

*IIEP-UNESCO and UNICEF Policy seminar on
Decentralization in Education: Overcoming challenges and achieving success –The
Kenyan experience*

Improving school financing: The use and usefulness of school grants- Recommendations

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Theme 1: Formulation and dissemination process of school grants policies

Recommendations:

- ☐ Awareness campaigns should be launched to sensitize on the expected roles of the different actors, especially the government and the parents.
- ☐ Continuous retooling/refresher courses for head teachers and Deputies on management of school grant
- ☐ Induction courses for newly recruited head teachers

Theme 2: Criteria and mechanism of grants' distribution

Recommendation 1:

☐ Criteria should take into account:

- i. School needs and characteristics (Location, environment)
- ii. The needs of specific groups of students, e.g., Special Needs Education, OVC, Children Affected by HIV/AIDS(CAHAs)

This recommendation applies more to the GPA grant.

Some costs are fixed irrespective of the size of the school, e.g., payment for school guard. *"...a school with 70 pupils has the same needs as the one with 400 pupils for some vote heads like watchman and local travel."*(Kenyan School head teacher)

Theme 2: Criteria and mechanism of grants' distribution

Recommendation 2:

- ❑ MOE should develop a disbursement time plan which should be followed consistently.

Theme 3: The use of school grants-Kenya

Recommendations:

1. Amount of grant should be reviewed upwards to reflect the current market prices for goods and services.
2. MOE should undertake a survey to determine the unit cost of primary education
3. Those vote heads which are highly over utilized should be allocated more funds.
4. The guidelines should be relaxed to enable schools vire from one vote head to another as long as they remain within the guidelines.(Allow more leeway in the use the use of grant)

Theme 4: Decision making process for the use of school grant at school level

Recommendations:

1. Pupils should be represented in both (fellow pupils) SIMSC and SMC
2. Role of the headteacher in both committees should be toned down to reduce over dominance

Theme 5: Monitoring and control

Recommendations:

1. Strengthen Internal monitoring and control systems e.g.
Have a sub committee (excludes HT) on to monitor
2. Make external monitoring and control regular by
 1. Providing adequate personnel especially to auditors
 2. Provide adequate finances to carry out audit visits
3. Recruit account clerks in schools to ease head teachers workload (keeping books and preparing financial reports)

Other suggestions

- School feeding and early childhood education should be included in the FPE grant;
- Teachers:
 - More teachers should be recruited to schools that face increased enrolments;
 - Teachers should receive incentive to compensate for the heavy workload;
 - They should be involved in the choice of textbooks to be included in the Orange book.
- Awareness of parents should be raised on the need to participate in schools' functioning, management and monitoring.

THANK YOU