

“Excellence through Collaborative Leadership and Management”

Support from Third Level, Business and Industry

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 all members of the leadership teams in the participating schools.

Schools will be invited to engage in **innovative clusters** with a shared vision for school improvement.

For the purposes of this proposal, **a cluster is defined as a collection of between three and six schools** who collaborate in the design, delivery, evaluation and dissemination of the outcomes of these innovative projects.

The pilot, including the application stage, will take place from **November 2018** with a view to planning and implementation of the projects in **February 2019**. The pilot phase will run until **June 2020**.

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Clusters will be hosted by Education Centres, who will establish panels of personnel from third level, business and industry to provide advice and support to participating schools. Some of these links may already have been established by participating schools and may be further developed through the lifetime of the scheme.

Collaboration between the schools and other sectors will lead to a shared understanding of the needs of the cluster and how they might be addressed. This process will lead to enhanced project planning and implementation. Areas where clusters may benefit from this collaboration could include:

- Distributed leadership
- Change management
- Project management
- Coaching and mentoring



- Reflection and evaluation
- The provision of a wider academic perspective
- Locating the work of the cluster in national and international good practice