



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
TERTIARY EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**GRANT-IN-AID SCHEME
FOR FREE
PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION**

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1. PREAMBLE

Early childhood care and education is the foundation of a child's lifelong learning journey. These years are critical to ensuring readiness for schooling and success in future learning. The provision of an inclusive, equitable and quality early childhood education remains at the heart of Government action.

In line with this conviction, the Honourable Prime Minister announced, on the 55th anniversary of Independence, that pre-primary education would become free as from January 2024.

In keeping with this announcement, Government is now investing massively in the early childhood education sector, thus, ensuring that all children are immersed in a sound and conducive learning environment.

This will ascertain that they have a strong start in their education path, allowing them to unfurl their potential and contribute to their personal wellbeing.

Additionally, this bold policy decision of the Honourable Prime Minister will fulfil the long aspired-for goal of completing the full cycle of fee-free education in Mauritius right from pre-primary through to tertiary education.

2. MECHANISM FOR OPERATIONALISING THE POLICY

Government has come up with a Grant-in-Aid (GIA) scheme for the implementation of the Policy.

3. COMPONENTS OF THE GRANT-IN-AID SCHEME

Government through this scheme is proposing to meet the recurrent costs incurred in respect of the running of schools. This will include staff cost and operational cost:

- staff costs will cover salaries of Managers, Teachers, Assistant Teachers and School Attendants while
- operational costs will comprise expenditure with respect to educational materials/equipment stationery, office equipment, utilities and minor repairs, among others.

4. STAFF ENTITLEMENT

Staff entitlement of registered grant-aided pre-primary schools as per the GIA Scheme is as follows:

Grade	Staff Entitlement
Manager	1 per school
Teacher	1 for every 25 children
Assistant Teacher	1 for every 50 children
School Attendant	1 for every 50 children

Schools will be categorised according to enrolment. Staff entitlement based on the enrolment band is as follows:

SN	Enrolment Band	Manager	No. of Teachers	No. of Assistant Teachers	No. of School Attendants
1	10 - 25	1	1	1	1
2	26 - 50	1	2	1	1
3	51 - 75	1	3	2	2
4	76 - 100	1	4	2	2
5	101 - 125	1	5	3	3
6	126 - 150	1	6	3	3
7	151 - 175	1	7	4	4
8	176 and above	1	8	4	4

Government policy is to align the salary of teachers on PRB recommendations.

The starting salary payable to each category of staff of aided pre-primary schools is as follows:

Emolument of staff of aided pre-primary school	Starting Salary
Manager	Rs 35,000
Teacher Grade 1	Rs 16,785
Teacher Grade II	Rs 15,890
Teacher Grade III	Rs 15,000
Assistant Teacher (Full SC)	Rs 15,890
School Attendant	As per existing Remuneration Regulations

- As from year **2029**, Managers will be required to be holders of a **Diploma in Early Childhood Management**. The Ministry will ensure such courses are offered by the relevant institutions.

5. GRANTS ALLOCATED FOR OPERATIONAL COSTS

Operational costs cover the following:

- Goods and services such as utilities (Telephone bill, Internet, CWA charges and CEB charges), stationery, renewal of furniture and equipment etc.;
- Minor repairs such as replacement of broken water tap/window panes etc.; and
- Educational materials (children's books, pedagogical toys, games, materials, activity corners and outdoor facilities).

The yearly grant payable to pre-primary schools will be as per the table below:

Enrolment Band	Annual Operational Costs /(Rs)
10-25	240,000
26-50	300,000
51-75	360,000
76-100	420,000
101-125	500,000
126-150	540,000
151-175	600,000
176 and above	650,000

6. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- **Emoluments to staff members**

Payment of Emoluments to staff members of aided pre-primary schools will be made directly to their personal bank account at the end of each month.

- **Operational expenses**

Disbursement of funds for operational expenses will be made on a quarterly basis to the bank account of the school. Payment will be made at the beginning of each quarter. Schools should ensure that the funds provided are used for the intended purpose. A financial report will have to be submitted to the ECCEA.

7. NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

The GIA Scheme also includes a component for non-recurrent expenditure. Such expenditure covers projects proposed by schools to enhance the school environment. Project proposals will have to be forwarded to the ECCEA for endorsement and funds will be released after due evaluation and verification.

The non-recurrent expenditure will cover projects pertaining to waterproofing, external painting, tarring of yard and major electrical works, among others.

8. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Schools opting to join the Scheme should

- (i) be registered with the ECCEA;
- (ii) have a full time manager; and
- (iii) have a minimum of 10 children aged 3 years up to entry to primary school.

9. JOINING THE GRANT-IN-AID SCHEME

- (i) Schools opting to join the GIA scheme should submit the duly filled-in application form to the ECCEA by **07 September 2023** at latest;
- (ii) The Manager will subsequently be required to sign an Agreement upon being conferred the Grant-In-Aid status; and
- (iii) The categorisation of schools by enrolment band will be carried out on a yearly basis.

10. STOPPAGE OF GRANTS

Failure to abide by rules and conditions prescribed will entail stoppage of grants.

