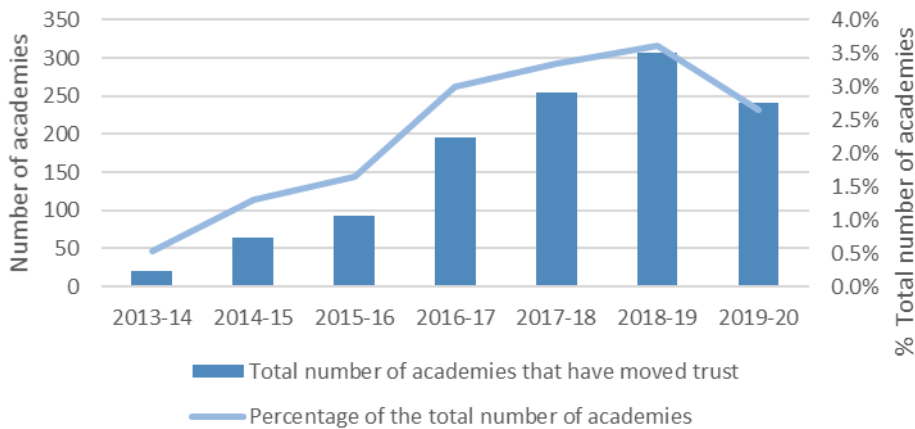




16 July 2020

Total number and proportion of academy transfers

Figure 1: The number and proportion of academies that have moved trust between 2013-14 and 2019-20

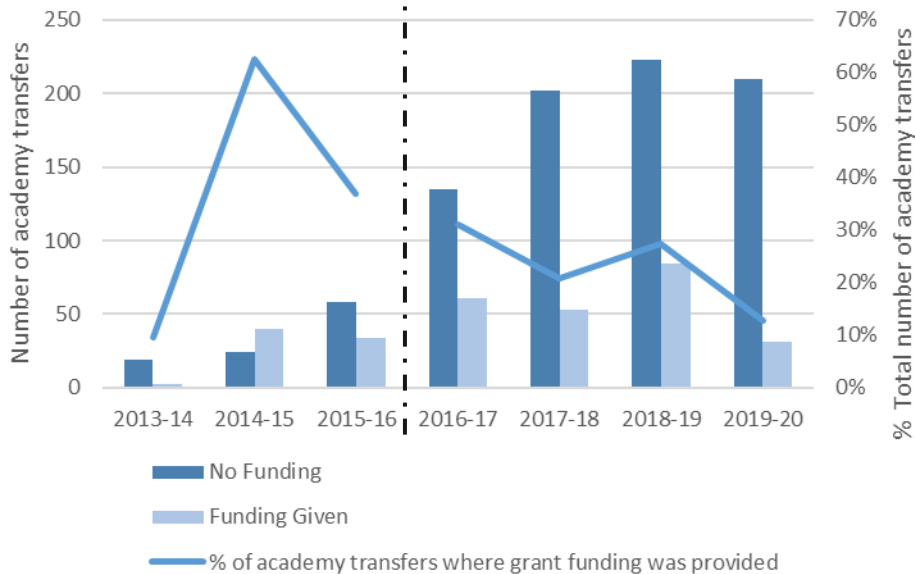


The total number of academy transfers between financial years 2013-14 to 2019-20 was 1,176. The annual number of academy transfers increased year on year from 21 academies transferring trust in 2013-14, to 307 in 2018-19, before decreasing to 241 in 2019-20.

The proportion of academy transfers over this time has increased from 0.5 per cent in 2013-14 to 3.6 per cent of all open academies in England in 2018-19, followed by a decrease to 2.7 per cent in 2019-20

The percentage of academy transfers with grant funding provided

Figure 2: Number of academy transfers by grant funding



Of the 1,176 academy transfers between financial years 2013-14 to 2019-20, 305 (26%) have received grant funding.

The proportion of academy transfers that have received grant funding decreased from 31 per cent in 2016-17 to 13 per cent in 2019-20. Due to a break in the series, these figures cannot be compared to statistics for previous years.

A total of 241 academy transfers took place in financial year 2019-20. 31 of these were provided with grant funding.

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About this release

This statistics publication provides information on the funding associated with the transfer of academies to a different academy trust or sponsor, whether this is initiated voluntarily by the academy or academy trust, or where the Regional School Commissioner has made a decision that this will be the best outcome for the academy.

In this publication

The following tables are included in this publication:

- Academies that have moved trust and grant funding provided (Excel .xls)

Feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at academies.data@education.gov.uk

1. Number of academy transfers

A total of 1,176 academy transfers took place between the seven financial years 2013-14 to 2019-20. Of these, 305 (26%) received grant funding for the transfer.

The number of academy transfers has increased from 21 in financial year 2013-14, to 241 in 2019-20. This represents an increase from 0.5% of all open academies in England in 2013-14, to 2.7% in 2019-20. More detail is available in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of academy transfers between 2013-14 and 2019-20

| Financial year | Number of academies where grant funding was provided | Number of academies where no grant funding was provided | Total number of academies that have moved trust | Percentage of academies where grant funding was provided | Percentage of academies where no grant funding was provided | Number of academies in England as at 31 March | Percentage of academies that moved trust in England |
|----------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 2013-14 | 2 | 19 | 21 | 10% | 90% | 3,908 | 0.5% |
| 2014-15 | 40 | 24 | 64 | 63% | 38% | 4,902 | 1.3% |
| 2015-16 | 34 | 58 | 92 | 37% | 63% | 5,553 | 1.7% |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2016-17 | 61 | 135 | 196 | 31% | 69% | 6,518 | 3.0% |
| 2017-18 | 53 | 202 | 255 | 21% | 79% | 7,613 | 3.3% |
| 2018-19 (r) | 84 | 223 | 307 | 27% | 73% | 8,490 | 3.6% |
| 2019-20 | 31 | 210 | 241 | 13% | 87% | 9,094 | 2.7% |
| Total | 305 | 871 | 1,176 | 26% | 74% | | |

Source: Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Management Information and Regional Delivery Directorate (RDD) Management Information.

(r) figures have been revised from previous publication.

Due to differences in the way data was recorded in legacy systems compared to the current system, the grant funding for financial years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 are not comparable with the grant funding in financial years 2016-2017 to 2019-20. More information is available in the technical information section below.

2. Grant funding provided

In the financial year 2013-14, total grant funding of £566,000 was provided for academy transfers, this increased to over £4.2 million in financial year 2015-16. This increase in grant funding is driven by an increase in the number of academies transferring trust over these years.

In the financial year 2016-17, total grant funding was £8.4 million. This decreased to about £7.6 million in 2017-18. This further decreased to £3.1 million in the financial year 2019-20. The grant funding provided has decreased from 2016-17 to 2019-20 whilst more academies have transferred during those years, due to fewer academies requiring grant funding to complete the transfer. More detail can be found in Table 2 overleaf.

The total grant funding provided to academy transfers in financial years 2016-17 to 2019-20 are not comparable with earlier years due to differences in what it has been possible to include in the total costs compiled (see [Technical Information](#)).

Academies may receive funding for transfer in the financial year that it joins a new trust or in the years pre- or post- a trust move. In this publication we are not including costs paid out to academies in 2019-20 which have not yet joined a new academy trust.

It is not possible to calculate an average payment per financial year as some trusts can receive grant funding for an academy over several years.

Table 2: Grant funding provided to academies when moving trust

| Financial year | Number of academy transfers where grant funding was provided | Grant funding provided in 2013-14 £ | Grant funding provided in 2014-15 £ | Grant funding provided in 2015-16 £ | Grant funding provided in 2016-17 £ | Grant funding provided in 2017-18 £ | Grant funding provided in 2018-19 £ | Grant funding provided in 2019-20 £ | Total grant funding provided £ |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2013-14 | 2 | 74,400 | 121,200 | 271,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 467,300 |
| 2014-15 | 40 | 491,600 | 3,532,500 | 343,800 | 105,100 | 29,500 | 0 | 0 | 4,502,500 |
| 2015-16 | 34 | 0 | 337,400 | 3,627,400 | 801,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,766,700 |
| 2016-17 | 61 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,297,900 | 492,500 | 28,000 | 0 | 6,818,400 |
| 2017-18 (r) | 53 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,195,500 | 5,199,300 | 542,000 | 127,000 | 7,063,800 |
| 2018-19 (r) | 84 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,849,000 | 5,971,300 | 301,200 | 8,121,500 |
| 2019-20 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 282,500 | 2,699,600 | 2,982,100 |
| Total | 305 | 566,000 | 3,991,100 | 4,242,900 | 8,400,400 | 7,570,300 | 6,823,800 | 3,127,800 | 34,722,300 |

Source: Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Management Information and Regional Delivery Directorate (RDD) Management Information.

(r) figures have been revised from previous publication.

Funding figures are calculated using figures that have been rounded to nearest £100. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Due to differences in the way data was recorded in legacy systems compared to the current system, the grant funding for financial years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 are not comparable with the grant funding in financial years 2016-2017 to 2019-20. More information is available in the technical information section below.

3. Reason for Academy Transfers

Out of the 241 academy transfers in 2019-20, 170 (71%) were initiated by the outgoing Trust, 7 were transferred due to sponsor or Trust closure and 64 transfers were due to intervention. Intervention cases may occur following an Ofsted Inadequate judgement, or where there are financial, governance or safeguarding failures.

Table 3: Reasons for Academy Transfers and for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20

| Financial year | Transfer due to Intervention | Transfer Initiated by Trust | Transfer due to sponsor or Trust closure | Total |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------|
| 2017-18 | 61 | 172 | 22 | 255 |
| 2018-19 | 57 | 183 | 67 | 307 |
| 2019-20 | 64 | 170 | 7 | 241 |
| Total | 182 | 525 | 96 | 803 |

4. Accompanying tables

The following table is available in Excel format on the Department's statistics website:

List of all academies transfers during financial years 2013-14 to 2019-20 and how much grant funding was provided to each.

When reviewing the tables, please note that the grant funding figures have been rounded to the nearest £100.

5. Further information is available

| | |
|---|--|
| Academy transfers and funding | An ad-hoc statistical release published on 14 September 2017 providing information on academies that have moved trust during financial years 2013-14 to 2016-17 Ad-hoc statistical release: Academy transfers and funding |
| Open academies and academy projects in development | A list of open academies and academies awaiting approval is published monthly at: Open academies and academies in development |
| Academies annual report | Academies consolidated annual report and accounts: 2017-18 |
| Free schools and successful applications | A list of open free schools and successful applications Open free schools and successful applications |
| Letters to academy trusts about poor performance | Letters issued by RSCs to academy trusts about poor performance Letters to academy trusts on poor performance |
| Academy spending | Schools Financial Benchmarking |
| Academy financial notices | Academies financial notices to improve Academy financial notices |
| Academy Transfers and Funding, Financial Year 2018-19 | The previous year's release of this annual publication Academy Transfers and Funding |

6. Official Statistics

These are Official Statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as Official Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of statistical policies in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

7. Technical information

An academy can change trust arrangements only with the agreement of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) acting on behalf of the Secretary of State (prior to 2014 decisions were taken by the Secretary of State). The academy may apply to do so voluntarily – for example, a single academy trust may apply because it wants to benefit from the greater capacity and school improvement that is offered from being part of a trust that runs more than one academy; or the transfer may be initiated by the RSC because of concerns about the performance of the academy or the academy trust responsible for it.

Not all academy transfers are provided grant funding. Transfer funding can be awarded on educational grounds, based on Ofsted ratings. In addition, since February 2019, academies transferring on governance and financial grounds could receive transfer funding.

The sponsored academy process, which began in the early 2000s, is now well established. The first transfer from one trust to another was carried out in 2012. Much like the early sponsored academies, funding for academy transfers was agreed on a case-by-case basis according to the particular circumstances and needs of the case.

However, as academies moving trust has become more systematically implemented, the process has changed to align more closely with that used for establishing sponsored academies. This includes establishing guidelines for grant funding so that it is applied to academy transfer cases in a similar way to the grant funding that is applied to sponsored academy projects.

These changes were introduced in Autumn 2016.

The indicative grant funding levels are currently: a basic, fast track level (£70,000 primary, £80,000 secondary); an intermediate level (£90,000 primary, £115,000 secondary) and a full level (£110,000 primary, £150,000 secondary). The amounts of the awarded grant are typically offset against any surplus that will transfer with the academy to the incoming sponsor trust. The grants tend to be paid in one instalment rather than claimed annually, however on occasion some transfers will be paid in multiple instalments both before and after the academy is transferred to the incoming academy trust.

From February 2019, if the transfer is on financial or governance grounds then a grant of £25,000 can be considered as a contribution towards the costs of the transfer, such as legal costs.

The data in this release has been compiled by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Regional Delivery Directorate (RDD) within the Department for Education (DfE).

The figures in this publication are derived from the Academies Management Information System, and reflect the operational data that was held on this system as of June 2020. Amendments to this operational Management Information after this date will not be included in this publication. Therefore, revisions may be made to the previous year's figures in future publications, should this operational data change.

Academies will only be listed in this publication if the academy trust transfer has concluded during that financial year which is being reported on (i.e. when a new funding agreement has been issued concluding an academy transfer). Therefore, in cases where trusts receive an advance payment ahead of the transfer concluding, the case will not be listed until it has concluded which could be in the next financial year. Where trusts receive payments over more than one year, the separate payments are shown in each financial year. This can mean that in the future year's publications, revisions to the previous year's figures are highly likely.

Academies operate under a strict system of oversight and accountability and RSCs will require the incoming trust to provide details on how the academy transfer grant will be used and the impact that it is expected to have. They will monitor the academy's performance to ensure the necessary improvements are made and that value for money is achieved.

Academies may receive funding for transfer in the financial year that it joins a new trust or in the years pre- or post- a trust move. In this publication we are not including costs paid out to academies in 2019-20 which have not yet joined a new academy trust.

Following the publication of an ad-hoc statistical release in September 2017, a full data cleanse has been completed on management information relating to academies that have moved academy trust between financial years 2013-14 and 2016-17. Following this, some academies were excluded from the ad-hoc release which have now been included in this release. Therefore numbers of academies moving trust will vary compared to the first publication.

Due to differences in the way data was recorded in legacy systems compared to the current system, the grant funding for financial years 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015- 2016 are not comparable with the grant funding in financial years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-20. The grant funding included for each financial year are set out below:

Financial years 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015- 2016

- Legal costs
- Environmental Improvement Grant
- ICT costs
- Project management support costs
- Financial management support
- Education consultancy costs
- Recruitment / training costs
- School Improvement Grant
- Sponsor Grant
- Staff restructure/redundancy costs

Activities excluded from funding were:

- Deficit payments
- Diseconomies of scale

Financial years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-20

- Leadership support, teaching and learning interventions, curriculum re-design, pupil-focused support, etc
- Staff re-structuring
- Legal services relating to the transfer
- Communications and marketing support, including re-branding
- HR and recruitment services to support any TUPE process and senior leader appointments
- Financial management and advice to establish the AT's finance and management information systems

Activity excluded from funding were:

- Deficit payments
- Diseconomies of scale
- Capital costs eg EIG, ICT hardware, building works
- Statutory redundancies

8. Get in touch

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Other enquiries/feedback

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