

As Budget 2025 approaches, the primary teacher union, INTO, are asking all staff and parents to contact their TDs to ask them to prioritise primary education in the budget.

They have created a tool to help parents contact all TDs in their constituency and they have put together a template with the things they are advocating for. To email your TDs with the letter, [click here](#). **Please take 5 minutes of your time to do this today. Without pressure from parents, the necessary changes to education will not happen. It is vital parents make education an election issue for the next election. This starts here.**

I've given some context to the INTO requests below.

- The INTO is advocating for a two-point reduction of average class sizes in all primary schools in the forthcoming budget.

Currently the allocated class size is 23 children to one teacher. This is the highest in the EU. This means a school is allocated a teacher for every 23 children. If this was reduced by 2 to 21 children to one teacher, we would be allocated teachers based on that. *This is hugely important to us as a developing school.*

- The INTO is calling for the full reinstatement of the assistant principal roles which were cut in primary and special schools in the austerity period.

In the recession, the government took away leadership posts from primary schools, and they have still not been reinstated. We have far fewer leadership roles than a school would have had in 2006/2007. This makes leading change within a school much more challenging as teachers do not have the role/responsibility to do so. *We have one Assistant Principal at the moment, but we have enough work and policy development needed for more. All this work happens outside of school hours and on top of planning time, so it's vital that official roles are reinstated.*

- The INTO is urging a 20% increase in two of the core grants paid annually to primary and special schools, the capitation and minor works grants, and a higher ancillary services grant.

School funding covers less than 60% of costs for most schools. The rest is made up by parents, via contributions and fundraising. This is shameful. Primary education should be free and no child or class or school should be disadvantaged because their parents can't afford to contribute as much as others in a different school might be.

School grants MUST be increased to allow schools to meet the growing costs without endless fundraising and parent subsidies.

I ask that you take 5 minutes and

1. Click [here](#).
2. Scroll down to 'I'm a parent' and click 'take action now'.
3. Select your constituency from the drop down menu - Cork South Central. The TDs will be selected for you.
4. Enter your details and read the draft email. Feel free to edit.
5. Send the emails.

The government won't listen to schools, or to teachers alone. Parents and the wider community must advocate for the changes they feel are needed for primary schools. I ask that you consider those above in this, as all 3 would make huge differences to our school.