

 Early Warning System

WB-P511038

Barbados Education Sector Transformation Operation



Quick Facts

Countries	Barbados
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	C
Voting Date	2026-03-20
Borrower	Government of Barbados
Sectors	Education and Health
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 50.00 million
Loan Amount (USD)	\$ 50.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 650.32 million



Project Description

According to the WB, the Barbados Education Sector Transformation (BEST) Operation is strategically positioned to advance national development priorities, drive meaningful improvements in education outcomes, and contribute to the country's long-term resilience and inclusive growth. By equipping children with strong foundational skills, the program lays the groundwork for their future access to meaningful employment opportunities and the creation of more and better jobs. The Operation ensures that education sector transformation is integrated with broader objectives of economic resilience, inclusive growth, and sustainable development, as articulated in the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for 2005-2025 and the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) 2022 Plan. The Operation is fully aligned with the World Bank Group's Country Engagement Note (CEN) for FY25-27, which prioritizes strengthening climate resilience and improving conditions for growth by attracting private investment and enhancing education and skills. The Program's emphasis on foundational learning, early childhood education, teacher quality, and modern, climate-resilient, and inclusive learning environments reflects the CEN's focus on improving education outcomes and aligning them with labor market needs. The Operation is anchored in the MEdT's Strategic Plan. The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan was developed to facilitate strategic planning and the implementation of comprehensive changes within the Barbadian educational system. By identifying five Strategic Goals encompassing twenty-two Priority Action Areas, the Strategic Plan operationalizes the GoB's education transformation agenda, outlining key activities and steps necessary to address the need for modernization and reform. This framework document emphasizes the importance of a structured approach to planning, ensuring that changes are aligned with long-term goals and effectively implemented. The Operation will particularly support Strategic Goals 1 through 3, which aim to: enhance overall student learning and achievement outcomes across the national education system (Goal 1); enhance teacher quality and development, as well as overall school leadership (Goal 2); improve the physical infrastructure and the technological, digital, and innovative profile of the education system (Goal 3). The Program Development Objective is to enhance foundational learning and improve access to modern, climate resilient, and inclusive learning environments for children at the pre-primary and primary levels in Barbados. The Operation is structured around two results areas: (i) enhanced foundational learning; and (ii) improved access to modern, climate-resilient, and inclusive learning environments. Results Area 1 (Enhanced foundational learning) focuses on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for all primary students through the utilization of targeted literacy and numeracy programs, including the integration of educational technology (EdTech), enhanced teaching practices, and the introduction of formative and large-scale assessments for ongoing monitoring and tailoring teaching to learners' needs. Particular attention will be paid to students who tend to struggle more in the acquisition of these foundational skills, including boys and students with special educational needs (SEN). In addition, Results Area 1 supports expanded access to early childhood education (ECE) for 3- and 4-year-olds as a critical foundation for their school readiness and foundational learning. Results Area 2 (Improved access to modern, climate-resilient, and inclusive learning environments) addresses outdated infrastructure, inadequate resources and support for students with SEN by refurbishing primary school facilities, strengthening digital connectivity, and ensuring climate resilience and energy efficiency. It also promotes inclusive education through ensuring primary schools have assistive technology and specialized furniture, and through the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students with SEN, alongside teacher training in inclusive pedagogy and classroom adaptation. The Operation also includes an Investment Project Financing (IPF) component, hereafter referred to as the Project, designed to complement and strengthen the Program by financing activities that are critical enablers of Program results. The Project will fund targeted technical assistance--such as support for climate resilience vis-a-vis strengthened institutional systems for emergency preparedness and risk management, maintenance, and operations and maintenance (O&M)--and the design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures--as well as related capacity building, procurement and supervision support, and studies needed to operationalize these measures. By focusing on these upstream and cross-cutting functions, the Project will help ensure the credibility, efficiency, and sustainability of the Program.



Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)



Contact Information

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Bank Documents

- [Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - Barbados Education Sector Transformation](#)
- [Appraisal Program Information Document \(PID\)](#)
- [Barbados - Education Sector Transformation Operation Program](#)
- [Climate Finance Assessment \(P511038\)](#)
- [Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - Barbados Education Sector Transformation Pr](#)
- [Concept Program Information Document \(PID\)](#)
- [Disclosable Version of the ISR - Barbados Education Sector Transformation Operation - P511038 - Sequ](#)
- [Environmental and Social Commitment Plan \(ESCP\) - Barbados Education Sector Transformation Program -](#)
- [Environmental and Social Commitment Plan \(ESCP\) Barbados Education Sector Transformation Operation \(](#)
- [Final Environmental and Social Systems Assessment \(ESSA\) - Barbados Education Sector Transformation](#)
- [Official Documents- Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for Loan 9948-BB.pdf](#)
- [Official Documents- Loan Agreement for Loan 9948-BB.pdf](#)
- [P511038 - Draft Environmental and Social Systems Assessment \(ESSA\) - Barbados Education Sector Trans](#)
- [P511038 - Draft Environmental and Social Systems Assessment \(ESSA\) - Barbados Education Sector Trans](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement Plan \(SEP\) - Barbados Education Sector Transformation Program - P511038](#)