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Exceptional Funding for Significant School Sixth Form Growth in 2006/07

June 2006

This publication is for schools considering submitting a proposal for exceptional funding as a result of significant sixth form growth in 2006/07.

It is of interest to Local Authorities and LSC colleagues in the 14-19 sector.

Background

1. The LSC's funding strategy from 2006/07 was announced last October. Called *Priorities for Success*, it includes changes to the funding arrangements for school sixth forms. These reflect the LSC's funding priorities for young people constraining funding to an affordable level and to move to equitable funding of all 16-19 year olds regardless of whether they are studying in school or at college.

2. As part of *Priorities for Success*, the LSC is adjusting school sixth form allocations to reflect changing pupil numbers in the **following** year's allocations, not through an 'in-year' adjustment as previously.

3. The LSC recognises, from consultation, the difficulties faced by some schools with significantly expanding sixth forms in 2006/07 – the first year of the revised funding arrangements.

4. To help such schools, the LSC has set aside £10.5 million to give exceptional and limited support for 2006/07 only. This money represents the 'savings' from a marginally lower than projected 2005 sixth form intake.

5. This exceptional funding will be used to support local agreements on expansion, as well as providing a transition from making an in-year adjustment.

Criteria

6. The funding is **exceptional** and **limited** – it is a capped budget. The LSC will use the following framework to determine whether or not a school stands to receive additional funding for additional pupils within what is affordable.

- Were plans and initial measures put in place for significant expansion before October 2005 (when *Priorities for Success* was announced) either for greater numbers following the school's existing curriculum offer, or to introduce new full-time curriculum pathways for a significant number of sixth form pupils, in September 2006?
- Is the increase to be accommodated in line with a local 14-19 strategy, Area Wide Inspection (AWI) follow-up or a Strategic Area Review (StAR), including an enhanced Level 2 or vocational provision?
- Has the school a good track record of achievement by its sixth form students?
- Is accommodating the expansion at the school supported as a priority by the Children's Trust/local authority?
- Will the school experience exceptional financial difficulties as a result of this expansion?

7. This additional funding is to meet the exceptional costs of a significant increase in the number of pupils. That increase must be of at least 20 pupils, to enable additional curriculum pathways to develop rather than to “infill” existing sixth form classes.

8. The LSC at regional and area level will decide how schools might fit into this framework, and so be considered for exceptional funding.

Funding rates

9. As this is exceptional funding, the national LSC rates for school sixth forms will not apply.

10. Where exceptional funding has been agreed, each additional pupil will attract a flat rate amount of around £1,750 subject to affordability. The relevant area cost factor will be added to this amount.

Delivering the plan

11. The LSC will decide before the end of July if it can agree to give exceptional funding for a school's significant sixth form growth in 2006/07.

12. If a school has an agreement with the LSC for exceptional funding, the agreement will set out the maximum level of funding. The September 2006 Pupil Count will be used to confirm whether additional pupils have enrolled in the sixth form, and will be subject to audit through the LSC's data assurance arrangements. Provided **at least 20 additional pupils** enrol, the LSC will pay the school the exceptional funding at the rate of £1,750 per additional pupil plus the school's area cost factor, up to the agreed maximum.

Making a proposal

13. Schools who believe they may be eligible for this exceptional funding should complete the proforma (Publication reference LSC-P-NAT-060327), which is based on the New Relationship with School's Single Plan Annex. To complete a proposal, you need to return to our home page www.lsc.gov.uk and click on the School Annex for Exceptional Growth in 2006/07

Your local LSC will be able to help with any further enquiries or discussions.

14. All proposals must be returned to:

schoolsexceptionalfunding0607@lsc.gov.uk.

by 10th July (not 3rd July as originally announced).

15. The LSC will notify schools of the outcome by the end of July/early August. If the additional pupils enrol, the agreed exceptional funds will be paid in January 2007.

How to complete the School Plan Annex

- This annex is modelled on the New Relationship with Schools *School Plan Annex*.
- Schools should provide clear cross-references to other documentation (for example the School's Development Plan (SDP), the self-evaluation form, Ofsted reports) as appropriate. The LSC only requires the relevant extracts from supporting document to be attached, not documents in their entirety
- Text space is limited to the size of the box you are completing. Text that cannot be viewed will not print out and will not be considered.

Page 1 Contact Details

Please complete the section on basic data on the school.

Schools are asked to indicate if their expansion has the support of the Children's Trust/Local Authority.

Page 2 Rationale

Explain why your school is putting forward this case for exceptional funding, including any financial difficulties likely to be experienced by this expansion and the benefits of your participation.

If this is contained within your SDP or self-evaluation form, you should attach the relevant sections of these documents. There is no need to include the whole document.

Page 3 Partnership and Community links

Please indicate how your expansion arrangements link to:

- local Strategic Area Review, Area Wide Inspections or the area 14-19 entitlement
- any evidence of agreement or discussion with the local LSC/LA to introduce these proposals before October 2005, when Priorities for Success was announced
- any consortia partners also benefiting from this expanded curriculum.

A school's case is not expected necessarily to meet **all** these criteria.

Page 4 Areas for development

Explain the details of your proposed development, identifying the additional full-time curriculum pathway(s).

Give details if your proposal:

- builds on an increased year 12 intake in 2005/06, which will result in increased pupil numbers in both year 12 and year 13 in 2006/07
- is responding to an increased cohort of pupils reaching year 12
- is affected by any other significant local factor(s), such as being close to schools closing their sixth forms.

Page 5 Key Performance Targets - the school's track record in sixth form achievement

Past Performance

Please include any relevant information indicating the school's successful past sixth form record from

- Ofsted inspections,
- Learner Achievement Tracker data,
- ALIS or ALPs value added data.

Measures

Please indicate how many additional pupils you expect to attract to the school as a result of your development.

Please give the predicted total of sixth form pupils for September 2006 and the total on the September Pupil Count 2005.

The School Plan Annex

The School Plan annex to complete for a proposal is available at

When completed it should be returned to

Schoolsexceptionalfunding0607@lsc.gov.uk

by July 10th.

National Office
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry CV1 2WT
T 0845 019 4170
F 024 7682 3675
www.lsc.gov.uk

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0870 900 6800

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