

Questions and answers - Kick-off meeting for starting classes

The kick-off meeting for schools interested in starting classes took place on 18 September 2023. This report summarises the questions and answers discussed at this meeting.

How does registration for the starter class proceed?

Enrolment takes place via the MDO (in the presence of the advisor for appropriate education) of the first school of enrolment at the school with the starter class.

At which school is the pupil enrolled?

The pupil is enrolled at the school with the starter class. This school then receives the basic allowance for the pupil in addition to the budget from SPPOH. The first school of registration remains involved with the pupil and is the intended target school after the year in the starter class.

Which school has the duty of care?

Several questions have been asked about the duty of care. We submit these questions to our lawyer and the lawyers of the major school boards. The basic principle is that the school with the starter class registers the pupil and that the first school of registration remains involved with the pupil. After all, in the start-up class we work as much as possible towards outflow to a regular group at the first school of registration.

Is the starter class also intended for children on a waiting list?

The starter class is not intended as a bridging group for children on a waiting list. After all, these children already know which form of education (or care) is appropriate.

To what extent is there a difference between the target group for the starter class, pre-school children in SBO and toddlers who receive a pre-school extension?

The starter class is intended for pupils whose educational and support needs are not yet sufficiently clear because many questions remain unanswered. The expectation is that after a period of education in a smaller group with more support options, these pupils can move on to a regular group at a regular primary school. This may also apply to toddlers who receive an extension and some pupils who now start at the SBO so that there is some overlap in the target groups.

Do the starter classes start as a pilot or is this a structural offer?

In the current Support Plan period (2021-2025) and there is budget reserved for the starter classes we intend to reserve this also for the next support plan period.

How is youth support organised and financed? And are there differences between the three municipalities?

The three municipalities of our partnership are all positive about the starter classes and a cooperation in this. The municipality of The Hague has agreed to cooperate, with the youth aid partnerships (“kracht” and “rondom jou”) being responsible for implementation. The Rijswijk and Leidschendam-Voorburg municipalities have indicated that they would like to sit down with the schools that are going to start a start-up class. They are happy to think along from the design phase onwards.

Is there cooperation with the preschool classes?

The municipalities are aware of the start-up classes. In order to create a continuous line, it is of added value to strengthen cooperation with the pre-school places, and the counselling centres. The target group of children who could benefit from the offer and support in the start-up classes is currently insufficiently reached in the preliminary process.

How long does a pupil stay in the starter class?

Children spend one year in the starter class, which can be extended once by a maximum of one year. When the perspective is already clear after a few months and/or the pupil can move on to a regular group at a primary school, a shorter period than one year is of course possible.

Should the starter class be organised as a separate class in its own classroom?

The organisational form for a starter class is free. The school creates 12 to 15 extra places at the school. So it does not concern pupils already at the school. How the education and youth support for the target group of pupils is organised can differ from school to school. Think of working with a homogenous group or spreading these pupils over different kindergarten classes.

In what way can expertise from SBO and SO be deployed?

Working with starter classes offers the opportunity to deploy expertise from SBO and possibly SO to reinforce the basic support of primary schools. The AB services at school level can be consulted for this purpose. The SBO schools present would like to get involved in the starter classes within the working area where they are.

Can we learn from other partnerships in setting up starter classes?

In Rotterdam, they work with a similar construction for this target group and the groups are called 'starting groups'. There is contact between SPPOH and PPO Rotterdam to learn from each other.

What role do parents have?

We know that, especially with young children, parental involvement is crucial for the pupil to make steps in his development. Cooperation with parents of pupils in the start-up class can be part of criteria and working methods used by the school. A transfer to home can also be considered with the youth aid agency involved.

How are starter classes funded?

The school with the starter class receives basic funding for the pupils and a budget of 60,000 euros per year from SPPOH. On top of that comes budget or care-in-kind for the youth aid piece from the three municipalities.

Does the plan for a starter class ultimately need to be agreed?

The school makes the plan for the starter class together with the municipality, partner for youth aid and the advisor for appropriate education. The policy advisor of SPPOH and from the board think along. In principle, SPPOH allocates the budget when there is a plan. The total amount from SPPOH is then immediately available.