaged because of their remoteness from schools an opportunity to attend school on the same basis as other pupils not so disadvantaged.
3. Under the terms of the scheme, a second-level school is a school which is recognised by the Department for the purpose of providing the prescribed certificate courses, which enters its students for the State examinations and is subject to inspection by the Department.
4. To qualify for a boarding grant, an applicant: –
  - must be normally resident in the State; and
  - must be resident at least 4.8 km from a second-level school where suitable free second-level education is available and more than 3.2 km from a pick-up point on a transport service to such a school; and
  - he/she must be unable to obtain a place in a suitable second-level school within 25 km of his/her normal place of residence; and
  - he/she must be a pupil in a second level school providing free second-level education for day pupils.

Pupils resident on off shore islands that do not have a school providing suitable free second level education may also qualify for assistance under the scheme.

5. The curriculum choices provided by a school (including the provision or otherwise of transition year) within 25 km of the applicant's normal place of residence will not be a factor in the determination of eligibility for the award of a grant.
6. The maximum grant payable under the scheme from the commencement of the 2008/09 school year may not exceed €4,947 per pupil per annum. The grant is payable quarterly in arrears to the parent/guardian, whichever is appropriate, subject to verification by the school that the pupil has been in full-time attendance for the period concerned and a provision of a statement of the annual maintenance charge.
7. Applications should be forwarded to Post Primary Administration Section, Department of Education & Science, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
8. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

9. In this Circular the term management authorities refers to Boards of Management, Manager and Vocational Education Committees, as appropriate.

**Matthew Ryan**  
**Principal Officer**  
**May 2009**