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To: Management Authorities of Second-Level Schools.

M44/00

Expansion of the Junior Certificate School Programme and Improved Teacher Resources to Apply from 2000/01

1. The Junior Certificate School Programme was introduced in September 1996. The programme has been developed on a phased basis since then. There are 85 schools/centres offering the programme at present. The Programme is being extended to a number of schools operating the “Stay in School Retention Initiative”. These schools have already been invited to deliver the programme.
2. Schools approved for participation in JCSP for the first time in the school year 2000/01 or subsequent school years, will be restricted to a maximum of 45 approved places in each of the first three school years.
3. Individual schools participating in JCSP will, with effect from the commencement of the 2000/01 school year, receive an improved allocation. This allocation will be at the rate of 0.25 whole-time teacher equivalent (WTE) per group of 45 students participating in JCSP and will be applied in the following manner:

Students	WTE
45 or fewer	0.25
46 to 90	0.50
91 to 135	0.75

(Previously participating schools received an additional 0.25 WTE per school regardless of student numbers.)

4. This allocation will normally be made on the basis of the numbers of recognised students enrolled in JCSP on 30th September of the previous school year and who are entered on the October Lists. Allocations may be adjusted, where necessary, to take account of significant fluctuation (increase/decrease) in projected numbers of participating students for the following school year. In any event, the number of students on which this allocation may be based will be limited to the number of JCSP places approved by the Department.
5. Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

John Dennehy,
Secretary General

August 2000