

Access to Education

July Provision

July Provision (JP) or the July Education Programme is sometimes called the extended school year.

[July Provision](#) is an educational program and can be either school based or home based. In previous years July Provision was open to children with a severe/profound intellectual disability or autism only.

This Summer 2020, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) is proposing the [July Education Programme](#) will focus on students and young people with complex needs – including those who live with significant behavioural, social, emotional, and sensory difficulties. This year the Department advises that, in addition to children with a severe/profound intellectual disability or autism, children with Down Syndrome will also be included in plans for the July Education Programme.

School-based Provision: A special school or special class attached to a mainstream school for children with autism or severe/profound intellectual disability may run a July Provision program. A mainstream school that has a class for children with autism or severe/profound intellectual disability may run a July Provision program on a pilot basis.

School based July Provision runs for 4 weeks and has a normal school day. The regular school staff does not have to take part in July Provision, but normal staffing levels are maintained. Your child may have a different teacher and SNA for July Provision. School transport continues during July Provision.

Home-based Provision: If a child attends a school that does not provide for July Provision, they may access a home-based program. This must be delivered by a person registered with the [Teaching Council of Ireland](#).

Under Home-based Provision, 40 hours of tuition are provided for, to be

provided over 4 weeks, 10 hours per week maximum. Siblings must share the 40 hours via group tuition. Sharing may not always be possible. If this is the case a parent can appeal to the Special Education Section of the Department of Education and Skills (DES). Typical reasons why siblings cannot work together may include a wide age difference, a wide difference in abilities, different modes of communication, etc. A supporting letter from the teacher or principal or psychologist will help in your appeal.

If a child is eligible for a school-based provision, they may **not** opt for Home-based Provision instead. However, where the school-based programme is less than 4 weeks the child may be eligible for the balance of the weeks (subject to a maximum of 4 weeks) under the home-based programme.

Applying for July Provision

The period to apply for July provision varies slightly from year to year. In general, applications are made in April. However, they can be made right up to July. Application details and information are typically posted on the Department of Education and Skills website in late Spring or early Summer each year.

Important points

- Teaching should never begin until the DES has issued you (the parent) with a letter of approval.
- Tuition is usually not allowed in August. This may vary in 2020 due to public health considerations.
- For home-based July provision, tuition cannot exceed 10 hours per week.
- The DES set rates of payment. A parent should never supplement this.

- For some teachers, they will only get paid in November. A parent should never pay the teacher in advance.

Further Information

[The Department of Education and Skills](#)

[Department of Education and Skills July Education Programme](#)

[Inclusion Ireland](#)