



Presumption free school grant

Overview

4 September 2018

Local authorities have a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in their area. Where they identify the need for a new school they must seek proposals to establish it through the free school presumption process. This process is separate to the central free school route where applicant groups can apply to the department to open a free school.

The presumption free school grant, announced on 29th May 2018, is a new, one-off basic need grant to contribute towards the capital costs of building new mainstream secondary presumption schools for a specific set of eligible local authorities. The fund totals £50m and will be available to 20 local authorities to opt in to, if these authorities need to open new presumption free schools. Local authorities' eligibility for this fund has been established based on a composite indicator using basic need and a quality metric, i.e. they are expected to have significant basic need coinciding with current low school standards in the same planning area.

The grant will be allocated based on a flat rate per place, adjusted by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) location factors. The final allocation will therefore be dependent on the overall capacity and location of the school, but we expect it to amount to around £3 million for a 900 place school. This grant will be in addition to the local authority's basic need allocation. Local authorities can spend the additional funding on construction or land costs for the new presumption school.

The following list of local authorities are eligible to opt in to this scheme. The eligible local authorities will be sent an information note outlining the process for opting in to receive the grant. Local authorities will not be required (or able) to provide a business case to opt in to this grant.

Barnsley	Northamptonshire
Birmingham	Oldham
Bolton	Rochdale
Buckinghamshire	Salford
Devon	Sandwell

Enfield	Southend on Sea
Leeds	Stockton-on-Tees
Leicester	Telford and Wrekin
Liverpool	Thurrock
Manchester	Wolverhampton

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