TEACHERS – do you have an idea about a small piece of research that will help you in your role?

The NCSE Practice-Based Research (PBR) programme supports teachers to carry out small pieces of research to help inform their practice on topics focusing on inclusion and special education.

Some of the topics focused on to-date are

- Enhancing learner experiences
- Exploring the impact of UDL
- Examining effective problem-solving strategies
- Improving home school communication

Teachers are linked with a Higher Education Institution (HEI) who will support them design and complete the research. A short application form is submitted to the NCSE. Sessions on different aspects of the research process are organised with the HEI's.

The impact of the PBR reported by teachers include

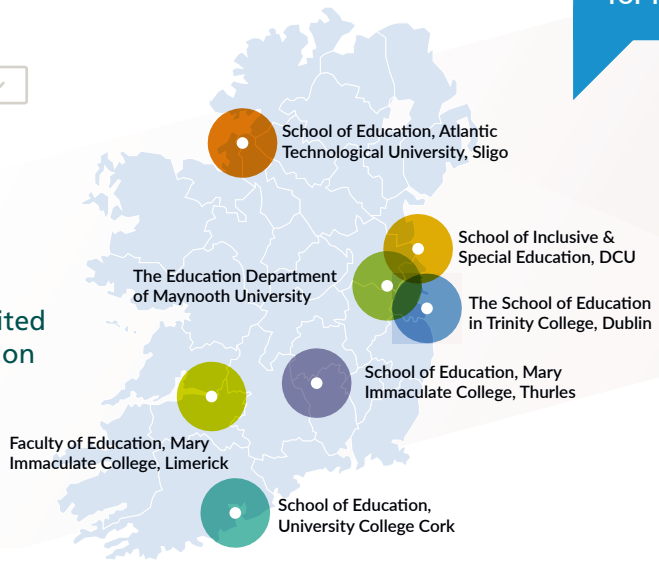
- Improvement in the quality of teaching and learning
- Continuing the conversation with students about improving aspects of school life
- The roll-out of problem-solving techniques to additional year groups
- Significantly enhancing student motivation, engagement and ownership of their learning
- School developing a practical road-map to encourage parent voice

When complete schools submit a one-page summary to the NCSE illustrating how their research has impacted on their practice.

Some of the teachers spoke about their experience of the NCSE PBR at the 2025 Research Conference. You can see that here.

Contact research@ncse.ie for more information.

The NCSE have recruited seven Higher Education Institutions (HEI):



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council for Special Education