

STATES OF JERSEY



GRANT AIDED SCHOOLS: GRANTS (P.72/2011) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 31st May 2011
by Deputy D.J. De Sousa of St. Helier

STATES GREFFE

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PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (a) –

After the words “Victoria College Preparatory School” insert the words “and funding for all non-fee paying schools”.

DEPUTY D.J. DE SOUSA OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

The proposed savings for Education, Sport and Culture will be a concern to a majority of people within the Island, also the vast majority of States Members. Education is a fundamental aspect of life and should be treated with the due respect that it deserves, no matter what social, cultural or ethnic background any individual comes from. The Minister has a duty to all children of school age to provide education.

Non-fee paying schools have taken a hit in their budgets year on year for the last 10 years (see Appendix) due to States cutbacks. Not once has any States member in the last 10 years raised this issue until now. Even though there are a number of teachers amongst the States Chamber present and past.

The challenges faced by educational institutions around the world, now and in the future, are incomprehensible. If the Island wishes to see continued wealth and prosperity, the best public services and a future for our economy, I would argue that it is not only our fee-paying schools, but the non-fee-paying too that should be momentarily protected from the forthcoming cuts to public funding.

Some Members have chosen to turn Education into a political football, making sweeping selective statements about fee-paying and non-fee-paying schools. To single out particular schools without identifying the multiple services that schools such as Haute Vallée, Rouge Bouillon, etc. need to provide in order to fulfill the Minister's obligation under the Education (Jersey) Law 1999 to provide, as I have said, education to every child of compulsory age is only divisive. The Spending Review report completed by the Public Accounts Committee on 23rd April 2010 identified the following Findings and Recommendations.

2.26 Key Finding

The predicted impact of a fee increase is greatly overstated by ESC, especially as many schools have waiting lists. These assertions are made without any supporting documentation and some conclusions appear recklessly incorrect. It is highly unlikely that there will be the level of withdrawals from fee-paying schools indicated by Education Sport and Culture based on the fee increases indicated. The suggestion that a small increase in fees would result in the removal of all fee paying students (at a subsequent cost to the tax payer of up to £7 million) is absurd.

2.27 Recommendation

The PAC requests that Education, Sport and Culture undertake a meaningful examination of optimal fees, taking into account waiting lists and the apparent lack of confidence by some parents in the non fee paying schools is an optimal level sector. Furthermore the PAC acknowledges that the continuation of funding fee paying schools at an optimal level is prudent from both a financial and educational perspective.

2.36 Key Finding

£480,000 (the proposed reduction in funding to the fee-paying colleges) appears to be an arbitrary figure and not reflective of the true costs. ESC does not know the true cost of sending pupil to JCG or Victoria College.

2.27 Recommendation

The grant system to the private educational sector does not provide value as it encourages a large proportion of tax payers to contribute to education through fees. However, the funding mechanism must be transparent and show no favoritism to individual schools.

We could all go down the route and view education as a business. Continually cut within the non-fee-paying schools and watch them wither away due to statutory obligations to provide public-funded education. They are not able to increase income via parental contribution of fees (under Article 27) so where would the extra monies come from to meet the challenges of the future?

It would appear to me that the misconception and ignorance being used within this money war screams for further understanding of exactly what it is the Education Department provide to ALL Islanders. The Green Paper will (I hope) provide us with this and help everyone be a part of making the decisions for the future of our children and the generations that will follow.

In order for this to happen, we cannot single out one section of the Education system and assume that they are more worthy than the rest, based on sweeping statements. States Members need to recognize the importance of this debate, not only to parents of children at fee-paying schools, but also to those with children at non-fee-paying schools.

Financial and manpower implications

All Education establishments should be afforded the same consideration therefore, as Senator Shenton who proposed the main proposition states: “We should await the full publication of the White Paper before we slash any more funding from the Education budget.” In effect, the financial implication is that the funding allocated to the Education, Sport and Culture Department should be increased to take into account the lost costs. This can be achieved through larger Education budget in the Annual Business Plan, or through an amendment to the Annual Business Plan based on the wishes of the States Assembly.

In supporting this amendment to the main proposition, members are sending out a clear message that, whilst the need to save costs is acknowledged, there is a responsibility to act in a professional manner after due consultation, consideration and the publication of a definitive way forward.

I want education to be completely inclusive, not elitist.

APPENDIX 1

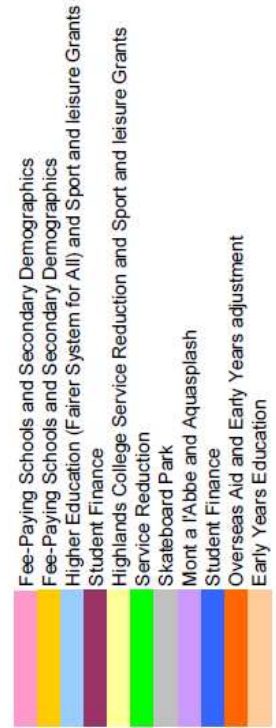
EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE – Savings 2003 to 2010					
		Efficiency Savings		Targeted Savings	
2003	Educ	-839,000		–	
2003	SLR	-140,200		–	
			-979,200		0
2004	ESC		0		414,000
2005	ESC		-1,430,700		
Closure of schools to provide training				-320,000	
5% reduction in grant to JAT				-70,000	
Cease £ for £ sports grants				-200,000	
Reduce grant to JCCT				-60,000	
Rationalise library services				-70,000	
Reduce opening hours at Sports Centres				-250,000	
					-970,000
2006	ESC		-816,500		
Service Reduction					-83,000
2007	ESC		-340,900		0
2008	ESC		-360,600		
Highlands College service reduction				-200,000	
Grants to Sports organisations				-76,000	
					-276,000
2009	ESC		-72,000		
Student Finance					-689,000

EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE – Savings 2003 to 2010					
		Efficiency Savings		Targeted Savings	
2010	ESC				
COM pro-rata allocation – Higher Education				-911,600	
HE Fairer system for all				-70,000	
Sport and Leisure Division savings				-30,000	
					-1,011,600
			-3,999,900		-2,615,600

**Education, Sport and Culture
Summary of Budget Movements**

2003-2012

	Efficiency Savings	Targetted Savings	Demographics Growth	Other Growth	CoM Admndments	Pay Awards / NonStaff Infl.	Transfers	Net Movement	Net Dept Budget £	Efficiency Savings as %
2003 Educ	(839,000)		1,122,100	830,000			(87,100)	1,026,000	75,087,800	-1.12%
2003 SLR	(140,200)	(414,000)	702,000	790,000		4,714,300	(6,800)	(147,000)	4,364,100	-3.21%
2004 ESC		(970,000)	796,000	370,000		586,400	2,658,300	8,450,600	87,902,500	0.00%
2005 ESC	(1,430,700)	(83,000)	1,146,000	200,000		5,975,600	60,000	(648,300)	87,254,200	-1.64%
2006 ESC	(816,500)		175,700	2,520,000		2,303,700	(2,300,900)	6,482,100	93,736,300	-0.87%
2007 ESC	(340,900)		280,600	300,000		4,561,700	(4,615,500)	2,357,600	96,093,900	-0.35%
2008 ESC	(360,600)	(276,000)	(325,000)	740,000	552,000	2,268,900	53,600	2,528,500	95,984,100	-0.38%
2009 ESC	(72,000)	(689,000)		40,000	927,000	732,600	315,900	1,003,900	98,512,600	-0.07%
2010 ESC	(911,600)	(100,000)				2,609,400	-	2,159,700	99,516,500	-0.92%
2011 ESC	(80,000)	(330,000)			(39,700)	2,555,300	-	1,805,400	101,676,200	-0.08%
2012 ESC	(330,000)	(210,000)			(209,900)		-	1,805,400	103,481,600	-0.32%
	(5,321,500)	(3,072,000)	3,897,400	5,790,000	1,229,400	26,307,900	(3,922,500)	24,908,700	103,481,600	-5.14%
2009 Primary	(213,700)								21,263,400	-1.01%
2009 Secondary	(210,500)								21,507,600	-0.98%
2009 FeePay	(52,800)								4,680,600	-1.13%
2009 Grants	(56,200)								4,703,200	-1.19%
	(533,200)								52,154,800	-1.02%



Education, Sport and Culture Summary of AWPU Budgets

Identification of Efficiency Savings : 2005-2011

Year			Non Fee Paying		Fee Paying	
			Primary	Secondary	States (Provided)	Private (Non Provided)
2005	Gross Budget	£'000	17,816	17,060	4,184	3,699
	Efficiency	£'000	-	-	-	-
	Saving	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2006	Gross Budget	£'000	18,431	17,494	3,960	3,940
	Efficiency	£'000	184	87	22	-
	Saving	%	1.00%	0.50%	0.50%	0.00%
2007	Gross Budget	£'000	19,690	19,997	4,304	4,221
	Efficiency	£'000	197	97	24	-
	Saving	%	1.00%	0.50%	0.50%	0.00%
2008	Gross Budget	£'000	20,957	21,307	4,560	4,424
	Efficiency	£'000	210	206	52	53
	Saving	%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
2009	Gross Budget	£'000	21,476	21,717	4,670	4,767
	Efficiency	£'000	213	210	53	56
	Saving	%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
2010	Gross Budget	£'000	21,528	22,036	4,781	4,901
	Efficiency	£'000	215	217	54	57
	Saving	%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
2011	Gross Budget	£'000	22,438	22,643	4,963	5,021
	Efficiency	£'000	224	222	56	59
	Saving	%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Total Over Period	Gross Budget	£'000	142,336	142,254	31,422	30,973
	Efficiency	£'000	1,243	1,039	261	225
	Saving	% of total	0.87%	0.73%	0.83%	0.73%