



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT**

**P O Box G28
HONIARA
Solomon Islands**

INCREASED STUDENT GRANTS FOR FEE FREE BASIC EDUCATION

Introduction

Basic Education is a right of every child and the government aims to enroll all children in Basic Education (which is Primary and Junior Secondary education).

Last year the Government introduced the new policy for Fee Free Basic Education, from Standard 1 up to Form 3. However, recent surveys have shown that the grant amounts disbursed were not sufficient to cover the basic operation costs of some schools. In particular schools in Honiara and other urban centres have relatively higher operation costs. Furthermore the operation of boarding schools is more expensive than day schools. The Ministry of Education therefore has decided to increase the student grants for all boarding schools and for all urban schools. An urban school is a school which is situated in Honiara or in the provincial centres. The increase is only for student grants to Basic Education, and not for other levels of education (ECE or Senior Secondary). The other grants, administration and remote area grants, maintain the same amounts as last year.

The new grant amounts in 2010¹

I. Student grants for government and church authorities' schools

Early Childhood Centre	-	\$60 per child per year
Primary (rural school)	-	\$320 per child per year
Primary (school in urban area)	-	<i>\$520 per child per year</i>
Junior Secondary Day	-	\$800 per child per year
Junior Secondary Day (urban area)	-	\$1000 per child per year
Junior Secondary Boarding	-	<i>\$2140 per child per year</i>

II. Student grants for private schools

ECE	-	none
Primary	-	\$220 per child per year
Junior Secondary Day	-	\$500 per child per year
Junior Secondary Boarding	-	\$750 per child per year

III. The administration grant amounts

Early Childhood Centre	-	\$500 per centre per year
Primary School	-	\$2500 per school per year
Community High School	-	\$5000 per school per year

¹ Changes are put in italic.

National/Provincial Secondary School- \$8000 per school per year

IV The remote area grant amount- \$2000 per school per year

This grant is only for selected Early Childhood Centres, Primary Schools, Community High Schools and National and Provincial Secondary Schools. The Ministry has published a list in the School Grants policy 2009 which identifies the schools entitled to receive these grants. The distance from a provincial centre or from Honiara is the decisive factor.

Timing

The student grants will be paid in two bi-annual installments; the first not later than 1st of February and the second not later than 1st of August.

The administration and remote area grants will be paid only once per year, not later than 1st of February.

Governance and control

The policy statement and guidelines for grants to schools (2009) is still in force. The policy is very clear on the different responsibilities of Education Authorities, schools, school committees/boards and accountable officers to oversee, to support and to monitor the receipt, the appropriate use and retirement of the grants. The Ministry will take strong measures for those who don't adhere to the policy and guidelines for grant management. Retirements to the Ministry are due on 30th of June and 15th of December.



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