

Partnership Schools for Liberia Verification Process

The Ministry has taken your questions and concerns regarding rejection criteria for schools into account, and finalized our rejection policy for year 2 schools as follows.

This policy note follows and endorses:

1. The Provisional Allocation note of May 31
 2. The Allocation process note and Cluster Allocation form of June 14
- The allocation of 26 June is final. The rules laid out above were followed
 - Verification by all providers has been set to complete within two weeks by 10 July
 - **Anyone not informing MoE in writing that they need longer than two weeks will be assumed to have accepted all schools on 10 July**
 - **If you are required to select 2 schools from a cluster and have not done so, they will be allocated for you on 10 July**
 - Providers are allowed to begin work in their schools as soon as they have verified and confirmed with the Ministry

Rejection and replacement policy

- The Ministry has selected 3 back-up schools for each cluster of 10 schools or more, and 2 back-up schools for clusters of less than 10 schools. You are being given this list in advance of going to the South East so that you have all the options without calling into the Ministry.
- Back-up schools were selected primarily by geographic proximity to schools in the original cluster. We used available data to note the enrolment, number of teachers, school levels, coordinates (red coordinates are from the MPW WASH database and have not been verified), and whether we think the school has 2G coverage (for many we do not know). Additional data may be available on EMIS or other sources and you are encouraged to look this up.
- It is not possible, in the South East, to find geographically proximate schools that meet ALL of our desired criteria. Year 2 is also about working in schools that are more representative of the Liberian context.
- Providers will be allowed to replace schools from their original clusters from these back-up options ONLY. You can use your discretion and considerations for your model's specific needs to reject **up to** 3 schools from each of your clusters (**up to** 2 from smaller clusters), but they can ONLY be replaced with schools from the back up lists. PSL is not about picking the best schools to work in, it is about finding effective and scalable models for the Liberian context.
- **If the schools on the back up list do not meet your criteria either, you will NOT be offered additional replacements. You must work with the options provided, or reduce the number of schools overall that you operate.**

- Back-up schools are for replacement only, and CANNOT be used as additional schools. The allocations made last week are your maximum number of schools for year 2.
- If you were awarded multiple clusters, you CANNOT replace schools from one cluster with backups from a different cluster. (e.g. you cannot drop 3 schools from Cluster 1 and add 3 backups from Cluster 2 to your allocation. Backups are direct replacements for their intended clusters only.)

Conditions

- We still require you to fill out a form/ email to confirm why schools you reject have been rejected. This will help us inform local CEOs and DEOs of conditions and to see if amelioration can be provided.
- If you take a school with fewer classrooms than grades you will need to meet with the Ministry before taking a decision such as removing grades from the school.
- We would also appreciate if you would rectify any inaccurate EMIS data for all of the schools you visit. This helps us understand the quality of our data.
- **Providers are not permitted to engage with schools NOT in their original cluster or on the back up list during their verification exercises.** This creates unnecessary expectations. Providers cannot select schools at will.

If providers are found scoping other schools without having permission to visit that school as a back up, then action will be taken.

Consequence: providers may have schools removed from them.

This is to avoid raising expectations of communities or causing concern for DEOs and CEOs who we need to partner with in the PSL program.

We appreciate your cooperation and willingness to take on the challenge of expansion and operations in the Southeast. We have done our best to take your concerns into account in deciding this policy. As providers collectively communicated geographical clustering was important, reasonable geographical proximity was prioritized in selecting back up schools. However, there are simply not enough schools in the Southeast that are both geographically proximate and meet ALL the preferred conditions/criteria from year 1.