



Briefing Note: Proposed scope of the exemption for school camp costs

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	23 August 2019	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1203300
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to inform you of our proposed definition of 'school camp' for the exemption to the mandatory condition of the school donations scheme.

Summary

- We propose that a 'school camp' is defined as any curriculum-related activity where students are expected to stay overnight as part of that activity
- We plan to consult with relevant sector bodies on this definition and draft guidance.

Proactive release

Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.


Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement & Support

22/8/2019


Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

28/8/19

Agree / Disagree


Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy

23 / 08 / 2019

Background

1. The Supplementary Order Paper you are tabling at the Committee of the Whole stage of the Education (School Donations) Amendment Bill, if passed, will insert a power for the Minister to allow boards of trustees to continue requesting donations for specified student activities while receiving a discretionary grant.
2. The purpose of the exemption power is to exempt requests for donations related to school camps [METIS 1194846 refers].

Scope of the proposed exemption for school camps

3. We have attached a draft *Gazette* notice for the exemption to the mandatory condition of the school donations scheme as Annex 1.
4. We propose that a 'school camp' is defined as any curriculum-related activity where students are expected to stay overnight as part of that activity.
5. This definition will include any trips with overnight components that are delivered as part of the curriculum. Examples of activities covered by this definition are: Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) camp, Year 9 induction camp, Year 13 leadership camp, overnight field trips (e.g. as part of senior secondary assessment). This definition excludes all day trips, for example swimming lessons and field trips during the day.
6. The requirement that exempt activities have an overnight component is likely to ensure the exemption applies to a narrow range of activities. This balances the competing objectives of reducing the pressure on parents to donate, while allowing schools to request donations for a limited number of activities that are often expensive to deliver.
7. We are planning to develop guidance that will assist schools, parents and whānau to understand the activities to which the exemption applies. Draft text for this guidance is attached as Annex 2.

Proposed consultation

8. We are planning to consult on this definition and its accompanying guidance with NZSTA, SPANZ, NZPF, NZSPC, Education Outdoors NZ, and the School Business Managers' Association.
9. This group of sector bodies ensures broad representation of parents and boards of trustees, principals and teachers, EOTC providers, and school administrators.

Next Steps

10. We will report back to you with feedback from the consultation.
11. The *Gazette* notice prescribing the exemption will need to be published as soon as the Education (School Donations) Amendment Bill passes into law. This will enable us to give schools certainty over the final conditions for the school donations scheme before the opt-in deadline of 14 November 2019.

Annexes

Annex 1: Draft *Gazette* notice

Annex 2: Draft text for guidelines on the exemption

Annex 1: Draft *Gazette* notice

Notice of exemption to mandatory condition

Under section 79AA(1) of the Education Act 1989, I prescribe an exemption to the mandatory condition in section 79A(5)(a) for all boards of trustees receiving a discretionary grant.

This exemption enables boards to which a discretionary grant is made to seek or receive any solicited voluntary payment from parents for any school camp.

A 'school camp' is any curriculum-related activity where students are expected to stay overnight as part of that activity.

This notice takes effect on the date of publication.

Dated at Wellington this [day] day of [month] 2019.

Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education.

Annex 2: Draft text for guidelines on the exemption

If your school/kura opts in to the donations scheme, the board of trustees cannot ask you to make a donation unless it is for a school camp.

You can choose if you want to pay none, some or all of the school camp donation. If you choose not to make a donation, your child cannot be stopped from attending a camp if it is part of the school's curriculum.

What is a school camp?

A 'school camp' is any curriculum-related activity where students are expected to stay overnight as part of that activity.

Examples of activities covered by this definition include:

- Education Outside the Classroom camp
- Year 9 induction camp
- Senior school leadership camp
- Overnight field trip as part of senior secondary assessment (e.g. Year 12 Biology field trip)
- An overnight trip to Wellington to visit key places such as Te Papa, Parliament, and the Carter Observatory.

Examples of activities not covered by this definition include:

- Swimming lessons
- Day trip to the museum
- Day trip as part of senior secondary assessment