



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL LEARNING IMPROVEMENT PLAN POLICY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE NEW SLIP POLICY?

- Main message: “one school, one plan, one budget.”
- Aligned with National Education Plan and the latest policies.
- Intent has been simplified and now includes a list of principles.
- Outcomes divided into national outcomes and school outcomes.
- Rules updated and simplified
- Seven focus areas updated.
- Responsibilities updated and now includes education agencies, external reviewers, and elected representatives.
- Definitions simplified.
- Guidance separated into a different document.
- The Policy and Planning Division are responsible for SLIP Policy implementation.

2. HOW HAVE THE RULES CHANGED?

The governing body of the school is responsible for approving the SLIP and Annual Action Plan. This is in line with the governing body’s responsibilities in the Education Act.

The education board (or its delegate) reviews the SLIP and may request revisions. However, the education board no longer approves/endorse a school’s SLIP. This will reduce implementation bottlenecks.

The education board may delegate the responsibility to review a school’s SLIP to the education administration or, in the case of church schools, to the school’s education agency. This is in line with the Education Act and the special responsibilities of agencies.

Inspectors are no longer the external reviewers. The school head and governing body will select an external reviewer (such as a school head from a neighbouring school or a similarly qualified individual). This frees up inspectors to focus on whole school inspections¹.

3. HOW HAVE THE FOCUS AREAS CHANGED?

| PREVIOUS POLICY | UPDATED POLICY |
|--|---|
| 1. Curriculum and students’ learning | 1. Curriculum and learning |
| 2. Need based staff development and training | 2. Staff development and training |
| 3. Leadership, management, and administration | 3. Leadership and management |
| 4. Student needs and welfare | 4. Students’ needs and welfare |
| 5. Infrastructure maintenance and development | 5. Infrastructure, equipment, and transport |
| 6. School governance and community relationships | 6. Governance and community relations |
| 7. School budget to support SLIP | 7. Operations and administration |

The main changes are:

Focus area 7 Operations and administration includes utilities, ancillary staff, running costs, and other recurrent budget costs. This

ensures schools have one budget which includes recurrent and development activities.

Equipment and transport are included in focus area 5. This ensures schools are budgeting for equipment (e.g. generator, solar panels, pumps etc.) and transport to operate the school.

4. DO WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR SLIP AND AAP IMMEDIATELY?

No. The school can change to the new focus areas after the next internal or external review.

5. OUR SCHOOL IS WAITING FOR PEB APPROVAL OF OUR SLIP. WHAT DO WE DO?

You no longer need to wait for PEB approval. If the school’s governing body has approved the SLIP or AAP, you may start implementing immediately.

6. WHAT WILL INSPECTORS DO WHEN THEY VISIT?

The inspector will inspect the school’s documents including the latest SLIP, AAP, budget, acquittals, and other financial information. They will check that the SLIP Committee was inclusive, met regularly, and was minuted. They will look at the governing body minutes to check that the governing body formally approved the SLIP and AAP. The inspector will expect the SLIP and AAP to be displayed on the notice board. It is important that the school keeps accurate records.

7. WHICH SCHOOLS NEED TO HAVE A SLIP AND AAP?

Every school in the National Education System as per the Education Act. This includes elementary, primary, high, secondary schools, schools of excellence, vocational centres, FODE centres, and Inclusive Education Resource Centres.

8. OUR SCHOOL IS THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF BOUGAINVILLE. DOES THE POLICY APPLY TO US?

Yes, until the Autonomous Bougainville Government publishes an equivalent policy.

9. DO WE NEED A SEPARATE SLIP BUDGET?

No. All recurrent and development activities should be included in one annual plan (AAP) and budget. The Government Tuition Fee Subsidy can be used for recurrent and development activities.

10. WHO CAN BE AN EXTERNAL REVIEWER?

The school head and governing body will select a suitably qualified external reviewer who understands the policy and school management. This may be a retired school head, a school head from a neighbouring school, district education adviser, or education agency representative. Inspectors are not to be external reviewers as this is a conflict of interest with their inspection role.

¹ The school’s plans and budgets will continue to be included in the whole school inspection as per the National Quality School Standards Framework.