



Education
Funding
Agency

Schools Block funding allocations 2015 to 2016

**Publication of Schools Block funding
allocations to schools and academies**

October 2015

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Introduction

In March 2015, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) published details of local authorities' schools block funding formulae for the 2015 to 2016 financial year. This information can be found on the Department for Education's (DfE) website at [Schools block funding formulae 2015 to 2016 - Publications - GOV.UK](#).

This new report presents data giving the schools block allocations to each individual maintained school for financial year 2015 to 2016, and academy for academic year 2015 to 2016, under these funding formulae. A detailed data file in Microsoft Excel format accompanies this report and contains these figures. The schools included in this dataset are all maintained schools and academies in England with "schools block pupils"; that is, pupils in national curriculum year groups R to 11 in mainstream schools that are not in high needs units or resourced provision. Schools without schools block pupils, including special schools, special academies, alternative provision and hospital schools, are not included.

The allocations shown relate only to schools block funding, and do not include funding that maintained schools and academies may additionally receive for early years pupils, pupils in high needs units or resourced provision, or post-16 funding. For academies the data also does not include some additional funding they receive direct from the EFA, such as start-up grants. Academies shown are as at 31 March 2015.

Other related publications

The statistical release '2015-16 Planned Expenditure on Schools, Education, Children and Young People's Services by Local Authorities' was published by the DfE on 24 September, and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/planned-expenditure-by-local-authorities-in-england-2015-to-2016>.

This provides a summary of the planned expenditure by local authorities on a range of services relating to schools, education, children and young people's services and social care for the financial year 2015 to 2016. The figures in that release include information from all 152 local authorities in England. The data is returned to the DfE by local authorities via the well-established 'Section 251 Budget Return', part of local authorities' requirements under the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. It includes aggregate information on the funding of local authority maintained schools and recoupment academies as shown in the Individual School Budget figures. The total funding to mainstream schools shown in the two publications does not match exactly, for a number of reasons. One of these is that the data is collected at different times, and that the Section 251 data for recoupment academies relates to the financial year whereas the academy data shown in this publication is for the academic year. The Section 251 data includes sixth form funding for secondary schools. Also, the Section 251 data covers the budgets that academies would have received were they maintained schools, while this publication shows the budgets they actually received.

The EFA is also publishing figures on the same day providing information on funding allocated to colleges, providers, schools and academies for 16-19 education for academic year 2015 to 2016. These can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/16-to-19-education-funding-allocations>.

Information about the data file

This document describes the information contained in each column of the accompanying data file. Please note that the funding amounts shown for maintained schools relate to financial year 2015 to 2016, while for academies they relate to the academic year 2015 to 2016.

“Front sheet” page

The page “Front sheet” allows the Schools Block funding given to a single maintained school in financial year 2015 to 2016, or academy in the academic year 2015 to 2016 (these two funding periods are collectively referred to as “2015-16” in the rest of this document), to be displayed on the screen, broken down by the main elements comprising that funding amount. Click on the shaded cell B3 near the top of the page, and then type in the LAEtab number of a school or academy to see its schools block funding total and breakdown.

“ISB Aggregation data” page

The page “*ISB Aggregation data*” gives the funding values for each mainstream maintained school and academy with schools block pupils in a large table. This section provides a description of all the columns displayed. More detailed information about the formula factors that local authorities can use for distributing their Schools Block were described in the document available [here](#).

The information shown in the column “*Academy?*” indicates academy status as at 31 March 2015.

Basic entitlement total funding

Basic entitlement is a mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2015-16 formula. Local authorities are permitted to choose different Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) rates for primary pupils, for key stage 3 pupils and for key stage 4 pupils. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the basic entitlement factor.

Deprivation total funding

This is another mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2015-16 formula. Local authorities can use two deprivation indicators: children eligible for free school meals (FSM; which could be either straight FSM or Ever 6); or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) data; or both. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the deprivation factor.

LAC total funding

Use of the looked-after children factor in funding formulae is optional, and 86 local authorities have chosen to use it. For the 2015-16, the indicator used is the number of

children looked after for any period of time as at the March 2014 SSDA903 data collection. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the looked-after children factor.

EAL total funding

Use of the English as an additional language (EAL) factor is optional, and 132 local authorities have chosen to use it. Local authorities could choose one of three indicators for this factor: the number of pupils with EAL who entered the compulsory school system in either the last one, two or three years. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under this factor.

Mobility total funding

This is another optional factor, and only 66 of the 152 local authorities have chosen to use it in their Schools Block funding formula. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under this factor.

Prior attainment total funding

Use of this factor is optional. Some 142 local authorities use the indicator for primary pupils and 148 use the indicator for secondary pupils. Four are not using this factor at all. For primary pupils, the indicator is the number of children in year 1 and 2 assessed under the new early years foundation stage profile as not achieving a good level of development, and the number in years 3 to 6 not achieving 73 points or more or 78 points or more (authorities could pick between whether to use the 73 or 78 point indicator) under the old profile. For secondary pupils a single indicator is available: the number of pupils who fail to achieve Level 4 or above in either English or mathematics at key stage 2. This column shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the prior attainment factor.

Lump sum total funding

Local authorities could use this factor to allocate a lump sum to schools. Separate lump sums could be specified for primary schools and for secondary schools, up to a maximum of £175,000 in each case. Schools which were due to open or close during the year received a proportion of the specified amount commensurate to the proportion of the year for which they were open. Schools which were formed from an amalgamation of two or more others during the previous year could be given additional lump sum funding up to 85% of the amount that would have been received in aggregate by its predecessors. The lump sum is an optional factor, but all have chosen to include this factor in their funding formula. This column shows the lump sum funding received by each school and academy.

Sparsity total funding

This factor was introduced in the 2014-15 funding formulae to address concerns raised about the impact of the funding reforms and the lump sum arrangements on small schools in rural areas. Whether a school is deemed to be sparse depends on two considerations: its “sparsity distance” and its number of pupils: more information can be

found in the 2015-16 school funding formula publication (see the Introduction). An individual school can receive sparsity funding up to a maximum of £100,000. Some 24 local authorities chose to use sparsity in their formula. This column shows the sparsity funding received by each school and academy.

London Fringe

There are five local authorities (Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and West Sussex) who have some, but not all, of their schools within the London fringe area. The London fringe factor gave them flexibility to reflect the higher teacher cost in these schools. This column shows the additional London fringe funding received by affected schools and academies.

Split site total funding

Local authorities could specify a means of providing additional funding for schools that operate on split sites, which often face higher running costs as a result of, for example, the cost of travel between sites and the care and maintenance of two (or more) sites. This column shows the split site funding received by each school and academy.

Rates

Schools and academies could be funded for rates based on the actual cost incurred. For maintained schools, this column shows the funding received by each school for the payment of rates. For academies, the amount of funding for rates is not known by the EFA at this stage until all have submitted a claim, and so the figures may show zero.

PFI total funding

This column shows the funding received by each school and academy for PFI charges.

Existing sixth form commitments

Where local authorities have in previous years used some of their dedicated schools grant (DSG) for funding sixth forms in the past, they are allowed to honour this commitment in 2015-16, but may not receive more funding through the factor than in 2014-15. This column shows the funding for existing sixth form commitments received by each school and academy under this factor.

Exceptional factors total funding

EFA has discretion to consider allowing local authorities to provide in their formulae funding under exceptional factors relating to premises such as listed buildings, buildings that are rented or boarding provision. They must apply to less than 5% of the schools in the local authority and account for more than 1% of the budget of the school or schools affected. This column shows the funding received by each school and academy under approved exceptional circumstances.

Total Schools Block Allocation (Pre MFG)

This column shows the total funding each school and academy purely under the formula factors listed above.

MFG protection (+ve) or capping/scaling (-ve)

The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protects the per-pupil funding of schools from one year to the next and for 2015-16 has been set at -1.5%. Some schools required additional funding, over and above the amounts derived through their basic schools block formula factors, to ensure this condition is met. In addition, local authorities are allowed to set capping and/or scaling factors to ensure that the amount of funding allocated through their formula (and including any additional funding to ensure the MFG is met) fits within the total schools block funding available to them.

A positive number in this column of the table indicates the amount of MFG funding received by a school or academy. A negative number indicates the reduction in funding applied to a school or academy, compared to the amount derived through their basic schools block formula factors, as a result of the application of capping and scaling.

Any school requiring further funding in addition to that specified by a local authority's basic formula in order to meet the MFG will not be subject to capping and scaling reductions; and capping and scaling reductions cannot take a school or academy's funding below the requirements of the MFG.

Total Schools Block Allocation (Post MFG)

This column shows the total schools block funding allocated each school and academy, after the addition of any MFG funding and the application of capping and scaling factors.

Total number of pupils

This column shows each school and academy's number of schools block pupils. This excludes any early years pupils attending these institutions and pupils in high needs units, who are funded by the DSG early years block and high needs block respectively.

Allocation per pupil

This column shows the total schools block funding allocated to each school and academy (as shown in the "*Total Schools Block Allocation (Post MFG)*" column) divided by the total number of schools block pupils.

Those with a lower than average allocation per pupil will usually be primary schools with very few pupils from deprived backgrounds, few pupils with English as an additional language and few pupils with low levels of attainment, which results in relatively lower funding. Schools and academies where there are larger numbers of pupils from these cohorts are likely to attract additional funding through their local authority formula.

Those with a high allocation per pupil are often small schools with relatively few pupils. In this situation, the lump sum, which does not depend on the number of pupils attending, constitutes a large proportion of their schools block formula allocation, and so their per-pupil funding level is relatively higher as a result.

Education services grant (ESG)

For academies only, this column shows the total education services grant (ESG) funding they will receive in academic year 2015 to 2016. For maintained schools, ESG funding is allocated to and administered centrally by the relevant local authority.

Data suppression and rounding

For the pupil-led factors, funding allocation amounts to individual schools are suppressed where the factor is present in the relevant local authority's formula and the number of eligible pupils is small, to protect confidentiality. Suppressed values are shown in the accompanying data file by an asterisk, and the figures deducted from the totals so that they cannot be deduced. Specifically the pupil counts where suppression has been applied for each factor are:

- Deprivation: where funding is based on a count of one or two pupils, and the local authority has used only the FSM or FSM Ever 6 indicators and not IDACI in their formula.
- Prior attainment: where funding is based on a count of fewer than three pupils.
- Looked-after children: where funding is based on a count of fewer than six pupils.
- English as an additional language: where funding is based on a count of one or two pupils.
- Mobility: where funding is based on a count of one or two pupils.

All unsuppressed values are rounded to the nearest £1,000, with all non-zero funding amounts below £1,000 rounded up to £1,000.



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