

Education 'at a glance'

Key commitments from the parties

For #DisabilityGE2020



Despite being passed in 2004 the EPSEN Act remains largely uncommenced. This means children have to right to assessments and IEPS. Only the **Social Democrats** say they will commence the EPSEN Act; **Sinn Fein** commit to a new Education Act that will provide for IEPS which is puzzling.

People before Profit are the only party to commit to ensuring no child is educated in a super-sized class by promising to have a maximum class size of 18; **Fine Gael** say they will further reduce the 26:1 pupil teacher ratio; **Sinn Fein** will reduce the ratio to 20:1.

Some of the parties make very welcome commitment on the recruitment of therapists. **Fianna Fail** and **Sinn Fein** promise 800 therapy staff (200 in schools); the **Green Party** and **Labour** make an unspecified commitment for more therapists and the **Social Democrats** commit to 1000 therapists and frontline staff.

Fine Gael commit to training for SNAs and teachers, especially in schools with autism classes. The **Social Democrats** also make commitments to develop training on disability for teacher training.

Fianna Fail make extra commitments to ban short school days (in law), reform the NCSE and develop autism services.

Fine Gael will continue to roll out the school inclusion model and review July Provision to make it more inclusive.

The **Green Party** will introduce additional supports for early years and post school education.

People Before Profit will ensure there are enough resources in schools to ensure inclusive education for all and to raise the number of SNAs to pre-crash levels despite there being 6000 more SNAs now than before the crash.

Sinn Fein commit to addition educational psychologists, 500 extra SNAs, 450 resource teachers and an appeal mechanism for parents on resource hours.

The **Social Democrats** will commence fully the Irish Sign Language Act and increase the number of educational psychologists.

 FIANNA FAIL <small>THE REPUBLICAN PARTY</small>	 FINE GAEL	 green party	 Labour	 People Before Profit Alliance	 Sinn Féin <small>BUILDING AN IRELAND OF EQUALS</small>	 Social Democrats
<p>Prioritize the construction of special schools on the Department of Education and Skills project list</p> <p>Recruit 800 therapy staff (200 for schools alone)</p> <p>Introduce legislation banning the inappropriate use of reduced timetables.</p> <p>To reform the NCSE so that its primary function is to ensure each child with a special education need has an appropriate school place in line with their constitutional rights.</p> <p>Develop autism support services</p>	<p>Further reduce the 26:1 pupil teacher ratio.</p> <p>Roll out the school inclusion model, so a diagnosis is not needed for supports.</p> <p>Develop a SNA training program.</p> <p>Deliver training to schools with Autism Classes</p> <p>Review the July provision to make it more inclusive</p>	<p>An urgent review and increase in resources in therapy service areas that impact many people with disabilities.</p> <p>The extension of funding supports for people with disabilities in education to part-time students.</p> <p>Ensure that all children with disabilities or who have other additional needs get support to access early years support services.</p>	<p>Redirect resources towards early intervention with young children who have a disability and special needs, including neurodiversity, to reduce waiting times and to improve outcomes.</p>	<p>Establish a maximum class size of 18.</p> <p>Increase the numbers of special needs assistants in classrooms to the pre-crash level.</p> <p>Provide accessible education for all. Ensure all children can access education through mainstream channels by investing in staff and facilities to make schools and communities truly inclusive</p>	<p>A new Education (Overcoming the barriers) Bill containing education rights such as IEPs.</p> <p>Recruiting additional educational psychologists</p> <p>Recruitment of 500 additional SNAs and 450 additional resource teachers</p> <p>Establishing an initial panel of 200 speech and language therapists for schools. A skill mix of 600 therapists in disability services</p> <p>Reducing waiting times for assessments and resourcing supports for students with special educational needs, including proper access to therapies.</p>	<p>Commence in full the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 and the Irish Sign Language Act 2017</p> <p>Increase the number of psychologists under the National Educational Psychological Services</p> <p>Develop training for special needs children into the curriculum for teacher training</p> <p>Immediately expedite the recruitment of 1,000 therapists and other front-line healthcare workers.</p>

					<p>Reducing the student/teacher ratio to 20:1</p> <p>Greater powers to the NCSE to place children in schools</p> <p>Parent appeal mechanism on resource allocations</p>	
<p>EPSEN: Education of Persons with Special Education Needs Act 2004. IEP: Individual education plan NCSE: National Council for Special Education SNA: Special needs assistant</p>						



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