

Circular: 0055/2017

To: Principals of Secondary, Community and Comprehensive and ETB Schools and the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards.

Guidelines on access to PLC for certain participants in the asylum process for the 2017/2018 academic year.

I refer to [Circular 0048/2015](#). Pilot arrangements for access to PLC are being continued for the 2017/18 academic year on the following basis for the three particular groups referenced in the Circular (asylum applicants, subsidiary protection applicants and those at the leave to remain stage but in respect of whom a deportation order has not issued):

- Applicants in these three groups must
 - meet the definition of protection applicant or person at leave to remain stage (other than those at the deportation order stage);
 - obtained the Leaving Certificate;
 - have been accepted on an approved Post Leaving Certificate course or an approved undergraduate course;
 - have attended a minimum of five academic years in the Irish school system, as at 31 August 2017; and
 - have been part of an application for protection or leave to remain for a combined period of 5 years as at 31 August 2017.
- Details of eligibility for the special pilot support scheme, and further information on how to apply are available on the Department's website; (<http://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Services/Pilot-Support-Scheme/>)

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