INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO REDUCE EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING
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Clare Ryan
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National Educational Welfare Board
“maximising student attendance, participation...and retention”

www.newb.ie

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Supports available to schools under DEIS - €158 million

- 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 supports and measures at primary level
- Access to Home School Community Liaison services
- Access to the School Completion Programme
- Focus on integration
- School Development Planning
NEWB STRANDS
Home/School/Community Liaison

• 1990 – Central Intervention

• Working with parents and significant adults: 403 (Deployed Teachers) HSCL Co-ordinators at primary & post-primary

• Activities: Home Visitation & outreach, Courses for Parents, Developing the parent as a resource in their children’s learning, Supporting peers
NEWB STRANDS
School Completion Programme

• 124 Projects (251 full-time staff) in place working with 464 Primary & 224 Post-Primary Schools (€30m)

• Primary aim is to retain young people in formal education until completion of Senior Cycle

• In – School, After School; Out-of-School; Holiday Provision

One child, One team, One plan
OUTCOMES

Better outcomes for children & families

Enhanced attendance, participation and retention

Coherence, Co-ordination & Consolidation

Efficient use of resources – reaching the most marginalised

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Better outcomes for children & families
Conceptualising Social Inclusion in Irish Schools

IMPROVING ACHIEVEMENT

Overcoming Barriers to Achievement
- pre-school, literacy, working with parents, collaboration, basic needs met first

Enhancing Other Capacities
- Extending opportunities, self esteem, rewards, social skills

Attainment
- Access
- Relevant
- Order
• Statistically significant improvements in maths and reading levels of pupils— at all levels
• Improvements in overall attendance of pupils
• Systematic planning processes
• Uptake of literacy and numeracy initiatives
• Effective literacy strategies at 2nd level
• Highest ever number of students are completing secondary level
• The proportion of early school leavers in Ireland is 10%
• The Leaving Certificate retention rate has increased by 6.4 percentage points in the eight years from 2001/2002 to 2009/2010 from 81.3% to 87.7%
• The number of young men - +11.4% in 8 years - 82.4%
• Average LC retention rate in DEIS schools increased 5 percentage points from 68.2% to 73.2%
Children who are poor....

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