



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 between 1 April 2021 and
31 August 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 better 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 small changes to some of the tables, but we've kept changes to a minimum to allow headline year-on-year comparisons.

16 to 19 Funding Data Changes

The 16 to 19 funding has now been removed from the GAG allocation statement. For 2022 to 2023, 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.

How to use the guide

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

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. We've added a section to the end of the guide listing the main [non-GAG revenue and capital funding lines](#). This section includes links to information about how and when these are paid.

Who is the guide for?

This guide is for special and alternative provision (AP) academies and special free schools opening between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021. Separate guidance is available for [mainstream academies and free schools](#).

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 information is available in the [high needs funding arrangements for 2021 to 2022](#). We have also published the [pre-16 schools funding arrangements for 2021 to 2022](#).

Changes to the funding formula and your GAG statement

The key changes to the funding methodology for 2021 to 2022 are set out below. It is important to note that local authorities have some flexibility about how they reflect these changes in their local formula, so you may not see these reflected in 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 to19 statement (via document exchange).	N/A

The GAG statement explained

The following sections of this guide walk you through the general annual grant (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. They are drawn from a number of different cases to show you as many of the calculation workings as possible and together they do not represent a single real-life academy.

Summary statement

The first page of your GAG statement is a summary statement of the tables that make up your GAG. The information used to populate the summary table comes from each of the tables in your pack. Academic year 2021 to 2022 summary table:


 Education & Skills Funding Agency	Academy General Annual Grant allocation statement: 2021 to 2022 academic year Special and alternative provision academies	
Name	Provider name	
LA name	LA name	
LAESTAB	LAEstabNumber	
UKPRN	UKPRN	
URN	URN	
Opening date	Date	
1. Breakdown of academic year 2021 to 2022 school allocation		
Post-opening grant (start-up grant)	£100,000.00	See Table B
Total school allocation	£100,000.00	
2. Breakdown of academic year 2021 to 2022 high needs allocation		
Pre-16 high needs place funding	£550,000.00	See Table A
Hospital education funding	£0.00	See Table A
Total high needs allocation	£550,000.00	(Excludes any top-up funding from local authority)

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](#).

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 2020 to 2021: operational guide](#) for more information on top up funding, including the minimum funding guarantee for special schools at its 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: high needs place funding

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Pre-16 breakdown

Line	Type	Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total pre-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2022	Calculation	Explanation
1	Special	55	£10,000.00	£550,000.00	£550,000.00	N/A	<p>Place numbers: rolled forward pre-16 2020 to 2021 places (or place numbers agreed by ESFA)</p> <p>Unit value: £10,000</p> <p>Total pre-16 allocation = place numbers x unit value</p> <p>Allocation to August 2022: Total allocation x days open / 365</p>
2	Alternative provision	1	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	N/A	<p>Place numbers: rolled forward pre-16 2020 to 2021 places (or place numbers agreed by ESFA)</p> <p>Unit value: £10,000</p> <p>Total pre-16 allocation = place numbers x unit value</p> <p>Allocation to August 2022: Total allocation x days open / 365</p>
3	Total pre-16 high needs place funding 365 days				£560,000.00	N/A	N/A

Hospital education breakdown

Place numbers	Full year funding	Allocation to August 2022	Explanation
1	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	<p>Full year funding: this is calculated by the local authority that previously maintained the provision, based on the agreed number of places you'll provide. The local authority informs the ESFA of the relevant amount.</p> <p>Allocation to August 2022: Total allocation x months open / 12</p>
Hospital education adjusted for 365 days		£10,000.00	Total hospital education allocation, proportioned from the time you open as an academy until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2022.

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)

Start-up grant (SUG) is paid to full sponsored academies only.

Special and alternative provision (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 1, 25% in month 2 and 25% in month 3.

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 general annual grant (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: advice for sponsors](#).

Post-opening grant (POG)

Post-opening grant (POG) is paid to special and AP free schools to reflect the additional costs in establishing a new publicly-funded school. The POG provides funding in 2 elements as the school grows: per pupil resources, paid on a per place basis, and a leadership diseconomies grant. These titles reflect the basis upon 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 agreed on a case-by-case basis with the project lead. It is based on the needs of the new special or AP free school.

Example table B: academic year 2021 to 2022 post-opening grant (start-up grant)

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Line	Type	Value	Calculation	Explanation
1	Start-up grant part A	£0.00	N/A	For academies that opened from April 2013 this is a one-off payment.
2	Start-up grant part B – formulaic allocation	£0.00	N/A	Special and AP academies do not receive start-up grant B.
3	Post-opening grant – per pupil resources	£0.00	N/A	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	N/A	For special and AP free schools this is the total of the diseconomies element of the POG.
5	Total post-opening grant (start-up grant) allocation	£100,000.00	= 1 + 2 + 3+ 4	The sum of SUG or POG elements as applicable.

Funding outside the GAG

The previous sections explain the elements that make up your general annual grant (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 school budget share (SBS)
- [pupil premium](#) - paid in 4 instalments by ESFA. Allocations covering the next financial year have been published
- high needs top-up funding - paid by the local authority where required. In the case of alternative provision (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

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 risk protection arrangement ([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 you will not receive an adjusted allocation statement, but your monthly pay schedule will be reissued.



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