



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Schools block funding allocations 2018 to 2019

Commentary

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Introduction

In July 2018, the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published details of local authorities' [schools block funding formulae for the 2018 to 2019 financial year](#).

2018 to 2019 saw the introduction of the national funding formula (NFF). This reform means that for the first time, school funding is being distributed according to a formula based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country. In order to provide stability for schools during the transition to the NFF, local authorities will continue to be responsible for distributing money between schools in their area in 2018 to 2019, 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021. Detailed information about the NFF can be found in the [national funding formula for schools and high needs: executive summary](#), which was published in September 2017, and the accompanying policy document which sets out the updates to the formula in 2019 to 2020. This new report presents data giving the schools block allocations to each individual maintained school for financial year 2018 to 2019, and academic year 2018 to 2019 for academies. This difference is to reflect the time period that these allocations are paid to maintained schools and academies. A detailed data file in Microsoft Excel format accompanies this report and contains these figures at school and academy level. The schools included in the dataset are all maintained schools and academies in England funded through the schools block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). Schools not funded through the schools block, 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. Additional grants paid to schools and academies, such as Pupil Premium are also not included but are published separately. For academies the data also does not include some additional funding they receive direct from the ESFA, such as start-up grants. Academies shown are as at 31 March 2018.

Other related publications

The statistical release '[Planned LA and school expenditure: 2018 to 2019 financial year](#)' will be published by the DfE on 27 September 2018.

This will provide 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 2018 to 2019. The figures in that release will 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 as well as individual school budget (ISB) figures for recouplement academies. The

funding to mainstream schools shown in the two publications will not match exactly, for a number of reasons. Primarily, this is due to the data being collected at different times, that the s251 includes sixth form funding, and that the section 251 data relates to the financial year whereas the academy data shown in this publication is for the academic year. In addition, 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.

It should be noted that the figures published here may not match the illustrative allocations for schools under the NFF that were published as part of the 2018 to 2019 funding arrangements in September 2017 (see '[National funding formula tables for school and high needs](#)'). Local authorities were responsible for setting a local formula to determine the distribution of funding between schools in their local area in 2018 to 2019. The schools block funding formulae 2018 to 2019 publication (see link in the first paragraph of this section) provides information on the extent to which local authorities decided to mirror the NFF in their local formulae in the first year of its introduction: 73 local authorities moved all their factor values towards the NFF, and 41 matched the NFF factor values almost exactly.

The illustrative allocations published in September 2017 and the actual allocations published today are also based on data from different years, and so the two sets of figures are not directly comparable. The allocations figures published here are primarily based on schools' pupil counts and characteristics data from the October 2017 school census, and schools' actual 2017 to 2018 funding baselines. However, the NFF illustrative allocations for 2018 to 2019 were based on pupil counts and characteristics data from a year earlier, from the October 2016 school census. Adjustments were also made to school baselines to reflect how funding for pupils in special units or resourced provision in mainstream schools are counted under the new NFF arrangements and to remove any one-off funding that the relevant local authority confirmed was included in the school's baseline (e.g. funding from the authority's reserves).

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 2018 to 2019, while for academies they relate to the academic year 2018/19.

“Front sheet” page

The page “Front sheet” allows the schools block funding given to a single maintained school in financial year 2018 to 2019, or academy in the academic year 2018 to 2019 (these two funding periods are collectively referred to as “2018 to 2019” in the rest of this document and reflect the timescale the funding is paid which differs for maintained schools and academies), to be displayed on the screen, broken down by the main elements comprising that funding amount. Click on the shaded cell C3 near the top of the page, and then type in the LAEstab 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. 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 [School funding reform: findings from the review of 2013 to 2014 - arrangements and changes for 2014 to 2015](#).

The information shown in the column “Academy?” indicates academy status as at 31 March 2018.

Basic entitlement total funding

Basic entitlement is a mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2018 to 2019 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. Column N shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the basic entitlement factor.

Deprivation total funding

Deprivation is another mandatory factor which every local authority must use in their 2018 to 2019 formula. Local authorities can use any of the three deprivation indicators: children eligible for free school meals; children eligible for free school meals in any of the previous 6 years; or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) scores; or a combination of the three indicators. Column X shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the deprivation factor.

LAC total funding

Use of the looked-after children (LAC) factor in funding formulae is optional, and 18 local authorities have chosen to use it. For 2018 to 2019, the indicator used is the number of children looked after for any period of time as at the March 2017 SSDA903 data collection. Column Y 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 148 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. Column Z shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the EAL factor.

Mobility total funding

Mobility is another optional factor, and 63 of the 152 local authorities have chosen to use it in their schools block funding formula. Column AA shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the mobility factor.

Prior attainment total funding

Use of the prior attainment factor is optional. Some 149 local authorities use the indicator for primary pupils and 150 use the indicator for secondary pupils. Two authorities are not using this factor at all.

For primary pupils, the factor is based on the number of children in years 1 to 5 assessed under the new early years foundation stage profile as not achieving a good level of development, and the number in year 6 not achieving 73 points or more or 78 points or more under the old profile. Authorities could choose between whether to use the 73 or 78 point indicator by which to fund the primary sector having reflected on the impact in their locale.

For secondary pupils the factor is based on the number of pupils in year 7 or year 8 achieving a scaled score of 100 or more in reading and mathematics tests, and a teacher assessment outcome of 'reaching the expected standard' or 'working at a greater depth' in writing, plus the number of pupils in years 9 to 11 who fail to achieve level 4 or above in either English or mathematics at key stage 2. Column AB shows the total funding received by each school and academy under the prior attainment factor.

Lump sum total funding

Local authorities can 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. Column AC shows the lump sum funding received by each school and academy.

Sparsity total funding

The Sparsity factor was introduced in the 2014 to 2015 funding formulae. 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 [schools block funding formulae 2018 to 2019](#).

An individual school can receive sparsity funding up to a maximum of £100,000. Some 44 local authorities chose to use sparsity in their formula. Column AD 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 costs in these schools. Column AE 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. Column AF shows the split site funding received by each school and academy.

Rates

Schools and academies should 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 ESFA until all have submitted a claim, and so the figures are expected rates payments as provided to ESFA by local authorities. In both cases, the figures are listed in column AG

PFI total funding

Column AH shows the funding received by each school and academy for PFI charges.

Exceptional factors total funding

ESFA 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. Column AI shows the funding received by each school and academy under approved exceptional circumstances.

Minimum per pupil funding

This is an optional factor introduced in 2018 to 2019 and guarantees all schools within an authority a minimum level of funding for each pupil depending on their phase of education. In 2018 to 2019 73 local authorities allocated funding to schools using this new factor. Nationally, 520 schools received additional funding through this factor shown in column AJ.

Total Schools Block Allocation (Pre MFG)

Column AK shows the total funding allocated to 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 2018 to 2019 could be set between -1.5% and 0.5%. 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 column AL 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)

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

Total number of pupils

Column AO shows each school and academy's number of schools block pupils. This excludes any early years pupils attending these institutions who are funded by the DSG early years block. In a change from last year, pupils in high needs units are included as they are now funded through the schools block.

Allocation per pupil

Column AP 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 particularly low allocation per pupil will usually be primary schools with a relatively high number of pupils.

Those with a high allocation per pupil are 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 high as a result.

Teachers' pay grant

The final three columns of the table show each school's allocation in total and per pupil for the teachers' pay grant for the 2018 to 2019 financial year. Mainstream schools' allocations for the grant are calculated based on the total number of pupils in the institution, including nursery classes and sixth forms. Where a school has fewer than 100 pupils in total, it receives teachers' pay grant funding for 100 pupils. By contrast, the schools block allocations shown in the rest of the table are calculated based on schools' primary and secondary pupil counts.

The teachers' pay grant funding amounts provide for the 7 months from September 2018 to March 2019, and the first of the three columns shows each school's total. For academies, therefore, this funding covers the first 7 months of the 2018 to 2019 academic year only, whereas the amounts shown for the schools block allocation cover the whole of the academic year. There are a small number of schools that do not have teachers' pay grant allocation amounts shown in the table; this is primarily due to these schools closing in the period between the start of the 2018 to 2019 financial year and the announcement of the teachers' pay grant in October 2018, and therefore no grant allocation was calculated for them.

The final column of the table shows each school's overall per-pupil funding rate for the teachers' pay grant, and has been calculated as the total grant funding amount divided by the teachers' pay grant pupil number. In some cases, these amounts differ from the standard per-pupil funding rates for the grant; this is due to some schools receiving revised allocations in November 2018 through a correction to a double-counting issue affecting pupil numbers in reception classes, and schools covering more than one phase of education receiving different per-pupil funding rates for different groups of their pupils.

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 allocated for FSM, FSM Ever 6 or any of the individual IDACI bands is based on a count of one or two pupils
- prior attainment: where funding is based on a count of fewer than three pupils
- looked-after children (LAC): where funding is based on a count of fewer than 6 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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