



Leadership in Education Podcast

The *National Scholar Transport Policy* and what it means for principals, SGBs and learners

Tim Fish Hodgson, a legal researcher from Section 27, speaks with Adriaan Groenewald and Barbara Dale-Jones about some of the key issues (14-09-2015)



Bridge's Barbara Dale-Jones and Section 27's Tim Fish Hodgson discuss the implications of the *National Scholar Transport Policy* on Cliff Central's Leadership in Education show

The policy –

- has been approved – to be published in September 2015, with guidelines in December 2015
- will make funding available to schools from 2017

Some concerns & issues are unclear. It –

- ... might not accommodate all learners needing transport
- ... refers to “needy learners” but doesn't fully define this
- ... excludes learners living closer to school who are exposed to danger while walking to school
- ... provides travel to the nearest ‘suitable’ school – may not be appropriate, **particularly for learners with disabilities**
- ... seems to exclude learners in areas with existing public transport

What is clear –

- **Learners have a right to government support to get to and from school if their parents cannot afford to pay**

... the onus is on principals, with the help of SGBs, to understand their learners and what their needs are and to prioritize these – and to think flexibly and innovatively

What can principals do now?

- Identify needy learners and consult SGB for a decision – keep in mind that difficulties getting to school can affect learner performance
- Use the fact that the policy has been approved to push for assistance from provincial departments
- If you need help to understand the policy and what it means for your school, contact organisations that can assist such as **Section 27, Equal Education, and the Legal Resources Centre**

Some ideas to think about ...

- Does my province have a policy on scholar transport? What are the provisions?
- How many learners at my school are benefitting, and what more can I do to help others?
- Should government provide scholar transport across the board, whether learners have access to public transport or not?



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