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Education & Skills
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1. Information: risk protection arrangement (RPA) for academies

We've uploaded confirmation documents for the 2017 to 2018 academic year for all existing RPA members and new members that applied on or before 18 August 2017.

To retrieve your RPA documents, log onto [ESFA Information Exchange](#), go to Document Exchange and open the 'Revenue Funding, AY 2017/18' folder. You can read more guidance about [accessing the ESFA Information Exchange](#) on GOV.UK.

You can also access the [RPA welcome pack](#), which list all the relevant RPA contact details and the latest [RPA FAQs](#) on the RPA portal.

We'll send RPA confirmation documents directly to new free schools and academies that applied after 18 August 2017 or with a start date after 1 September 2017.

2. Information: general annual grant payment schedules

We are sorry that there has been a delay in uploading the general annual grant (GAG) payment schedules for 2017 to 2018.

We are in the process of resolving the system issue that has caused the delay, and hope to get the

schedules to you in early September. We will write to you again when they are available on the Document Exchange section of the [ESFA Information Exchange](#). We will upload them to your 'Revenue Funding, AY 2017/18' folder.

This issue does not affect your payment or remittance advice, only the upload of payment schedules.

The first GAG instalments for 2017 to 2018 will still be paid on 1 September (or 8 September for new openers and academies transferring to a new trust), as planned. Your remittance advice could help to provide a piece of the information you might be looking for from your payment schedule.

3. Information: list of approved independent special schools and special post-16 institutions

We have published the latest Secretary of State approved list of [independent special schools in England and Wales and special post-16 institutions](#) that parents and young people can express as a preference when their education, health and care plan (EHCP) is being agreed.

The [application process](#) is annual with the next application window opening on 4 May 2018. We refresh the list termly to reflect continued compliance with the requirements.

Newly established special post-16 institutions or newly registered independent special schools can submit an application as an 'exception' outside of the Section 41 application process timeframe. Please email any enquiries about this to HNSSoS.ESFA@education.gov.uk.

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