

Education (Admission to Schools).

Report stage amendments:

- (b) Providing for Irish medium schools to give priority to Irish speaking children.

In page 17, line 18, to delete “subsection (8)” and substitute “subsections (8) and (9)”.

In page 17, line 27, to delete “(9)” and substitute “(10)”.

In page 17, line 35, to delete “(10)” and substitute “(11)”.

In page 20, between lines 6 and 7 to insert the following:

- “(9) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (7)(e)(iii), and subject to this subsection, an Irish language school may prioritise the admission of a student where the school is satisfied that the student has attained a reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language and that the said fluency would be likely to regress were the student not admitted to an Irish language school.

- (b) An applicant may, when making an application for admission to an Irish language school, include a statement confirming that the student in respect of whom the application concerned relates has attained a reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language and that the said fluency would be likely to regress were the student not admitted to an Irish language school.
  
- (c) When making an application in accordance with paragraph (b), the applicant shall provide such evidence as he or she considers appropriate in relation to the reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language of the student in respect of whom the application relates, which may include confirmation that the student concerned is available to attend an interview or meeting to demonstrate his or her reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language.
  
- (d) In satisfying itself that a student has attained a reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language and that the said fluency would be likely to regress were the student not admitted to an Irish language school, a school shall take into account only the evidence that the applicant has provided in accordance with paragraph (c).

- (e) An Irish language school may not rank in order of preference, for the purposes of admission to the school concerned, a student who has satisfied the school in accordance with paragraph (a) relative to other students who have satisfied the school in accordance with that paragraph, by virtue of the students' relative fluency in the Irish language.
- (f) Nothing in paragraph (e) shall preclude an Irish language school from applying the selection criteria set out in the school's admission policy to students who have satisfied the school in accordance with paragraph (a), where the number of such students is greater than the number of places available.
- (g) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as permitting an Irish language school to require a student attend an interview or other meeting to assess his or her reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language.
- (h) In this subsection -

“reasonable level of fluency in the Irish language”, in relation to a student, means a reasonable age appropriate level of oral fluency in the Irish language taking into account any special educational needs of the student concerned;

“Irish language school” means a school that provides education through the medium of Irish.”.

In page 20, line 7, to delete “(9)” and substitute “(10)”.

In page 20, line 16, to delete “(10)” and substitute “(11)”.

In page 20, line 28, to delete “(11)” and substitute “(12)”.