

# FREE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL POLICY IN GHANA (FINANCING POLICY)

POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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# Background

- In Ghana, Article 25(1)(b) of the 1992 Constitution states that 'Secondary Education in its different forms, including technical and vocational education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education'.
- The Government started implementing the progressively Free Senior High School (SHS) policy in direct response to fulfilling the requirement of Article 25(1) (b) of the 1992 National Constitution. This began by absorbing the expenses of day-students in public SHSs.
- The sponsorship included the absorption of examination, entertainment, library, Students Representative Council (SRC), sports, culture, science and mathematics quiz, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and co-curricular fees for 320,488 day-students in public SHSs.
- This was expanded to include 120,000 boarding students by 2015/16 academic year. These interventions have led to increases in enrolments from 393,995 in 2007/08 to 787,861 in 2015/16. Despite the increase in enrolment, high proportion of candidates who qualified and were placed could not enroll on secondary schools

# Pillars of Free SHS

The government in 2017 decided to put into full effect SDG 4.1 (**quality education**) with the implementation of a Free Senior High School Policy. The programme is anchored in the following pillars;



## **Removal of cost barriers**

Remove Cost Barriers through the absorption of fees approved by GES council



## **Expansion of infrastructure**

Expand physical school infrastructure and facilities to accommodate the expected increase in enrolment.



## **Improvement in Quality and Equity**

Improve quality through provision of core textbooks and supplementary readers, teacher rationalisation and deployment, etc.



## **Development of Employable Skills**

Improve competitiveness of Ghanaian Students to match the best in the World.

**Source:** FreeSHS Website

# Financial Planning-Stakeholders

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Minister for Finance

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Minister for Education

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Director General-Ghana Education Service

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Management of Free SHS Secretariat

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Budget Representative (MOF)

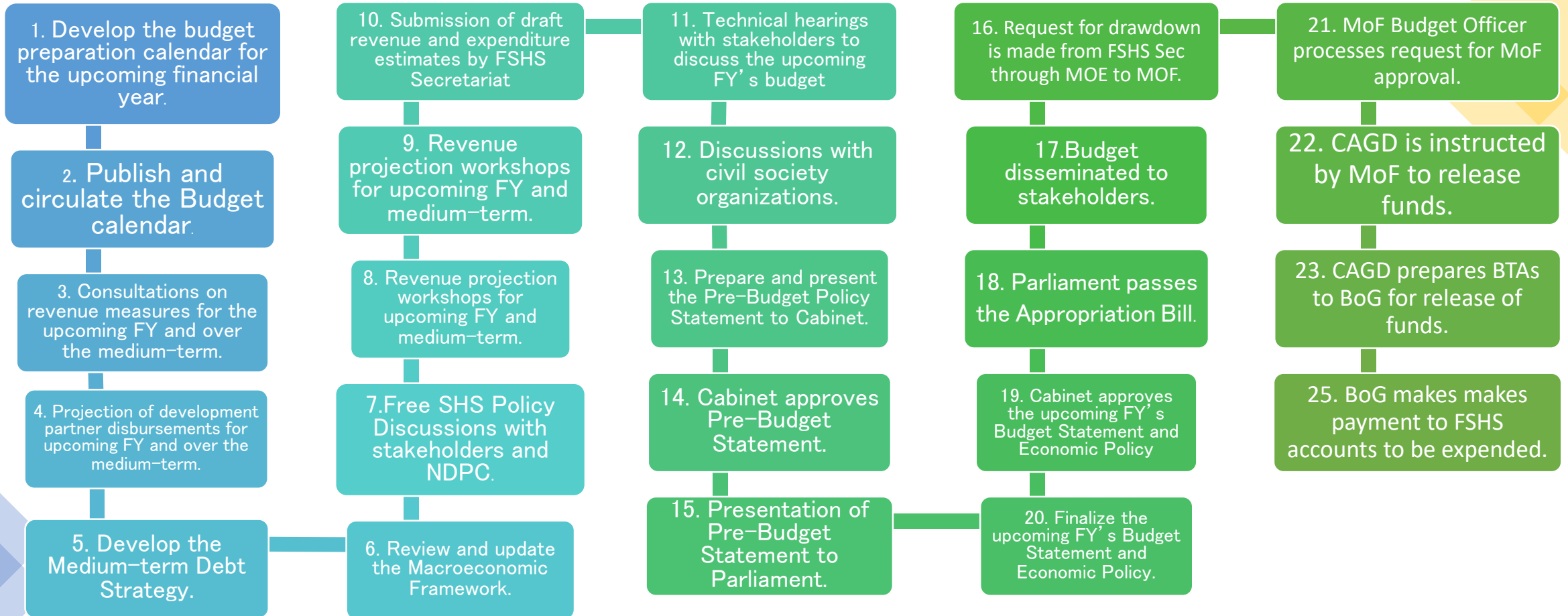
# Sources of Funding

Annual Budget Fund  
Account (ABFA-Budget)

Ghana Education Trust  
Fund (GET Fund)

Grants (World Bank)

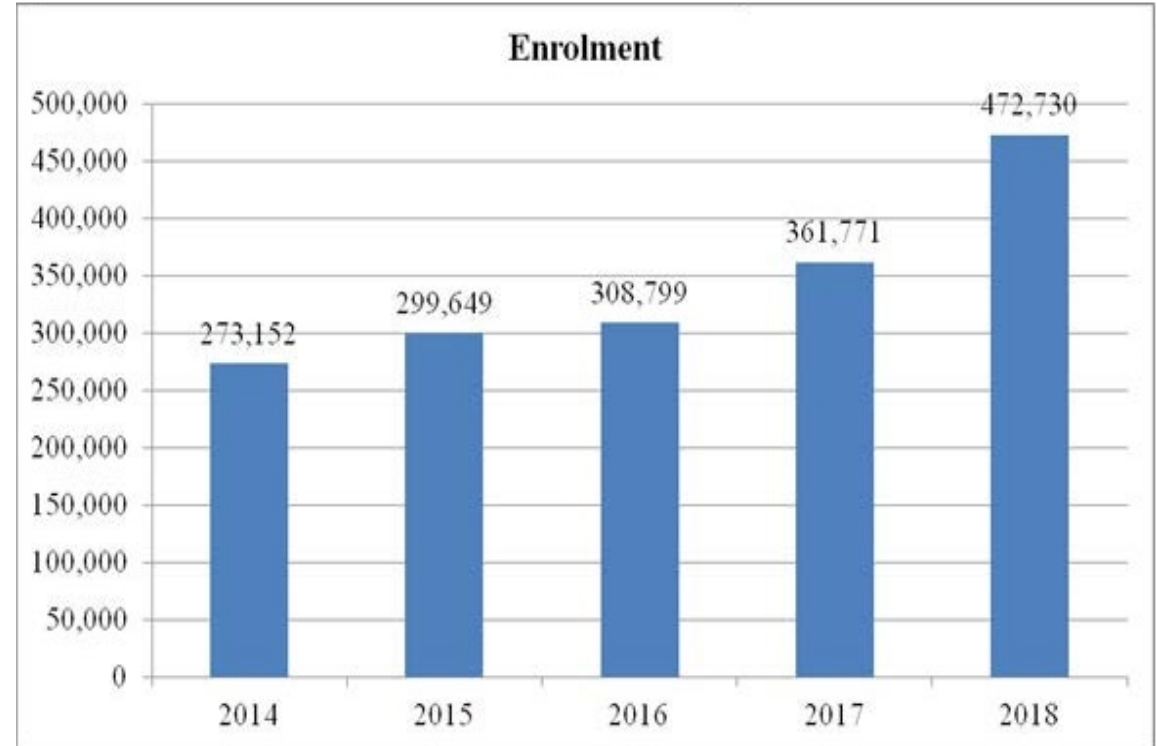
# Budgeting Process for Free SHS Policy



**Source: Ministry of Finance**

# Implementation Statistics

The introduction of the FSHS has led to a substantial increase in enrolment since the main barrier (fees and other expenses) has been absorbed by the government. Available data from the Ministry of Education show an increase of 17% in 2017 and by 31% in 2018 to 472,730 for first year students (see Figure 1).



*Figure 1: Enrolment Trend in SHS from 2014 to 2020  
Source: Adopted from MOE Report (2020).*



# Implementation Statistics-cont'd

Number of Enrollment Under FSHS	
Academic Year	Students Enrolled
2014/2015	-
2015/2016	-
2016/2017	-
2017/2018	361,771
2018/2019	834,501
2019/2020	1,103,303
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,299,575.00</b>

## Expenditure Breakdown

MOF DATA ON EXPENDITURE	
Year	Amount(GHc)
2017	480,000,000.00
2018	1,138,861,816.00
2019	1,682,641,924.00
2020	2,429,257,748.00
2021	1,174,021,968.00
Total	6,904,783,456.00

# Cost-Benefit Analysis on Free SHS Policy

Cost and Effectiveness	Pre-policy	Post-policy
Cost(Ghana Cedis)	1,300.00	1,508.94
Effectiveness(Enrolment )	1.00	1.50
CE Ratio	1,300.00	1,005.96

The results show that parents would have paid more for Senior high school education for their wards without government intervention. But with government intervention, more students are enrolled, and the government pays fewer fees per person.

# Benefits of Free Senior High School

- Increase in enrolment in Senior High School.
- The improved infrastructure of senior high schools in the country.
- Development of human capital.
- Government-parent burden sharing.
- Excellent performance of students in final exams.
- Enhance the development of human capital in the long run.
- Reduce crime rate among the youth in the long run.

# Challenges



Lack of funding to support the policy resulting in a delay in the release of funds.



Lack of infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of students (Classroom congestion and lack of boarding facilities).



Teacher shortage and increasing workload for the existing number of teachers.



Poor quality of meals served to students.



Inconvenience relating to erratic schedules for the double-track system.

# Some Policy Recommendations

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A review of the policy is needed in terms of financing the policy.

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Government should collaborate with parents who can afford to pay fees for their wards to ease the financial burden on the state.

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Innovative financing by partnering with the private sector as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for more funds.

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Create a special fund like the GET Fund for the policy.

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Secure donor funding for the policy (if possible).

THANK YOU

MERCI

ARIGATO

