



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Funding allocation pack: 2017 to 2018 academic year

**A guide for special and alternative
provision free schools opening
between 1 September 2017 and 31
August 2018**

July 2017

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Introduction

This operational guide helps you understand how the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has calculated your 2017 to 2018 academic year funding. We've developed the guide in consultation with a sample of academies and free schools to make sure it better meets your needs.

The guide supports your general annual grant (GAG) statement. This sets out the funding you will receive and how we have calculated it.

How to use the guide

We've produced the guide in a format that allows you to easily access the specific parts that interest you or areas where you require more detailed information.

The subsequent chapters take you through an example funding statement table by table, explaining each line in turn.

We recognise that GAG funding makes up only part of the overall funding for your school. We've added a section to the end of the guide listing the main [non-GAG revenue and capital funding lines](#). This section includes links to information about how and when these are paid.

Who is the guide for?

This guide is for special and alternative provision (AP) free schools opening between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018. Separate guidance is available for [mainstream free schools opening from September 2017](#).

Further information

Additional information about [special free school revenue funding](#) and [alternative provision free school revenue funding](#) is available.

We've also published [high needs funding arrangements](#) for 2017 to 2018.

In addition you can access [online presentations and slide sets](#) about academy funding in the 2017 to 2018 academic year.

The GAG statement explained


The following sections of this guide walk you through the GAG statement for the 2017 to 2018 academic year. Please note that the figures in the sample Tables A and B are intended as an illustration only. They're drawn from a number of different cases to show you as many of the calculation workings as possible, and together they don't represent a single real life free school.

In the unlikely event that your school opens part way through the academic year, your allocation is calculated for the number of days from your date of opening to the 31 August 2018 by applying a pro rata to the full year's allocation. The number of days for which you are funded can be found at the top of each page of your funding statement.

Summary statement

The first page of your GAG statement is a summary of the tables that make up your GAG. The information used to populate the summary table comes from each of the tables in your pack. Section 3 (16 to 19 allocation) will only be populated if your school has a sixth form.

Academic year 2017 to 2018 summary table

 Education & Skills Funding Agency	Academic year 2017 to 2018 General Annual Grant statement Special and Alternative Provision (AP) academies	
Name	Provider name	
LA name	LA name	
LAESTAB	LAEstabNumber	
UPIN	UPIN	
UKPRN	UKPRN	
URN	URN	
Opening date	Date	
Days open	Number of days open in academic year 2017 to 2018	
1. Breakdown of academic year 2017 to 2018 school allocation		
Post-opening grant (start-up grant)	£0.00	See Table B
Total school allocation	£0.00	

2. Breakdown of academic year 2017 to 2018 high needs allocation		
Pre-16 high needs place funding	£0.00	See Table A
Post-16 high needs place funding	£0.00	See Table A
Hospital education funding	£0.00	See Table A
Total high needs allocation	£0.00	(Excludes any top-up funding from LAs and other schools)
3. Breakdown of 16 to 19 allocation		
Programme funding- formula	£0.00	See 16 to 19 allocation statement and associated supporting documents
Formula protection funding	£0.00	
Student financial support funding	£0.00	
Total 16 to 19 allocation including student financial support funding	£0.00	
Total allocation (1+2+3)	£0.00	
Information on funding lines that are in addition to GAG will be provided separately		

Post-16 allocations

Section 3 of the summary table refers to the sixth form funding statement sent to alternative provision free schools. Special free schools with sixth form provision are funded for pre-and post-16 provision on the same place funded basis and do not receive a separate statement. Funding for student financial support will be included in section 3.

Table A: high needs place funding

Local authorities have a role in funding high needs pupils in academies and free schools as a commissioner of special education provision for these pupils. This means that special and alternative provision free schools receive funding for pupils with high needs from both ESFA (place funding) and local authorities (top-up funding). In the case of alternative provision (AP) the top-up funding can also come directly from other schools, where they commission places directly.

In special free schools, high needs place funding for both pre-16 and post-16 special educational needs (SEN) is funded on a per place basis, at £10,000 per place.

Sixth form students in AP free schools are funded using the post -16 national funding formula, the same as their counterparts in mainstream sixth forms. This is because this type of institution is set up to discharge a local authority's duties in relation to children of compulsory school age. There is no equivalent legal duty for post-16 pupils and as such, there is no post-16 alternative provision.

In the 2017 to 2018 academic year we will base your funding on the agreed estimated place numbers in your financial plan for both pre and post-16 students.

Top-up funding above these levels, based on the assessed needs of the pupil and the cost of meeting these in the setting, should be agreed between the commissioning local authority and the special or AP free school. Top-up funding is paid for the period that the pupil is actually occupying the place in the school. It's paid directly to the school on a monthly basis unless a different payment frequency is agreed with the local authority. Top-up funding for pupils in AP can be paid directly by other academies and schools if they commission the places for those pupils. The top-up element is not included in this allocation.

More information on [high needs funding arrangements](#) is available online.

Sample Table A: high needs place funding

The example includes explanations to help you understand your own Table A.

Table A - academic year 2017 to 2018 high needs place funding

Pre-16 breakdown						
Type	Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total pre-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2018 (as total allocation for schools open on 1 September 2017)	Calculation	Explanation
1. Special	30	£10,000.00	£300,000.00	£300,000.00		Place numbers: based on the agreed estimated places in your financial plan Unit value: £10,000
2. Alternative provision	10	£10,000.00	£100,000.00	£100,000.00		Total pre-16 allocation = place numbers x unit value Allocation to August 2018: Total allocation x days open / 365
3.	Pre-16 high needs place funding pro-rata for 365 days 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018			£400,000.00	= (1 + 2)	Total pre-16 allocation (special) + total pre-16 allocation (alternative provision), proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2018. For schools opening on 1 September, this will be the full year's allocation.

Post-16 breakdown				
Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total post-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2018 (as total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2017)	Explanation
29	£10,000.00	£290,000.00	£290,000.00	<p>Place numbers: Based on the agreed estimated places in your financial plan. (Special free schools only)</p> <p>Unit value: £10,000</p> <p>Total post-16 allocation = place numbers x unit value</p> <p>Allocation to August 2018: Total allocation x days open / 365</p>
Total post-16 high needs funding 12 months (01 September 2017 - 31 August 2018)			£290,000.00	Total post-16 allocation, proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2018. For schools opening on 1 September, this will be the full year's allocation.
Hospital education breakdown				
Place numbers	Full year funding	Allocation to August 2018 (as total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2017)	Explanation	
0	£0.00	£0.00	<p>Full year funding This is calculated by the local authority based on the agreed number of places you will provide. The local authority informs ESFA of the relevant amount.</p> <p>Allocation to August 2018: Total allocation x days open / 365</p>	
Hospital education pro-rata for for 12 months, 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018			£0.00	Total hospital education allocation, proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2018. For schools opening on 1 September, this will be the full year's allocation.

Table B: post-opening grant (start-up grant)

Table B will only be included in your 2017 to 2018 funding statement if you are due to receive start-up grant or post-opening grant funding.

Start-up grant (SUG)

SUG is only paid to full sponsored academies. These lines will not therefore be populated in your statement.

Post-opening grant (POG)

POG is paid to special and alternative provision free schools that meet the eligibility criteria. It's funding in addition to the per-pupil funding to reflect the additional essential costs of establishing a brand new school. The post-opening grant is paid in two parts: the per-pupil non-staffing resources element, to cover items such as buying books and equipment; and the leadership diseconomies element, to meet the costs of employing key staff as the school builds up its cohorts over time. Further information about the post-opening grant can be found in the [special free school revenue funding guidance](#) and the [alternative provision free school revenue funding guidance](#).

Sample Table B: academic year 2017 to 2018 post-opening grant (start-up grant)

Table B - academic year 2017 to 2018 post-opening grant (start-up grant)

Line	Value	Calculation	Explanation
1. Start-up grant part A			For academies that opened from April 2013 this is a one-off payment.
2. Start-up grant part B – formulaic allocation			Special and AP academies do not receive start-up grant B.
3. Start-up grant part B – assessment			
4. Post-opening grant – per pupil resources	£60,000.00		For special and AP free schools this is the total of the resource element of the POG.
5. Post-opening grant – leadership diseconomies	£125,000.00		For special and AP free schools this is the total of the leadership diseconomies element of the POG.
6. Total post-opening grant (start-up grant) allocation	£185,000.00	= 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5	The sum of SUG or POG elements as applicable.

Funding outside the GAG

The previous sections explain the elements that make up your GAG funding. As a free school you'll receive other revenue funding that isn't part of your GAG. This might include:

- national non-domestic rates (NNDR): paid on receipt of a claim using an [online form](#) in a single amount outside of the SBS
- [pupil premium](#): paid in four instalments by ESFA
- [PE and sport premium for primary schools](#): paid by ESFA in the autumn term
- [universal infant free school meals](#): paid in two instalments by ESFA to academies with infant classes or pupils of infant age
- high needs top-up funding: paid by the local authority where required; in the case of AP, top-up funding can be paid directly by other schools and academies. Information about 2017 to 2018 [high needs funding arrangements](#) is available.
- funding for commissioned SEN or AP services: paid by local authorities and other schools and academies, usually under a service level agreement or contract, where such services are offered by the academy or free school.

Further information about [revenue funding payments for academies](#) is available.

In addition your free school may receive [capital funding](#) from ESFA.

Risk protection arrangement (RPA)

Special and alternative provision free schools can opt in to the RPA to start at any month up to 1 August 2018. If you have not opened yet any expression of interest to opt in should be made through your DfE lead contact.

If you're a member of [RPA](#) any adjustment made to your funding will be shown on your monthly pay schedule. It is not shown on your GAG statement as it doesn't affect your allocation, but does affect your monthly payments. If you opt into RPA after the allocation was published you will not receive an adjusted GAG statement, but your monthly payment schedule will be reissued.



Education & Skills Funding Agency

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