



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

**This document has  
been withdrawn as it is  
out of date.**

# **Dedicated schools grant**

**Technical note 2018 to 2019**

**December 2017**

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## Introduction

1. This technical note sets out details of the calculation of dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for 2018 to 2019.
2. The DSG allocations for 2018 to 2019 are comprised of four blocks:
  - schools block; based on the [primary units of funding \(PUF\), and secondary units of funding \(SUF\), published in September 2017](#)
  - central school services block; based on the [units of funding and historic commitments announced in September 2017](#)
  - high needs block; based on the [allocations announced in September 2017](#), with the basic entitlement element updated for the number of pupils in the October 2017 school census
  - early years block; based on the [funding rates announced on 17 November 2017](#), and comprising:
    - funding for the universal 15 hour entitlement for all three- and four-year-olds
    - funding for the additional 15 hours for three- and four-year old children of eligible working parents
    - funding for the 15 hour entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds
    - funding for the early years pupil premium (EYPP)
    - funding for the disability access fund (DAF)
    - supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools
3. We have published a table setting out the 2018 to 2019 DSG allocations for each local authority. This table shows the DSG prior to academies' recoupment from the schools block.

## Calculating 2018 to 2019 DSG

4. Information on the pupil numbers used for the schools block, CSSB, high needs basic entitlement, and early years block can be found in the pupil number tool published alongside this note.

4.1. Each unit of funding is rounded to the nearest penny.

4.2. Final DSG allocations are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

### Schools block

5. The PUF and SUF for each local authority are multiplied by:

- PUF from the October 2017 school census; the number of pupils in reception to year group 6, plus pupils aged 4 to 10, not assigned to a year group
- SUF from the October 2017 school census; the number of pupils in year groups 7 to 11, plus pupils aged 11 to 15, not assigned to a year group

6. Pupils in special units and resource provision are included in the pupil counts above. We count reception pupils as one full time equivalent (FTE) irrespective of the hours they attend. We will not apply a reception uplift to the pupil numbers. Any school that receives funding for the reception uplift in the baseline year will have this funding protected through the funding floor and transitional protection.

7. We then add the [actual 2018 to 2019 funding for the growth, premises and mobility factors](#) (as these are based on historic spend), as published in September 2017.

### Guaranteed minimum amount per pupil

8. Each local authority will receive at least the amount per pupil that they received for their [adjusted schools block baseline for 2017 to 2018](#), as published in July 2017. We have multiplied this per-pupil minimum by the total number of school block pupils from the October 2017 school census to calculate a minimum schools block allocation. Local authorities will receive the greater of the total allocation described above, or the minimum schools block allocation. The allocation for every local authority is greater than the minimum schools block allocation.

### Arrangements for academies recoupment 2018 to 2019

9. We will calculate amounts for recoupment using data provided on the authority proforma tool (APT) submitted in January 2018. The basic method for calculating recoupment will be to take the individual schools budget (ISB) share shown in the APT. We will provide details of the proposed recoupment amount, including relevant

calculations, to local authorities by the end of April 2018. We will publish and issue detailed guidance to all recoupment contacts in January 2018.

## Central school services block (CSSB)

10. For each local authority, we multiply the CSSB units of funding by the number of pupils recorded in the October 2017 school census in reception to year group 11, and those aged 4 to 15, not assigned to a year group. We have added the resulting allocation to the [actual funding for historic commitments published in the NFF summary table](#).

## High needs block

11. The high needs funding block is a single block for local authorities' pupils and students aged 0 to 24, with high needs. The block includes funding for pre-16 and post-16 places in:

- maintained mainstream schools (pre-16 places in special units and resourced provision, and post-16 high needs places<sup>1</sup>)
- maintained special schools (pre-16, and post-16 places<sup>2</sup>)
- pupil referral units (PRUs) (pre-16 places only)
- mainstream academies and free schools (pre-16 places in special units and resourced provision, and post-16 high needs places)
- special academies (pre-16, and post-16 places)
- alternative provision (AP) academies (pre-16 places only)
- further education (FE) institutions and independent learning providers (ILP) (previously known as commercial and charitable providers) (post-16 places only)
- AP free schools (pre-16 places, excluding those at schools opened during the 2017 to 2018 or 2018 to 2019 academic years)

12. The high needs block includes top-up funding for pupils and students occupying the places in institution types listed above. It also includes top-up funding for pupils and students in special post-16 institutions, and non-maintained special schools (NMSS); and all funding for children and young people placed in independent schools, independent AP (unless the places are commissioned directly by schools) and hospital education (including hospital education for individual young people being educated in independent providers). It also includes funding for central high needs services and budgets.

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<sup>1</sup> Post 16-place funding for maintained schools is paid to local authorities via 16-19 funding agreements.

<sup>2</sup> Post 16-place funding for maintained special schools is paid to local authorities via 16-19 funding agreements.

13. High needs places in AP free schools opened during the 2017 to 2018 or 2018 to 2019 academic years and all special free schools are not included in the DSG allocations. We will fund these places directly, without any deductions from local authorities. We will publish a schedule of ESFA funded places in each free school to help inform local authorities' commissioning by the end of March 2017.

## High needs block allocations

14. We have updated the allocations for the basic entitlement element of the high needs national funding formula to use pupil number data from the October 2017 school census. Otherwise, the allocations are the same as those announced in September 2017.

## Import and export adjustments

15. The allocations announced in September 2017 included import and export adjustments to reflect where high needs pupils and students are educated, as explained in the [high needs technical note](#).

16. As part of the import and export adjustment, we treat pupils attending non-maintained special schools (NMSSs) and special post-16 institutions (SPIs) as exports to ESFA, to reflect that funding for these institutions is allocated directly by ESFA. ESFA will continue to directly fund NMSS and SPI places in line with the principles outlined in the [2018 to 2019 high needs operational guide](#).

17. In May 2018, we will update the import and export adjustments to reflect the latest data from the January 2018 school census and the R06 of the 2017 to 2018 ILR, which will include the exports to ESFA for NMSSs and SPIs.

## High needs place funding deductions

18. The high needs deductions section of the DSG allocations table shows the place funding deductions for the final 5 months of academic year 2017 to 2018 for places directly paid for by ESFA to institutions, or through the sixth form grant (the final 4 months for post-16 institutions). These numbers have also been used to give provisional deductions for the first 7 months of academic year 2018 to 2019 (the first 8 months for post-16 institutions). In March 2018, we will update both sets of deductions to reflect further academy conversions. We will also update the deductions for academic year 2018 to 2019 to reflect the outcome of the 2018 to 2019 place change notifications process.

19. Special units and resourced provision are funded on the places reported and agreed through the place change notification process, not on the number of pupils reported on the 2018 to 2019 APT. The pupil data from the APT is only used to identify whether places are occupied by pupils on the school roll funded at £6,000, or funded at £10,000 otherwise. Annex A below shows an example of how a SEN unit or resourced provision will be funded through the DSG blocks and how recoument and place

deductions will be made from the local authority when a maintained school converts to an academy.

20. We are aware that some institutions in different local authorities are merging on an ongoing basis. Where institutions have merged, we will account for this when we make place funding deductions from local authorities from 1 April 2018. In instances where local authorities see an increase in place funding deductions as a result of a merger, the import and export adjustment will normally compensate that local authority for the extra deductions. There may be cases where there is a significant mismatch between the data driving the import and export adjustments and the required deductions, caused by the structural merger rather than a planned change in the number of places, or where the timing of the merger and data collection creates difficulties. ESFA will consider such issues and difficulties on a case by case basis.

21. Where an institution merger occurs after February 2018, we expect that place funding deductions will continue to be made from local authorities on the basis that the institutions remain unmerged for financial year 2018 to 2019. This is because the merger will not have been reflected in the import and export adjustment.

### **Free schools with high needs places**

22. We fund high needs places in mainstream free schools (in special units, resourced provision or sixth forms) on the same basis as places in a mainstream academy, with deductions made from the local authority in which the free school is located.

23. ESFA directly funds places in AP free schools opened during the 2016 to 2017 or 2018 to 2019 academic years, with no deduction from DSG. We will make deductions from DSG for pre-16 places in AP free schools opened before or during the 2015 to 2016 academic year. Deductions are from the pupil's home local authority, based on school census data. We will notify local authorities of these deductions in March 2018. No deductions will be made from local authorities' 2018 to 2019 DSG for post-16 high needs places in AP free schools; these will be funded directly by ESFA.

24. Special free schools' place funding is not included in the DSG high needs allocations for 2018 to 2019, and no deductions will be made from local authorities' 2018 to 2019 DSG for places in these schools.

### **Hospital education**

25. We may make some minor adjustments to the hospital education funding amounts included in the national funding formula allocations based on information submitted by local authorities in the place change notification process in November 2017.

## Early years block

### Funding for the free entitlements and early years pupil premium

26. The following initial allocations of funding have been calculated as set out in the [2018 to 2019 early years technical note](#), published in November 2017:

- universal 15 hour entitlement for three- and four year olds
- additional 15 hours entitlement for three- and four year old children of eligible working parents<sup>3</sup>
- 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged two year olds
- early years pupil premium (EYPP)

27. ESFA will update these allocations in:

- July 2018, based on January 2018 census numbers
- July 2019, based on five twelfths of the January 2018 census numbers (to cover the April 2018 to August 2018 period), and seven twelfths of the January 2019 census numbers (to cover the September 2018 to March 2019 period)

28. This means that the final allocations for each of these four funding streams will be based on  $(5/12 \times \text{January 2018 census numbers}) + (7/12 \times \text{January 2019 census numbers})$ .

### Early years disability access fund (DAF)

29. Initial allocations have been calculated as set out in the 2018 to 2019 [early years technical note](#) published in November 2017.

30. The basis for updating and finalising DAF allocations for 2018 to 2019 will be announced in due course

### Early years supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools

31. The initial allocations have been calculated as set out in the [2018 to 2019 early years technical note](#) published in November 2017.

32. In this calculation, the PTE count of children taking up the universal 15-hour entitlement in maintained nursery school settings (element G within the early years technical note) will be updated in:

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<sup>3</sup> As set out in the EYNFF Technical Note, these allocations are based on PTE estimates as we will not have census data until 2018.

- July 2018, based on January 2018 census numbers
- July 2019, based on five twelfths of the January 2018 census numbers (to cover the April 2018 to August 2018 period), and seven twelfths of the January 2019 census numbers (to cover the September 2018 to March 2019 period)

33. This means that the final amounts used for element G of the calculation will be based on  $(5/12 \times \text{January 2018 census numbers}) + (7/12 \times \text{January 2019 census numbers})$ .

## National copyright licences

34. DfE has agreed with the following agencies to purchase a single national licence managed by DfE for all state funded schools in England:

- Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)
- Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA)
- Education Recording Agency (ERA)
- Filmbank Distributors Ltd. (for the PVSL)
- Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS)
- Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC)
- Newspaper Licensing Authority (NLA)
- Performing Rights Society (PRS)
- Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL)
- Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML)

35. This means that local authorities and schools will no longer need to negotiate individual licences. There will be savings both in administration and in the overall cost of the licence. DfE will pay the cost, including VAT, to the agencies and will provide this as a service to local authorities at a charge. This means that local authorities can continue to reclaim VAT on the licences as they do now. These arrangements will cover academies as well as maintained schools, and we will allow local authorities to hold this money centrally rather than include it in school budgets.

36. We have sent local authorities details of the charge separately (because the figures are commercial in confidence). ESFA will deduct the charge from the DSG and issue each local authority with a VAT invoice.

## **Independent school transfers**

37. Where independent schools transfer into the maintained sector, in or after April 2017, we will adjust the actual pupil count used in the schools block allocations to add the relevant pupil numbers, depending on when the school transfers and the portion of the year for which it is a maintained school. For example, if a school transfers in September 2018, we will increase the schools block by the number of pupils attending the school as recorded on the October 2018 school census multiplied by seven twelfths multiplied by the local authority's PUF or SUF depending on the year groups of the pupils transferred.

## **Funding for the Isles of Scilly and City of London**

38. We will continue to fund The Isles of Scilly and the City of London each through a single grant, since their low pupil populations and other unique characteristics make it impracticable to fund through national funding formulas. In addition, they will receive the pupil premium grant.

## Next steps timetable

Date	Action
19 December 2017	ESFA announce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018 to 2019 schools block</li> <li>• 2018 to 2019 early years block</li> <li>• 2018 to 2019 high needs block</li> <li>• details of the charges for national copyright licences issued to local authorities</li> </ul>
19 January 2018	Local authorities submit final APT for 2018 to 2019
January 2018	ESFA issues 2018 to 2019 recoupment guidance
End February 2018	ESFA issues details of high needs places in free schools
March 2018	Update for recoupment and high needs deductions for academies as at 1 March 2018
May 2018	Updated import and export adjustment for cross border high need places in high needs national funding formula using January 2018 census and R06 ILR 2017 to 2018 data
July 2018	Update for in year recoupment and high needs deductions and early years block updated for data from January 2018 census
July 2018	Deductions made for national copyright licences
November 2018	Update for in year recoupment and high needs deductions
March 2019	Final update for in year recoupment and high needs deductions
July 2019	Early years block funding updated to take account of January 2019 census figures

**Table 1: Next steps timetable**

## **Annex A: funding for SEN units and resourced provision**

The [2018 to 2019 high needs funding operational guide](#) explains the change to the funding of mainstream schools with SEN units or resourced provision. This annex gives further detail, using a single school example, specifically to clarify how recoupment and place deductions will be made from the local authority's DSG blocks when a maintained school with an SEN unit or resourced provision converts to an academy.

The following three scenarios A, B, and C, are based on a mainstream school with:

- a schools block per-pupil amount of £3,945 in 2017 to 2018, and £3,975 in 2018 to 2019
- a SEN unit or resourced provision with 10 high needs places occupied by pupils on the roll of the school
- a total of 100 pupils on roll (including 10 in the SEN unit or resourced provision)

### **Scenario A: school is a maintained for the full financial year**

#### **Financial year 2018 to 2019**

- 100 pupils at £3,975 = £397,500 through the schools block
- 10 high needs places at £6,000 = £60,000 through the high needs block
- £457,500 in total

### **Scenario B: school is an academy, converting before 31 March 2018**

#### **Academic year 2017 to 2018**

- 90 (100 pupils minus 10 high needs places) at £3,945 = £355,050 through the schools block
- 10 high needs places at £10,000 = £100,000 through the high needs block
- £455,050 in total (pro rata to the period of the academic year it converted)

#### **Academic year 2018 to 2019**

- 100 pupils at £3,975 = £397,500 through the schools block
- 10 high needs places at £6,000 = £60,000 through the high needs block
- £457,500 in total

## **Scenario C: school converts to an academy on or after 1 April 2018**

### **Academic year 2017 to 2018**

- 100 pupils at £3,945 = £394,500 through the schools block
- 10 high needs places at £6,000 = £60,000 through the high needs block
- £454,500 in total

### **Academic year 2018 to 2019**

- 100 pupils at £3,975 = £397,500 through the schools block
- 10 high needs places at £6,000 = £60,000 through the high needs block
- £457,500 in total

## **Local authority DSG allocations, recoupment and high need deductions**

For financial year 2018 to 2019, DSG schools block allocations are based on pupils in mainstream maintained schools and academies, including pupils in SEN and resourced provision.

ESFA will recoup from DSG in the case of both schools B and C above:

- 100 pupils at £3,975 = £397,500 from the schools block
- 10 high needs places at £6,000 = £60,000 from the high needs block

The high needs places rate will depend on whether the places are recorded as occupied by pupils on the roll of the school, through the January APT. Other places in SEN and resourced provision will be funded at £10,000 per place and deducted from DSG at that rate.

## Annex B Pupil number information

### Introduction

39. This note provides detail of the pupil number counts which have been used in the calculation of the financial year 2018 to 2019 dedicated schools grant (DSG) allocations for the schools and early years blocks to local authorities.

40. The schools block and central school services block (CSSB) pupil counts are derived primarily from the October 2017 school census. This underpinning dataset is collected in a similar way to the January school census (from which detailed analysis is published as official statistics each summer).

41. Early years blocks block pupil counts are derived primarily from the January 2017 school census and early years census.

42. High needs block basic entitlement allocations are derived from pupil counts data from the October 2017 school census.

### Schools block and CSSB

43. The pupil numbers used in the DSG calculation are those recorded as present in maintained schools and academies in the schools census, from reception (R) to year 11. This also includes pupils in SEN units or resourced provision as these pupils now receive their core element funding through the schools block. Any pupils recorded as year R but who are less than 4 years old are not counted, because funding for these pupils is provided under the early years block.

### Pupil counts

44. The pupil numbers used to determine the 2018 to 2019 schools block allocations are from:

44.1. October 2017 school census:

- all pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools, and academies, which are going through recoupment at census date, in national curriculum year groups R to 11, aged 4 or above at 31 August 2017
- all pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools, and academies, which are going through recoupment at census date, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X', aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2017

45. The number of pupils in SEN units or resourced provision in maintained primary, secondary schools, and academies, is now included in the pupil numbers as they receive their core element funding through the schools block.

46. There will no longer be a reception uplift in the school block pupil counts.

47. All pupils in the schools block are counted as 1.0 FTE regardless of their part-time or full-time status. Every relevant pupil with a sole or dual (main) registration is counted.

48. In a change from previous years, if a duplicate remains unresolved, the 1.0 FTE of that pupil is no longer apportioned for the schools block, and all are counted as 1.0 FTE. This will be reviewed for the 2019 to 2020 allocations.

## Early years block

49. The early years block covers the pupils eligible under the early years national funding formula (EYNFF), covering:

- universal 3- and 4-year-old entitlement
- additional 3- and 4-year-old entitlement for working parents
- EYPP for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds
- any pupils recorded as year R, but who are less than 4 years old

## Pupil counts for three- and four-year-old universal entitlement

50. The EYNFF allocations are calculated using part-time equivalent (PTE) pupil numbers. 1.0 PTE is defined as a child taking up 15 hours per week over 38 weeks. Therefore, a child taking up 30 hours per week is counted as 2.0 PTE.

51. PTE pupil counts from the January 2017 schools, early years and alternative provision censuses are used to calculate universal entitlement funding allocations:

- from the January 2017 schools census:
  - all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2 aged three or four at 31 August 2016, including any 3 years olds recorded as national curriculum year group R
  - all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X' aged three at 31 August 2016
- from the January 2017 early years census:
  - all three- and four-year-old PTEs as at 31 December 2016
- from the January 2017 alternative provision census:

- all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged three at 31 December 2016
- all pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN aged three at 31 August 2016 but four by 31st December 2016

## **Pupil counts for three- and four-year-old additional hours funding**

52. Data on how many three- and four-year-old children are taking up their additional hours entitlement is not yet available from the schools, early years, and alternative provision censuses, as January 2018 will be the first time census data will be collected for children taking up the additional 15 hours for working parents.

53. Therefore, and as for 2017 to 2018, we estimate for each local authority, the number of eligible children who are likely to take up the entitlement (and the hours they will take up).

54. In 2017 to 2018, we assume that 80% of eligible children will have taken up some additional hours provision, and that those children will, on average, take up 12 hours of the available 15 additional hours. For 2018 to 2019, the take-up assumption will increase from 80% to 83%, to reflect the policy becoming more embedded in year 2.

55. This annual estimate is then applied in full as for the EYNFF funding allocations for 2018 to 2019. Local authorities will receive additional hours funding for the whole twelve months of the year.

## **Disability access fund (DAF) allocations**

56. The funding allocation for 2018 to 2019 will be an illustrative allocation based on an estimate of the number of three- and four-year-olds, who are not in reception that are claiming the disability living allowance (DLA).

57. For each local authority, their total February 2017 DLA claimant count of three- and four-year-old children, using data from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), will be adjusted to remove an estimated number of children in reception. This will give an estimate of the number of three- and four-year-olds eligible to take up DAF in the local authority.

## **Early years pupil premium funding allocations (EYPP)**

58. The funding methodology for EYPP remains the same as in 2017 to 2018. The funding allocations for 2018 to 2019 have been calculated based on January 2017 census data on EYPP take-up by eligible three- and four-year-olds.

## Maintained nursery school supplementary funding allocations

59. The 2018 to 2019 allocations use the PTE pupil counts from the January 2017 school census for maintained nursery schools.

## Two-year-old funding allocations

60. The pupil numbers that are used to determine the allocations for two-year-old funding are:

- from the January 2017 school census:
  - all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, in national curriculum year groups N1 and N2, aged 2 at 31 August 2016
  - all PTE pupils in maintained nurseries, maintained schools, and all academies, whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X', aged 2 at 31 August 2016
- from the January 2017 early years census:
  - all eligible two-year-old PTEs at 31 December 2016
- from the January 2017 alternative provision census:
  - all eligible pupils in independent schools without a statement of SEN, aged 2 at 31 December 2016

## High needs block

61. The pupil numbers used to determine the basic entitlement of the 2018 to 2019 high needs block allocations are:

61.1. From the October 2017 school census:

- all pupils in maintained special schools, and special academies (though not special free schools), in national curriculum year groups R to 14, aged 4 or above at 31 August 2017
- all pupils in maintained special schools, and special academies (though not special free schools), whose national curriculum year group is missing or 'X', aged 4 to 18 at 31 August 2017

61.2. From the January 2017 AP census:

- all pupils in independent schools with a SEN or EHC plan, or SEN support, aged 4 to 18 at 31 August 2016

62. All pupils in the high needs block are counted as 1.0 FTE regardless of their part-time or full-time status. Every relevant pupil with a sole or dual (main) registration is counted.

63. We do not fund duplicate unique pupil numbers (UPNs) in the high needs block. We identify potential duplicate UPN cases and ask authorities to resolve them. If a duplicate remains unresolved, the 1.0 FTE of that pupil is equally divided between the local authorities involved; that is, one pupil between two local authorities will result in both authorities receiving a headcount of 0.5.



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