''Excellence through Collaborative Leadership and Management''

Selection Criteria for Cluster Applications

Background to the scheme

This scheme aims to assist schools to further develop their leadership capacity. The Department of Education and Skills invites schools to participate in a pilot scheme designed to facilitate schools in harnessing and optimising internal leadership and management capacity at all levels.

The scheme will comprise a national programme of projects operating at a local level. Each project will explore approaches to school leadership and management that involves and empowers the leadership teams in the participating schools.

Qualifying Criteria

- Completed applications should be submitted to office@cslireland.ie not later than 5pm on Wednesday 19th December 2018
- Only fully completed application forms will be deemed eligible for consideration
- All application forms must be signed off by the Principal of the coordinating school
- Clusters must contain a minimum of three and a maximum of six schools

A panel comprising representatives from the Department of Education and Skills, the Centre for School Leadership, ATECI, Third Level and Business/ Industry will be formed to adjudicate on the quality of the applications. A hierarchical list will be created having due cognisance of the criteria outlined below and the **top two** projects in each Education Centre region will be selected for participation in the Pilot Scheme.
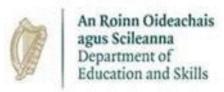
Selection Criteria

The context of these criteria arise from the *Description of the Scheme* published to support the application process. Applicants were encouraged to indicate how their projects would demonstrate:

- Collaboration within and between schools focusing on the enhancement of distributed leadership in the participating schools
- The impact of effective leadership on teaching, learning and assessment in the participating schools

ATECI

Cumann Ionaid Mhúinteoirí / Oideachais in Éirinn

Association of Teachers' Educations Centres Ireland

Lárionad
Ceannaireachta Scoile

CSL

Centre for
School Leadership

An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

- The involvement of learners in participating schools and evidence of the impact their participation has on their learning – specifically how the learner experience changes as a result of their school's participation in the project

- Effective collaboration among participating schools

- Defined outcomes

- How the outcomes of the projects can be applied to the wider system

In making decisions on the suitability of each application, the relevant application form must clearly demonstrate:

- Unambiguous Project Aims and Objectives that;

    o Develop leadership capacity within the participating schools

    o Facilitate teamwork

    o Indicate how teaching, learning and assessment will be impacted

    o Make explicit links to educational theory and practice

    o Have tangible benefits for the wider system

- Project Planning and Implementation strategies that;

    o Illustrate how the projects will be managed locally

    o Identify inputs such as training and supports from project partners

    o Indicate how the expected impact on teaching, learning and assessment will be achieved

    o Outline ongoing evaluation/ reflective practices

- Project Roles and Responsibilities

    The scheme places collaboration between and within schools at its core. It is therefore essential that all partners play a key role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. Therefore, the Project Roles and Responsibilities should specify;

    o The intended role of the coordinating school

    o The intended role of each participating school

    o The role envisaged for other project partners

- Project Schedule

    In order to assist in planning and implementing the projects a clear project schedule should be developed. Such a schedule should include;

- o Milestone dates

- o A schedule of project meetings

- o A mechanism for monitoring project implementation

- o A schedule of project outcomes/deliverables

- Project outcomes and deliverables

  It is intended that each project identifies deliverables and outcomes and where feasible these should include;

  - o Defined and measurable items

  - o Details of how the outcomes will be disseminated and communicated to the system generally

Note: In the event that different clusters in the same Education Centre region receive the same mark, preference will be given to clusters which contain at least one DEIS school.