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PRIME MINISTER



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



HON. JIMMY UGURO, MP  
MINISTER

## MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT 1/2024

# GOVERNMENT TUITION FEE SUBSIDY (GTFS) POLICY FOR 2024 FOR THE GENERAL EDUCATION SECTOR SCHOOLS

**TO: ALL PARENTS, SCHOOL HEADS, GOVERNING BOARDS AND EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) announces that the Marape/Rosso will maintain its GTFS Policy for 2024. The Government Tuition Fee Policy remains with the Government paying full in tuition fees and project fees in 2024 will give every child an opportunity to education and fundamentally shares the national wealth, irrespective of background to its citizens.

### 2. EDUCATION REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY

Education remains a priority sector with increased allocation of 15% of the 2024 budget.

The governments increase in the general education sector's budget will give every child 13 years of complete education with emphasis on standard and quality through a standard based curriculum that provides the platform to assess children's creativity and performance. Teachers are supported in upgrading professional skills and knowledge to continue making progress to ensure the benchmarks and content standards are achieved.

The Governments intent since 2020 ensures the 1-6-6 school structure is implemented where elementary schools are phased out and ECE is established, moving Prep, grade 1 and 2 into primary schools and grade 7 and 8 under high schools; a robust standards assurance system maintained through school inspection system; multiple pathways with FODE and VET for students is provided; Schools of Excellence implemented; Early Childhood education formalized; and schools' functioning to sustained through full funding from Government and self-reliance initiatives.

### 3. GOVERNMENT TUITION FEE POLICY

3.1. In 2020, the Marape/Rosso government embarked on a partnership policy with parents and stakeholders sharing the cost of education to make our people responsible. However, considering the impact of COVID 19 and other factors that increased in cost of goods and services the Government has made the decision to pay 100% schools fees for students from Preparatory to grade 12 in 2024 and paying project fees.

3.2. There is a notable increase in the GTFS budget in 2024. The **K763.6** million budget in 2023, has now been surpassed with **K850.9** in 2024, an increase of K87.3million. The two major parts of the GTF Policy are:

Major Component 1: Tuition Fee Grants to Schools: K 690.9million.

Major Component 2: Project Fees Grants (K160million)

### 4. 2023 TUITION COST AND NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD (NEB) MAXIMUM FEE LIMITS

4.1. The NEB Maximum Fee limits for 2024 remains the same as in 2023 with inclusion of Permitted Schools. The table below presents the total fees payable by Government to all sectors under the two policy components;

SECTOR/SCHOOL LEVEL	BOARDING	DAY	PROJECT FEE LIMIT	CHURCH AGENCY FEE
PRIMARY - PREP, GR 1 AND GR 2		110	20	5
PRIMARY GRADE 3-8		297	60	7
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS (Gr 7 - 10)	1650	990	220	10
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS/ NSOE (Gr 11- 12)	1749	1089	220	10
VOCATIONAL CENTRES	1430	110	200	10
FODE		110	K20/ SUBJECT	10
IERC		200	200	10

### 5. MAJOR COMPONENT 1: TUITION FEE GRANTS TO SCHOOLS

5.1. The Major Component 1 of the GTFS Policy will have four (4) sub-components. Each sub - component allocation is prescribed for implementation by the Department.

Sub Component	Budget	Percent	Means disbursement
1.1. School Operations and Functional Grant	574	83	Allocation per Unit Cost x Enrolment
1.2 Education Learning Material component	103	15	Public Tender by Province
1.3 Remote Schools Grants -K11million	9	1.3	
1.4 Permitted and Private Schools subsidy	4.7	0.7	One off Grant payment
	<b>690.7</b>	<b>100</b>	

5.2. The School Operational and functional Grants will be paid to schools directly or through provincial trust accounts, on a termly basis.

5.3. GTFS grants must be spent on approved activities specified for students' education and teaching. The GTFS Guidelines specifies the good and services funds should be spent and not spent on.

### 6. PROJECT FEE GRANTS

6.1. The Government will support all schools with a Project Fees grant totaling **K160 million**.

6.2. The funds will be paid directly to schools, every quarter based on enrolment. The rates the Government will be paying are:

School Sector	Project Maximum limit
Primary - Prep to Grade 2	K20
Primary - Gr 3 - 8	K60
Junior High Schools Gr 7 - 10	K220
Senior High Schools - Gr 9 - 12	K220
Vocational	K200
FODE	K20/subject
IERC	K200

The Provincial Education Board will ensure schools spend the funds according to the School Learning Improvement Plan (SLIP), a Project Plan, Scope and Budget with a P&C Association agreement.

### 7. SUPPORT TO REMOTE SCHOOLS

The Government is also relieving the hardship faced by the very remote schools in the country. This will be paid in addition to the tuition fees to schools identified as very remote schools by Papua New Guinea Access RemoteIndex (PARI).

### 8. PERMITTED SCHOOLS

Permitted schools will be paid this year under the revised GTFS policy. They will receive a one off payment however, under these specific conditions that will required such as minimum enrolment, student and staffing data, account details. These will be elaborated by a SCI.

### 9. REBATE FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

The State will support parents who send their children overseas under a rebate arrangement. This will be elaborated by a Secretary nstruction.

### 10. CHURCH AGENCY FEES

Church agency fees are to be paid by each student attending a church agency school as prescribed by the Education Act, 1983. Provincial Education Boards can set and approve their respective church agency fees, but these must be below the maximum limits set below.

- a) Preparatory/Elementary - K5.00
- b) Primary - K7.00
- c) High/Secondary and Vocational - K10.00

### 11. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The GTF funding is planned to be released to schools on a quarterly basis.

### 12. PARTNERSHIP WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES

Provincial Governments and District Development Authorities are the immediate authorities responsible for the education of students in the general education sector. n the spirit of partnership, we urge every Provincial Government and District Development Authority to help their schools' development and sustenance plans.

Nine provinces have signed MOAs with the National Government to manage national government school fee grants/subsidies. The compliance of the MOA is mandatory especially in ensuring complete allocated funds reach schools on the same day DOE remits funds sent to provinces.

### 13. MANDATORY SELF RELIANCE FOR SCHOOLS TO RAISE 10% OF ITS REVENUE

Self-reliance is a standing policy of the department. Schools should take-up self-reliance projects and support development initiatives. This direction is issued for every school to generate 10% of its annual school budget through self-reliance projects in 2024

### 14. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT BE DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO EDUCATION

14.1. NO school administration or governing board is to refuse any child from **enrolling** in school or attending classes for non-payment of any form of fees. Whilst every child has the right to education, schools also need funds to operate, therefore parents are encouraged to cooperate with school boards and involve in any self-sustaining activities to support schools.

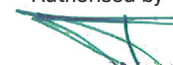
### 15. CONCLUSION

The Government is committed to seeing every student receiving quality education by paying full tuition and project fees. No school is to deny any student's right to education.

lurge all parents and stakeholders for your continuous support in other ways than tuition fees to ensure schools remain operational throughout the year in 2024.

Any further explanation of the policy can be obtained from the Department of Education Website: [www.education.gov.pg](http://www.education.gov.pg) or by sending an email to: [gtfsinfo@education.gov.pg](mailto:gtfsinfo@education.gov.pg) or calling phones: 328 888 00 /75777792/72668181.

Authorised by



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20th, January 2024