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Education
Funding
Agency

1. Information: high needs strategic planning fund

We've paid the [high needs strategic planning fund](#) of £23 million to local authorities in January 2017. We've made a [benchmarking tool](#) available to compare high needs spending and provision in local authority areas.

We've also published local authority allocations of the £215 million [special provision capital fund](#).

2. Reminder: spring school census 2017 closure

The database for [spring school census 2017](#) will close to amendments from schools and local authorities at 5pm on Wednesday 15 March.

Once you have completed editing your return, you must press the 'submit' button in COLLECT. This will allow the Department for Education to access your return.

3. Information: updated high needs funding operational guide

2017 to 2018

We've updated the [high needs funding operational guide for 2017 to 2018](#).

This version includes:

- a new section with information about the high needs strategic review and planning we expect local authorities to undertake for 2018 to 2019
- information on the funding we are making available to support this work
- links to the recently published [school and early years finance \(England\) regulations 2017](#)
- an update to section 2 on the 2017 to 2018 place change notification process, which has now closed

4. Information: allocation calculation toolkits for schools and academies

We've identified a presentation issue affecting post-16 allocation calculation toolkits (ACT) for schools and academies.

Some records in the 'Aims' sheet of the toolkit have been duplicated. This does not affect any of the funding calculations or the recently issued funding allocations. We expect to re-issue the toolkits affected via EFA Information Exchange by 15 March.

All revised ACT files will be located in EFA Information Exchange. These can be found in the Document Exchange 'revenue funding' folder, under 'AY 2017-18 (2017/18)'. The new file will replace the existing ACT in Document Exchange.

We apologise for any inconvenience this issue may have caused.

If you experience problems accessing EFA Information Exchange, please visit our [support page](#).

5. Information: Spanish visitor teacher programme

Do you want students to learn about authentic Spanish culture? [Register](#) for this unique opportunity to employ an expert teacher in the Spanish language.

6. Information: the Trust Network first national conference

The Trust Network is holding their first national conference. The theme of the event is about managing school buildings and estates. The conference will take place on Wednesday 12 April 2017 and is free of charge. There will be workshops on a range of topics including procurement, estate management skills and energy efficiency.

For further information please visit [the Trust Network first National Conference events page](#).

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