

Guidance

Pupil premium: conditions of grant 2020 to 2021

Updated 29 April 2021

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1. Introduction

The Secretary of State for Education lays down the following terms and conditions on which assistance is given in relation to the pupil premium grant (PPG) payable to schools and local authorities for the financial year beginning 1 April 2020.

PPG provides funding for two separate policies:

- raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential
- supporting children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces

2. Rates for eligible pupils

The PPG per-pupil rate for 2020 to 2021 is as follows:

Disadvantaged pupils	Pupil premium per pupil
Pupils in year groups reception to year 6 recorded as Ever 6 free school meals (FSM)	£1,345
Pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM	£955
Looked-after children (LAC) defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority	£2,345
Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order)	£2,345
Service children	Service premium per pupil
Pupils in year groups reception to year 11 recorded as Ever 6 service child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence	£310

3. Eligibility

3.1 Ever 6 free school meals

The pupil premium for 2020 to 2021 will include pupils recorded in the January 2020 school census who have had a recorded period of FSM eligibility since May 2014, as well as those first recorded as eligible at January 2020.

3.2 Children adopted from care or who have left care

The pupil premium for 2020 to 2021 will include pupils recorded in the January 2020 school census and alternative provision census, who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order). These are collectively referred to as post-LAC in these conditions of grant.

3.3 Ever 6 service child

For the purposes of these grant conditions, Ever 6 service child means a pupil recorded in the January 2020 school census who was eligible for the service child premium since the January 2015 census as well as those recorded as a service child for the first time on the January 2020 school census. The grant will be allocated as set out below.

4. Allocations to schools

4.1 Mainstream schools

For the purposes of these conditions of grant, mainstream school means infant, junior, primary, middle, secondary, high schools, all-through, special school and pupil referral units. It does not include general hospital schools or other alternative provision.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will allocate PPG to schools and local authorities (who must allocate for each FTE pupil on the January 2020 school census, at each school they maintain) the following amounts:

- £1,345 per pupil for each Ever 6 FSM FTE pupil aged 4 and over in year groups reception to year 6, except where the pupil is allocated the LAC or post-LAC premium
- £955 per pupil for each Ever 6 FSM FTE in year groups 7 to 11, except where the pupil is allocated the LAC or post-LAC premium
- £2,345 per pupil for each post-LAC in year groups reception to year 11
- £310 for each pupil aged 4 and over in year groups reception to year 11 who is either Ever 6 service child FTE or in receipt of pensions under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS)

PPG will be allocated on the basis of sole and dual main registrations only.

Where national curriculum year groups do not apply to a pupil, the pupil will attract PPG if aged 4 to 15 as recorded in the January 2020 school census.

5. Maintained schools converting to academies

Schools that are academies on 1 April 2020 will receive their PPG directly from ESFA.

Local authorities should pay PPG to schools due to convert to academy status as follows:

Date of conversion to academy	Proportion of PPG paid by local authority
On or by 1 September 2020	Five twelfths of their annual allocation
After 1 September 2020 and on or by 1 January 2021	Nine twelfths of their annual allocation
After 1 January 2021	Their full allocation

We will adjust the local authority's PPG allocation to reflect these conversions, and we will pay the remaining allocation directly to the academy.

Schools federated, or to be federated, under the provisions of section 24 of the Education Act 2002, during the financial year beginning 1 April 2020 shall have grant allocated to them as if they were not federated.

Local authorities must make the grant available to their schools irrespective of any deficit relating to the expenditure of the school's budget share. PPG is not part of schools' budget shares and is not part of the individual schools budget. It is not to be counted for the purpose of calculating the minimum funding guarantee.

6. Terms on which PPG is allocated to schools

The grant may be spent in the following ways:

- for the purposes of the school; that is, for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school
- for the benefit of pupils registered at other maintained schools or academies
- on community facilities; for example, services whose provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of pupils at the school or their families, or people who live or work in the locality in which the school is situated

The grant does not have to be completely spent by schools in the financial year beginning 1 April 2020; some or all of it may be carried forward to future financial years.

7. Pupil numbers used to calculate PPG

ESFA will calculate the allocation using:

- the number of pupils recorded on the January 2020 school census who are Ever 6 FSM (not eligible for the LAC and post-LAC premium)
- post-LAC pupils
- Ever 6 Service child FTE pupils aged 4 and over in year groups reception to year 11

The LAC numbers will be updated in December 2020 as stated below. This means that some schools could see a small reduction in the number of Ever 6 FSM pupils counted for their pupil premium allocation, if the pupil is identified as LAC in the update. In these cases the schools concerned would see a reduction in their pupil premium allocation.

For new schools that opened in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, we will use the October 2020 school census.

If a school opens after the October census, we will use data from the January 2021 school census.

In each case, the allocation will be prorated to the proportion of the 2020 to 2021 financial year that the school is open.

Where a new school is not fully established, and at the start of the autumn term 2020, the school has been open for fewer years than the number of year groups in the school, then the school's allocation will be revised in March 2021.

The revised allocation will apply the rates set out below to the increase in eligible pupils between the January 2020 school census and the October 2020 school census. The increase will be prorated by seven twelfths to reflect that the additional year groups have been in place for seven months of the financial year.

8. New schools and schools that close

New schools that open in the 2020 to 2021 financial year will receive PPG for the proportion of the financial year for which they are open.

If a school closes during the financial year, the local authority should allocate PPG for the proportion of the financial year the school was open.

Where a school receives pupils from schools that close or as a result of school merger, the local authority should allocate the same grant that it would have allocated to the schools that closed or merged for the remainder of the financial year. Local authorities should agree the amount a new school receives from schools that close.

9. Non-mainstream schools

ESFA allocates PPG to general hospital schools for Ever 6 FSM, Ever 6 service child and post-LAC pupils in general hospital schools and alternative provision settings not maintained by the local authority but where the local authority pays full tuition fees. This does not include non-maintained special schools, who will receive PPG direct from ESFA.

Local authorities may allocate PPG to alternative provision settings or use the grant to spend specifically on additional educational support to raise the standard of attainment for the eligible pupils and eligible local children. Local authorities must consult the non-mainstream settings about how local authorities use PPG to support children educated in non-mainstream settings.

For non-mainstream schools that complete the school level annual school census (SLASC), rather than the main school census, pupil premium will be based on the number of FTE pupils recorded as FSM in the January 2020 SLASC.

10. Looked-after children (LAC)

ESFA will allocate to local authorities in June 2020 a provisional amount of £2,345 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2019 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2018.

We will update and finalise this allocation in December 2020 based on the number of children looked after for at least one day during the year ending March 2020, as recorded in the March 2020 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2019. This update may have an impact on some schools' allocations as set out above.

11. Use of the LAC premium

The LAC premium must be managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child, and used without delay for the benefit of the looked-after child's educational needs as described in their personal education plan.

The VSH should ensure there are arrangements in place to discuss how the child will benefit from pupil premium funding with the designated teacher or another member of staff in the child's education setting who best understands their needs. Processes for allocating funds to a child's education setting should be as simple as possible to avoid delay.

Local authorities may not carry forward funding held centrally into the financial year 2021 to 2022. Centrally-held LAC premium that has not been spent, or allocated to the child's education setting, by 31 March 2021 will be recovered.

12. Allocation and payment arrangements

We will confirm PPG allocations in June 2020, once pupil number data from the January 2020 census has been validated and agreed.

We will pay PPG to local authorities in quarterly instalments by:

- 30 June 2020
- 30 September 2020
- 31 December 2020
- 31 March 2021

We will pay PPG to academies and free schools in quarterly instalments on:

- 08 July 2020 - for academies open at 1 April 2020
- 08 October 2020 - for academies open at 1 April 2020
- 11 January 2021 - for academies open at 1 September 2020
- 08 April 2021 - for academies open at 1 January 2021

We will pay PPG to non-maintained special schools in the following months:

- August 2020
- October 2020
- January 2021
- April 2021

13. Certification

Local authorities will be required to certify that they have passed on the correct amount of funding to schools or, where funding has been spent centrally, that it has been spent in line with these conditions of grant. We will issue a certification form in April 2021.

14. Variation

The basis for allocation of grant may be varied by the Secretary of State from those set out above, if so requested by the school or local authority.

15. Overpayments

Any overpayment of PPG shall be repaid by the school or local authority.

16. Further information

Books and other documents and records relating to the recipient's accounts shall be open to inspection by the Secretary of State and by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Comptroller and Auditor General may, under Section 6 of the National Audit Act 1983, carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the recipient has used its resources in discharging its grant-aided activities.

Schools and local authorities shall provide information as may be required by the Secretary of State to determine whether it has complied with these conditions.

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