



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Academy general annual grant allocation guide: 2020 to 2021 academic year

**A guide for special and alternative
provision free schools open between 1
September 2020 and 31 August 2021**

June 2020

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Introduction

This operational guide helps you understand how the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has calculated your 2020 to 2021 academic year funding. We have developed the guide in consultation with a sample of academies to make sure it meets your needs.

The guide supports your general annual grant (GAG) statement. It sets out the funding you will receive, how we have calculated it, the factors that have been applied and the source of the data we use. For 2020 to 2021, we have continued to use the national funding formula (NFF) for schools and for high needs, to allocate budgets to local authorities.

It is important to note that the NFF school-level allocations that we published in October 2019 in [spreadsheet format](#) and then in a new [on-line tool](#) in January 2020, were notional allocations only. In 2020 to 2021, local authorities have continued to set a local formula which has determined individual school and academy budgets in their authority. As in previous years, local authorities have submitted this local formula to us so that we can produce and issue academies allocation statements. Your GAG statement reflects the local formula.

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 '[what's new?](#)' section shows at a glance the changes to funding for special and alternative provision academies in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, and where the change is reflected in your GAG statement. 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 academy. The section at the end of the guide lists the main [non-GAG revenue and capital funding lines](#). It 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) special free schools open from 1 September 2020. Separate guidance is available for [mainstream academies and free schools](#).

Further information

Further information about [academy revenue funding allocations](#) is available.

What's new in the 2020 to 2021 academic year?

The changes to funding in 2020 to 2021 are summarised below and you can find more information on the technical aspects of these in subsequent chapters.

Further policy information on [pre-16 schools funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#) is also available. This includes the operational guidance on schools revenue funding which sets out the factors that local authorities can use in their funding formula. We have also published [high needs funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#).

Changes to the funding formula and your GAG statement

What's new?	What does this mean?	How will this be reflected in my GAG statement?
Changes to 16 to 19 funding	The high value courses premium is additional funding to encourage and support delivery of selected level 3 courses in subjects that lead to higher wage returns.	You will see this new line in the 16 to 19 section of the summary table on your statement.

The GAG statement explained

The following sections of this guide walk you through the GAG statement for the 2020 to 2021 academic year. Please note that the figures in the sample tables A and B **are intended as an illustration only.**

Summary statement

The first page of your GAG statement is a summary of the tables that make up the remainder of your GAG. The information used to populate the summary table comes from each of the tables in your statement.

Section 3 (16 to19 allocation) will only be populated if your academy has a sixth form.

Academic year 2020 to 2021 summary table

 Education & Skills Funding Agency	Academy general annual grant allocation statement: 2020 to 2021 academic year Special and alternative provision academies	
Name	Provider name	
LA name	LA name	
LAESTAB	LAEstabNumber	
UPIN	UPIN	
UKPRN	UKPRN	
URN	URN	
Opening date	Date	
1. Breakdown of academic year 2020 to 2021 school allocation		
Post-opening grant (start-up grant)	£0.00	See Table B
Total school allocation	£0.00	
2. Breakdown of academic year 2020 to 2021 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 local authority)
3. Breakdown of 16 to 19 allocation		
Programme funding - formula	£0.00	Please see 16 to 19 allocation statement
Formula protection funding	£0.00	
Student financial support funding	£0.00	
Industry placements funding	£0.00	
Advanced maths premium funding	£0.00	
High value course premium 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 (pupil premium, for example).		

Sixth form funding

On 31 August 2019, the Chancellor announced an [additional £400m](#) for 16 to 19 education for academic year 2020 to 2021. We have published information on [what this means for 16 to 19 revenue funding allocations in 2020 to 2021](#) and will continue to update our [16 to 19 funding allocations](#) page and timeline with further information as it becomes available.

The summary table will present an extract from your 16 to 19 revenue funding allocation statement (which we upload to Document Exchange separately) as shown in section 3 of the sample table above.

Further information about [16 to 19 funding allocations](#) including [information](#) to help you understand your allocation is also available.

Table A: high needs place funding

Local authorities have a role in funding high needs pupils in academies, as a commissioner of special education provision for these pupils. This means that academies 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. More information about the role of the local authority in agreeing and commissioning high needs places is available in [high needs funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#).

High needs funding for both pre-16 and 16 to 19 special educational needs (SEN) is funded on the number of agreed places.

AP (which by definition is pre-16 only) is also funded on a per place basis. 16 to 19 students at AP academies are funded per pupil at the national 16 to 19 funding formula rate. There may also be some 16 to 19 SEN places at AP academies which are funded on a per place basis.

In the 2020 to 2021 academic year, we will roll forward your 2019 to 2020 academic year place numbers and use these to calculate your allocation. The exception to this is where your local authority has requested a change in place numbers which was agreed with you (or accepted by ESFA where there was disagreement). In this instance, we would use this changed figure in your allocation. More information on this process is available in the [high needs place change notification: technical note](#).

Free schools are out of scope of this process. Place numbers for special and AP free schools will be determined by ESFA based on a range of data including the school's financial plan, commissioning arrangements and occupancy levels.

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 academy. Top-up funding is paid for the period that the pupil is actually occupying the place in the academy. It is paid directly to the academy 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. As top-up funding is not paid by ESFA, it is not shown on your GAG funding statement. Read the [high needs funding 2020 to 2021: operational guide](#) for more information on top up funding, including the minimum funding guarantee for special schools at annex 1.

Hospital education places that exist in some academies will be funded at the same rate as in 2019 to 2020, unless the local authority has agreed a higher rate. Pupils occupying these places do not attract top-up funding.

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

Sample Table A: high needs place funding

The example includes explanations to help you understand your own Table A. [Back to summary table](#)

Pre-16 breakdown						
Type	Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total pre-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2021 (as total allocation for schools open on 1 September 2020)	Calculation	Explanation
1. Special	30	£10,000.00	£300,000.00	£300,000.00		<p>Place numbers: based on the agreed estimated places in your financial plan</p> <p>Unit value: £10,000</p> <p>Total pre-16 allocation = place numbers x unit value</p> <p>Allocation to August 2021 Total allocation x days open / 365</p>
2. Alternative provision	10	£10,000.00	£100,000.00	£100,000.00		

3.	Pre-16 high needs place funding pro-rata for 365 days 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021	£400,000.00	= (1 + 2)	Total pre-16 allocation (special) + total pre16 allocation (alternative provision), proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2021. For schools opening on 1 September, this will be the full year's allocation.
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Post-16 breakdown				
Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total post-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2021 (as total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2020)	Explanation
29	£10,000.00	£290,000.00	£290,000.00	<p>Place numbers: Based on the agreed estimated places in your financial plan.</p> <p>Unit value: £10,000 for special free schools £6,000 for AP free schools (SEN places only)</p>

				<p>Total post-16 allocation = place numbers x unit value</p> <p>Allocation to August 2020: Total allocation x months open / 12</p>
Total post-16 high needs funding 12 months (01 September 2020 - 31 August 2021)		£290,000.00	Total post-16 allocation, proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2021 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 2021 (as	Explanation	

		total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2020)	
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 2021: Total allocation x days open / 365</p>
Hospital education pro-rata for 12 months, 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021		£0.00	Total hospital education allocation, proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2021.

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

Table B will only be included in your 2020 to 2021 funding statement if you are due to receive 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 is 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.

The first element (resources) is paid each year that the school builds up to capacity for each new pupil expected to be on roll. This element (resources) is calculated at the time that the financial plan is agreed, prior to opening; the post-opening grant **will not** be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect actual pupil numbers. Once awarded, the post-opening grant will be paid in line with the original financial plan.

The second element (leadership) is paid annually based on the number of year groups that the school will ultimately have that do not yet have pupils. The amount is paid to mainstream schools with pupils aged 5 to 15 each year depending on how many year groups (cohorts) are empty.

Free schools established through the local authority presumption route won't attract POG as the local authority is responsible for the pre-opening development costs and post-opening funding required to address diseconomies of scale until the school reaches full capacity.

Sample Table B: academic year 2020 to 2021 post-opening grant (start-up grant)

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

[Back to summary table](#)

Line	Value	Calculation	Explanation
1. Start-up grant part A	£0.00		For academies that opened from April 2013 this is a one-off payment.
2. Start-up grant part B – formulaic allocation	£0.00		For academies that opened from April 2013 the total part B value will be paid in the first 3 years after opening for secondary and the first 2 years after opening for primary academies.
3. Post-opening grant – per pupil resources	£0.00		For free schools, UTCs and studio schools, this is the total of the resource element of the POG.
4. Post-opening grant – leadership diseconomies	£0.00		For free schools, UTCs and studio schools, this is the total of the diseconomies element of the POG.
5. Total post-opening grant (start-up grant) allocation	£0.00	= 1 + 2 + 3 + 4	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 an academy you will receive other revenue funding that is not part of your GAG. Some non-GAG funding has not been confirmed for 2020 to 2021, this section will be updated as the grants are confirmed. Currently confirmed are:

- [early years funding](#) - paid by the local authority to academies with a nursery class through the early years national funding formula (EYNFF)
- 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. Allocations for the 2020 to 2021 financial year will be published in due course
- 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 the [high needs funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#) is available.
- [teachers' pay grant](#) - further allocations covering the 2020 to 2021 financial year
- [T level funding](#) - for providers selected to deliver T Levels in the 2020 to 2021 academic year
- [teachers' pension employer contribution grant](#) - further allocations covering the 2020 to 2021 financial year

Further information about [revenue funding payments for academies](#), the [growth fund](#) and [falling rolls fund](#) is available.

In addition, your academy may receive [capital funding](#) from ESFA.

Risk protection arrangement (RPA)

If you are a member of [RPA](#) any adjustment made to your funding will be shown on your monthly pay schedule. It is not shown on your allocation statement as it does not affect your allocation, but does affect the amount you will receive on a monthly basis. If you opt into RPA after the allocation was published you will not receive an adjusted allocation statement, but your monthly pay schedule will be reissued. Details of the values for new academies are on the monthly remittance advice notes issued to the academy trust.



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