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1. Action: spring school census 2017

The [spring school census](#) 2017 begins today (Thursday 19 January). The deadline for approved submissions is Wednesday 15 February 2017. The database will be closed to amendments from schools and local authorities on Wednesday 15 March 2017.

To help you make your returns for the spring school census DfE has produced various guides that are available on the [school census website](#).

2. Reminder: deadline for submission of 2017 to 2018 authority

pro-forma tool

We'd like to remind local authority finance colleagues that the deadline for submitting the 2017 to 2018 authority pro-forma tool (APT) is Friday 20 January 2017.

3. Information: interest-free loans to reduce maintained schools' energy bills

We'd like to remind local authorities that their maintained schools can apply to Salix for [interest-free finance](#). These loans can be used to invest in energy efficiency technologies, such as LED lighting, heating and insulation improvements.

Salix has supported more than 1,400 maintained schools in England to save more than £8.3 million annually and £133 million over the lifetime of the projects.

4. Information: competency framework for governance

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an updated the governance handbook (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>) and a new [competency framework for governance](#).

These outline the 6 key features of effective governance and knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to deliver them.

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