

# Educating for competitiveness

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# Four guidelines for Government policy

1. Relentless attention to teacher quality
2. Provide choice - for parents and students
3. Stimulate competition (and cooperation) between schools and other educational institutions
4. Government's role
  - 1) Set policies
  - 2) Fund - universal access
  - 3) Regulate
  - 4) Use market-like funding mechanisms



# Education

- Vital for competitiveness
- But, other non-economic objectives
- “Both and” - not “either or”
- This is good!



# Guideline 1 -Teacher quality

- Vital - all levels
- Excellent teachers
  - Guide student learning/not just pure content delivery
  - Stimulate spirit of enquiry
  - Desire to learn more



# What can Government do?

1. Make teaching an attractive and prestigious profession- ensure attractive pay and conditions
2. Attract the best people into teaching - through various routes
3. Ensure effective teacher selection, education and training
4. Continuous professional development and improvement
5. Reasonable exit arrangement



# Guideline 2- Provide choice

- For parents and students
- Stimulates quality
- Promotes flexibility and responsiveness to changing needs
- Choice means competition!



# Guideline 3 - Stimulate competition (and cooperation)

- How
- Irish experience
- Essential tests
  - Enrolments
  - Curriculum
  - Qualified teachers
  - Adhere to national regulations and policy requirements



# Some principles

- Money follows the student - capitation grants or vouchers
- Defined pupil/teacher ratios
- Grants adjusted at national level for different levels of education and subjects depending on delivery costs





# Transparent model

- Especially at elementary school level
- Can be developed into a powerful tool for policy
- Using competitive (inter-institutional) and incentive funding allowing for targeted responses to special needs (e.g. skills shortages)



# Other consequences

- Provides for enhanced school autonomy
- Gives flexibility to schools, colleges and universities
- Enhances effectiveness
- Equitable
- Transparent
- No distinction between public and private?



# At post high school level ...

- For universities, technological colleges
- Effective driver of improved quality
- Competitive funding enables rapid responses to
  - Meeting skills needs (e.g. IT, Engineering)
  - Research (essential for quality)
  - Cooperation with private sector
  - Stimulating cooperation between institutions



# Guideline 4 - Government's role

## Essential

- Funder - universal access
- Policy
- Regulator (especially quality)

## But not!

Managing institutions and schools



# In summary!

- Education hugely important for competitiveness
- Government policy and regulatory role essential
- National policy objectives and educational outcomes can be achieved with market -like funding mechanisms
- Cherish the teachers!

