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Guidance

Funding and eligibility for ECF-based training

How DfE funding for training based on the early career framework (ECF) works, also which schools, early career teachers and mentors are eligible for funding.

From: [Department for Education](#)

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Applies to England

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DfE funding for ECF-based training

We support schools with additional funding for ECF-based training. This is paid directly to schools and covers:

- 5% off timetable for early career teachers (ECTs) in year 2 of induction, for induction activities including ECF-based training and mentor sessions

Related content

[Guidance for schools: how to manage ECF-based training](#)

[How the early career framework \(ECF\) supports induction](#)

[Induction, training and support for early career teachers \(ECTs\)](#)

[Appropriate bodies guidance: induction and the early career framework](#)

[Guidance for early career teachers \(ECTs\): ECF-based training](#)

Collection

[Induction, training and support for early career teachers \(ECTs\)](#)

- a dedicated mentor for each ECT, based on 20 hours of mentoring in year 2 of induction

If a school [uses a training provider](#), we also fund:

- training delivered to ECTs by the lead provider or delivery partner, paid directly to lead providers
- training delivered to mentors by the lead provider or delivery partner, paid directly to lead providers
- 36 hours of mentor time off timetable for training over 2 years, paid directly to schools

Schools that are not eligible for funding can arrange an ECF-based training programme directly with a [lead provider](#), but will need to fund the programme themselves.

Year 1 funding for ECF-based training

Schools receive their core funding through the [dedicated schools grant \(DSG\)](#). We calculate this using the [national funding formula \(NFF\)](#). This funding is primarily based on pupil numbers and characteristics and is allocated by the local authority.

Funding is not 'earmarked' for statutory induction. It's up to headteachers to manage the funding they receive.

Headteachers should use core funding to cover the cost of 10% off timetable for ECTs in year 1 of induction.

Year 2 funding for ECF-based training

We pay this funding directly to schools in the summer of year 2. It covers the cost of giving each ECT:

- 5% off timetable in year 2 of induction
- 20 hours of mentor support in year 2 of induction

We calculate funding using the average hourly rate for mentors and early career teachers, split by region.

Year 2 funding	England (excluding the London Area)	Inner London Area	Outer London Area	Fringe Area
Rounded cost per ECT	£1,200	£1,500	£1,400	£1,300
Rounded cost per mentor	£900	£1,100	£1,000	£900
Total	£2,100	£2,600	£2,400	£2,200

We collect data on ECTs and mentors through the school workforce census to minimise the administrative burden on schools.

Backfill payments for mentorship training

Schools using training providers also receive backfill payments to cover 36 hours of time off timetable for training per mentor, over 2 years.

The Department for Education (DfE) makes backfill payments directly to schools.

We calculate this funding using the average hourly rate for mentors, split by region.

Mentor time off timetable for training	England (excluding the London area)	Inner London area	Outer London area	Fringe area
36 hours (2 years of training)	£1,576.10	£1,929.24	£1,737.14	£1,623.24

We collect data on mentors through the school workforce census to minimise the administrative burden on schools.

Proportionate funding

DfE makes proportionate funding payments for ECTs who:

- are on a reduced induction period
- are serving a part-time induction
- move to a new school or withdraw from induction during year 2
- take parental leave

We will identify these ECTs using school workforce census data collections over the period.

Eligibility for funded ECF-based training

Eligible schools

Schools eligible for DfE funding include:

- state-funded schools
- maintained and non-maintained special schools
- independent schools that receive Section 41 funding

Eligible early career teachers (ECTs)

ECTs should be eligible for DfE funding if they both:

- hold qualified teacher status (QTS)
- start their induction on or after 1 September 2021

ECTs with qualified teacher learning and skills status (QTLS) are not eligible for DfE funding, because they are exempt from statutory induction.

How DfE checks the eligibility of ECTs and mentors

If a school uses a training provider or accredited materials, we have to make sure that everyone taking part is eligible for funding and access to materials. We do this by checking ECTs and mentors' details in the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) records.

When school induction tutors register ECTs and mentors with DfE using the [manage training for early career teachers service](#), we:

- send each teacher an email (so it's important the addresses provided are for active email accounts)
- ask them to sign into our service and tell us their teacher reference number (TRN) or National Insurance number, name and date of birth

We check that the ECT:

- holds qualified teacher status (QTS)
- has not completed statutory induction before
- has not started an induction before 1 September 2021
- does not have any prohibitions, sanctions or restrictions on their record

We check that the mentor:

- does not have any prohibitions, sanctions or restrictions on their record
- has not received funded training for ECF-based mentoring before

The school induction tutor can sign in to the [manage training for early career teachers service](#) to see the status of these eligibility checks.

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