



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

# **Academy general annual grant allocation guide: 2021 to 2022 academic year**

**A guide for special and alternative  
provision academies and special free  
schools open before 1 April 2021**

**February 2021**

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## Introduction

This operational guide helps you understand how the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has calculated your 2021 to 2022 academic year funding. We have developed the guide in consultation with a sample of academies to make sure it meets your needs.

The guide supports your general annual grant (GAG) statement. It sets out the funding you will receive, how we have calculated it, the factors that have been applied and the source of the data we use. You will notice some changes to some of the tables, but we have kept these to a minimum to allow headline year-on-year comparisons.

For 2021 to 2022, we'll continue to use the national funding formula (NFF) for schools, high needs and central school services, to allocate budgets to local authorities.

## Who is the guide for?

This guide is for special and alternative provision (AP) academies and special free schools open before 1st April 2021. Separate guidance is available for [mainstream academies and free schools](#).

## How to use the guide

We've produced the guide in a format that allows you to easily access the specific parts that interest you or areas where you require more detailed information.

The [what's new?](#) section shows at a glance the changes to funding for special and alternative provision academies in the 2021 to 2022 academic year, and where the change is reflected in your GAG statement. The subsequent chapters take you through an example funding statement table by table, explaining each line in turn.

We recognise that GAG funding makes up only part of the overall funding for your academy. The section at the end of the guide lists the main [non-GAG revenue and capital funding lines](#). It includes links to information about how and when these are paid.

## 16 to 19 funding Data Changes

The 16 to 19 funding has now been removed from the GAG allocation statement. For the 2022 to 2023 academic year we are aiming to provide digital allocation statements, as part of the user research academies have informed us that including 16 to 19 information on the GAG Statements does not add value because the information is also provided on the 16 to 19 funding statement (accessible via Document Exchange). As the data sources for GAG and 16 to 19 allocations are different, the decision not to include 16 to 19 funding data will allow the GAG Statement to be uploaded as soon as the pre-16

funding calculations have been completed. In most cases the GAG and 16 to 19 Statements will be issued around the same time.

## **Further information**

Further information about [academy revenue funding allocations](#) is available.

## What's new in the 2021 to 2022 academic year?

The changes to funding in 2021 to 2022 are summarised below and you can find more information on the technical aspects of these in subsequent chapters.

Further policy information on [pre-16 schools funding arrangements for 2021 to 2022](#) is also available. This includes the operational guidance on schools revenue funding which sets out the factors that local authorities can use in their funding formula. We have also published [high needs funding arrangements for 2021 to 2022](#).

## Changes to the funding formula and your GAG statement

What's new?	What does this mean?	How will this be reflected in my GAG statement?
Post 16 Funding removed from GAG allocation statement	As above the Post 16 allocation will now be removed from the GAG. This information is available on the 16-19 statement (via document exchange).	This has now been removed from the pre 16 GAG statement

## **The GAG statement explained**

The following sections of this guide walk you through the GAG statement for the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Please note that the figures in the sample tables A and B are intended as an illustration only.

### **Summary statement**

The first page of your GAG statement is a summary of the tables that make up the remainder of your GAG. The information used to populate the summary table comes from each of the tables in your statement.

## Academic year 2021 to 2022 summary table

 Education & Skills Funding Agency		<b>Academy General Annual Grant allocation statement: 2021 to 2022 academic year Special and alternative provision academies</b>	
Name	Provider name		
LA name	LA name		
LAESTAB	LAEstabNumber		
UKPRN	UKPRN		
URN	URN		
Opening date	Date		
<b>1. Breakdown of academic year 2021 to 2022 school allocation</b>			
Post-opening grant (start-up grant)		£0.00	<a href="#">See Table B</a>
<b>Total school allocation</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>2. Breakdown of academic year 2021 to 2022 high needs allocation</b>			
Pre-16 high needs place funding		£0.00	<a href="#">See Table A</a>
Hospital education funding		£0.00	<a href="#">See Table A</a>
<b>Total high needs allocation</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	(Excludes any top-up funding from local authority)
<b>Total allocation (1+2)</b>			
		<b>£0.00</b>	
Information on funding lines that are in addition to GAG will be provided separately (pupil premium, for example).			

## Table A: high needs place funding

Local authorities have a role in funding high needs pupils in academies, as a commissioner of special education provision for these pupils. This means that academies receive funding for pupils with high needs from both ESFA (place funding) and local authorities (top-up funding). In the case of alternative provision (AP) the top-up funding can also come directly from other schools, where they commission places directly. More information about the role of the local authority in agreeing and commissioning high needs places is available in [high needs funding arrangements for 2021 to 2022](#).

High needs funding for both pre-16 special educational needs (SEN) is funded on the number of agreed places.

AP (which by definition is pre-16 only) is also funded on a per place basis.

In the 2021 to 2022 academic year, we will roll forward your 2020 to 2021 academic year place numbers and use these to calculate your allocation. The exception to this is where your local authority has requested a change in place numbers which was agreed with you (or accepted by ESFA where there was disagreement). In this instance, we would use this changed figure in your allocation. More information on this process is available in the [high needs place change notification: technical note](#).

Free schools are out of scope of this process. Place numbers for special and AP free schools will be determined by ESFA based on a range of data including the school's financial plan, commissioning arrangements and occupancy levels.

Top-up funding above these levels, based on the assessed needs of the pupil and the cost of meeting these in the setting, should be agreed between the commissioning local authority and the special or AP academy. Top-up funding is paid for the period that the pupil is actually occupying the place in the academy. It is paid directly to the academy on a monthly basis unless a different payment frequency is agreed with the local authority. Top-up funding for pupils in AP can be paid directly by other academies and schools if they commission the places for those pupils. As top-up funding is not paid by ESFA, it is not shown on your GAG funding statement. Read the [high needs funding 2021 to 2022: operational guide](#) for more information on top up funding, including the minimum funding guarantee for special schools at annex 1.

Hospital education places that exist in some academies will be funded at the same rate as in 2020 to 2021, unless the local authority has agreed a higher rate. Pupils occupying these places do not attract top-up funding.

More information on [high needs funding](#) is available online.



## Sample Table A: academic year 2021 to 2022 high needs place funding

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Pre-16 breakdown					
Type	Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total pre-16 allocation		Explanation
1. Special	134	£10,000.00	£1,340,000.00		<p><b>Place numbers:</b> for academies: rolled forward pre-16 2020 to 2021 places (or agreed place numbers where a change in place numbers has been requested); for free schools: as agreed by ESFA</p> <p><b>Unit value:</b> £10,000</p> <p><b>Total allocation</b> = place numbers x unit value</p>
2. Alternative provision	0	£10,000.00	£0.00		
<b>3. Total pre-16 high needs place funding</b>			<b>£1,340,000.00</b>	<b>= 1 + 2</b>	Total pre-16 allocation (special) + total pre-16 allocation (alternative provision)

<b>Hospital education breakdown</b>		
<b>Place numbers</b>	<b>Total hospital allocation</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
0	£0.00	Funding per place remains the same as in 2020 to 2021, unless the local authority has agreed a higher rate. It is an amount unique to the academy that will normally have been calculated by the local authority who previously maintained the provision.

## Table B: post-opening grant (start-up grant)

Table B will only be populated in your 2021 to 2022 funding statement if you are due to receive start-up grant or post-opening grant funding.

### Start-up grant (SUG)

SUG is paid to full sponsored academies only.

Special and AP academies may receive start-up grant part A. This is a flat rate allocation paid in the first year of opening only: 50% in month one, 25% in month two and 25% in month three.

Special and AP academies do not receive start-up grant B, which is a formulaic allocation for leadership capacity. This is because these academies receive a GAG allocation per place rather than per pupil, which already takes account of staff diseconomies of scale and recognises that pupil numbers in such provision can fluctuate widely throughout the year.

More information is available in [sponsored academies funding: guidance for sponsors](#).

### Post-opening grant (POG)

Free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges (UTCs) are provided with a post-opening grant to reflect the additional costs in establishing a new publicly-funded school which cannot be met through the general annual grant (GAG). The post-opening grant provides funding in two elements as the free school grows: per pupil resources, paid on a per pupil basis, and a leadership diseconomies grant. These titles reflect the basis on which the funding is calculated, but the grant can be spent on any legitimate purpose of the school.

The first element (resources) is paid each year that the school builds up to capacity for each new pupil expected to be on roll.

The second element (leadership) is paid at a set rate for up to 3 years to Special Schools. Alternative provision schools are calculated on a case by case basis which is agreed with the project lead.

## Sample Table B: academic year 2021 to 2022 post-opening grant (start-up grant)

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Line	Value	Calculation	Explanation
1. Start-up grant part A	£0.00		For academies that opened from April 2013 this is a one-off payment.
2. Start-up grant part B – formulaic allocation	£0.00		Special and AP academies do not receive start-up grant B.
3. Post-opening grant – per pupil resources	£0.00		For special and AP free schools, this is the total of the resource element of the POG.
4. Post-opening grant – leadership diseconomies	£0.00		For special and AP free schools, this is the total of the diseconomies element of the POG.
<b>5. Total post-opening grant (start-up grant) allocation</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>= 1 + 2 + 3 + 4</b>	The sum of SUG or POG elements as applicable.

## Funding outside the GAG

The previous sections explain the elements that make up your GAG funding. As an academy you will receive other revenue funding that is not part of your GAG. Some non-GAG funding has not been confirmed for 2021 to 2022, this section will be updated as the grants are confirmed. Currently confirmed are:

- [early years funding](#) - paid by the local authority to academies with a nursery class through the early years national funding formula (EYNFF)
- national non-domestic rates (NNDR) - paid on receipt of a claim using an [online form](#) in a single amount outside of the SBS
- [pupil premium](#) - paid in four instalments by ESFA. Allocations for the 2021 to 2022 financial year will be published in due course.
- high needs top-up funding - paid by the local authority where required. In the case of AP, top-up funding can be paid directly by other schools and academies. Information about the [high needs funding arrangements for 2021 to 2022](#) is available.
- [PE and Sports premium](#) - Assists academies and schools to be able to deliver half of a child's recommended daily physical activity.
- [COVID 19 catch up premium](#) – find out the eligibility and conditions in relation to the new catch up premium using the link provided.

Further information about [revenue funding payments for academies](#), the [growth fund](#) and [falling rolls fund](#) is available.

In addition, your academy may receive [capital funding](#) from ESFA.

## Risk protection arrangement (RPA)

If you are a member of [RPA](#) any adjustment made to your funding will be shown on your monthly pay schedule. It is not shown on your allocation statement as it does not affect your allocation, but does affect the amount you will receive on a monthly basis. If you opt into RPA after the allocation was published you will not receive an adjusted allocation statement, but your monthly pay schedule will be reissued. Details of the values for new academies are on the monthly remittance advice notes issued to the academy trust.



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