Programme’s name | Home-School-Community Liaison Programme – A framework to reduce early school leaving and maximise student attendance, participation, and retention
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Organisation / Country: | National Educational Welfare Board / Ireland
Website: | [Here](#)
Contact: | Available upon request
Summary: | Support services offered to schools by NEWB
With the budget of the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB), a wide range of support to schools is provided:

- reduced pupil teacher ratio
- enhanced staffing
- enhanced capitation funding based on level of disadvantage
- a range of professional development supports – preferential access.
- access to a range of numeracy/literacy support services and measures at primary level.
- access to Home-School-Community Liaison services.
- access to the school completion programme
- focus on integration
- school development planning

A practice example – The NEWB working strand of a Home / School / Community Liaison Programme

- The **NEWB Home-School-Community Liaison (HSCL) Programme** was established in 1990 as a form of central intervention.
- The programme brings together parents and significant adults. It comprises 403 (Deployed Teachers) HSCL co-ordinators at primary & post-primary level.

Activities
The activities within the **Home-School-Community Liaison Programme** comprise home visitations and outreach, courses for parents, developing the parent as a resource in their children’s learning, and supporting young people through peers.

**Issues:**

**Specific issues around children affected from poverty**

Children affected from poverty are:

- the least successful in traditional measures
- the hardest to teach by traditional measures
- the least powerful in insisting that their needs are met, and
- the most dependent on schools for their educational resources.

**External expectations towards schools**

- “Leaders of learning must pursue deep, powerful, high-performance learning-for-understanding that prepares young people to participate in today’s knowledge or informational society.” ([Hargreaves & Fink 2000](#))
- “Schools for tomorrow will require leaders who are passionately, obsessively, creatively and steadfastly committed to enhancing students’ learning.” ([Fink 2005](#))

**Resources:**

- The National Educational Welfare Board coordinates a budget of € 158 million.

**Objectives:**

- Improving social inclusion in Irish schools
- Reducing early school leaving
- Maximising student attendance and participation
- Improving student retention

**Outcomes:**

- Enhanced attendance, participation and retention of students, for example through
  a) improvement in overall attendance of pupils,
  b) statistically significant improvements in maths and reading levels of pupils – at all levels, and
  c) the uptake of literacy and numeracy initiatives
- Establishment of a systematic planning process
- Effective literacy strategies at second level
- The Leaving Certificate (LC) retention rate has increased by 6.4 percentage points in the eight years from 2001/2002 to 2009/2010 from 81.3 percent to 87.7 percent.
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- The number of young men completing high school with a certificate went up by 11.4 percent in 8 years to 82.4 percent.
- Average LC retention rate in schools increased by 5 percent from 68.2 percent to 73.2 percent.