

# PIONEERED

**PIONEERED** is an EU-funded project aiming to determine research-based policy measures and identify pioneering practices that mitigate inequalities across different education stages, as well as within formal and informal learning settings.

**90%**

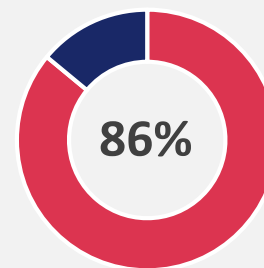
of students complete upper-secondary

The vast majority of Irish students pursue courses that enable direct application to third-level colleges.

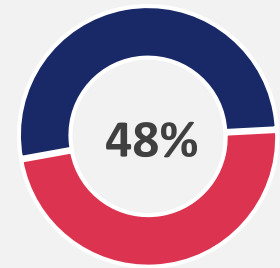
## Tertiary Education and Transitions to work

The Irish education system is predominately general in nature, with the majority of students pursuing upper-secondary programs that facilitate access to higher education.

### Who attends Higher Education?



Students of graduates.



Students whose parents have lower-secondary qualifications.

## Education in Ireland

Reversing inequalities through policies

### Primary and Secondary Education

**Social background** is the main driver of educational disadvantage in Ireland. Children with **Traveller, Roma and migration backgrounds** have also been identified as disadvantaged or requiring additional support.

#### ECCE: Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (2010):

Children are eligible for **two free-of-charge preschool years** (approximately for the age 3 to 5). Since the programme's introduction, the uptake rates of ECCE have increased and many low-income families have reported that they were able to enroll their children in preschool thanks to the ECCE programme.

#### DEIS: Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools Programme (2005):

Provides supports to schools with **high concentration of socio-economically disadvantaged students**. It has been associated with a decline in early school leaving and a relative improvement in lower-secondary exam performance.

**Over 50%**

of disadvantaged students do not attend DEIS schools (student in DEIS and non-DEIS schools are not homogenous groups).

### Early Childhood Education

Compulsory education begins at the age of 6 and all forms of pre-primary school are optional. The take-up of ECCE programme is high with a ...

**95% up-take rate**