



Circular: 0036/2019

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 2019/20 academic year.

I refer to Circular 0061/2018. Pilot arrangements for access to PLC are being continued for the 2019/20 academic year on the following basis for the three particular groups referenced in that 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).

The scheme has been altered in light of a review which indicated that a requirement to have been in school in Ireland for at least five years was too restrictive. The criteria has been reduced for 2019/20 applicants to three years education in the Irish school system.

Applicants in the protection system, who wish to be supported to pursue certain courses in further education or at undergraduate level in higher education, will be required to meet the following criteria:

- Meet the definition of a protection applicant or a person at leave to remain stage (other than those at the deportation order stage);
- Have obtained their Leaving Certificate;
- Have been accepted on an approved post-leaving certificate course or an approved undergraduate course;
- Have at least three academic years in the Irish school system by 31 August 2019; and
- Have been part of an application for protection or leave to remain for a combined period of three years as at 31 August 2019.

Details of eligibility for the special pilot support scheme and further information on how to apply are available on the Departments website;

<https://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Services/Pilot-Support-Scheme/Pilot-Support-Scheme.html>

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