



**Circular 0037/2019**

**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Secondary,  
Community and Comprehensive Schools  
and the Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

**Payment of the Special Educational Needs allowance to current holders who  
commence Job-sharing  
Change to conditions – Amendment to Circular 0135/2006**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Minister for Education and Skills, pursuant to the power contained in Section 24 of the Education Act (as amended), directs employers to implement the regulations and procedures as stated for eligible registered teachers employed in approved teaching posts funded by monies provided by the Oireachtas.

**2. Amendment to Circular 0135/2006**

2.1 Up to now, under the terms of [Circular 0135/2006](#) and [Circular 0008/2013](#) the Special Education Needs allowance was payable to a teacher who, among other conditions, became entitled to the allowance prior to 1 February 2012, is employed on whole-time hours and who spends at least 12 hours per week working with pupils who have been identified by the National Council for Special Education as having special education needs.

2.2 It has now been agreed that the allowance will continue to be paid to current holders/ beneficiaries of the allowance who commence job-sharing, where that teacher spends at least 6 hours per week working with pupils who have been identified by the National Council for Special Education as having special education needs and the other conditions set out in [Circular 0135/2006](#) continue to be complied with. In such cases, the job-sharing teacher will be paid 50% of the allowance. Only teachers in receipt of the SEN allowance immediately prior to taking up job sharing will be eligible to retain the SEN allowance on a pro rate basis for 6 hours per week



2.3 This allowance will be paid retrospectively for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 school years to beneficiaries who held the allowance immediately prior to the 2017/2018 or 2018/2019 school year, who commenced job-sharing in the 2017/2018 or 2018/2019 school Year and comply with the conditions set out in 2.2 above.

2.4 The remaining conditions for entitlement to the allowance as set out in [Circular 0135/2006](#) and [Circular 0008/2013](#) remain in force.

2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the SEN allowance remains withdrawn for new beneficiaries with effect from 1 February 2012. This circular does not confer sanction to pay the allowance to any such new beneficiaries after 1 February 2012.

### 3. Queries

3.1 Queries regarding this Circular should be addressed to:

Staff cohort:	Address for queries:
Teachers in secondary, community and comprehensive schools – Queries regarding eligibility	<a href="mailto:teachersna@education.gov.ie">teachersna@education.gov.ie</a>
Teachers in secondary, community and comprehensive schools – Queries regarding payment	<a href="mailto:ppppayroll@education.gov.ie">ppppayroll@education.gov.ie</a>
Staff employed by Education and Training Boards	HR Section of the Education and Training Board

Tara Carton  
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