



Department
for Education

Central school services block national funding formula 2024 to 2025: technical note

July 2023

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Introduction

1. This technical note provides the detailed methodology for the central school services block (CSSB) national funding formula (NFF) that is used to generate the local authority (LA) funding allocations for financial year 2024 to 2025 (denoted “2024-25” for the remainder of this note, with other financial years denoted in similar shorthand).
2. The CSSB covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies in England. CSSB funding is split into two elements: funding for ongoing responsibilities and funding for historic commitments, and LAs’ total CSSB NFF funding is the sum of these two values.
3. The Isles of Scilly and City of London have been excluded from these allocations, as these LAs will receive a central grant from the government which will include funding for central school services.
4. Cumbria split into two LAs (Cumberland, and Westmorland and Furness) in April 2023. The published 2024-25 provisional allocations reflect this split to provide separate allocations for the two new authorities.

Baselines for ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments

5. In December 2022, the ESFA published each LA's 2023-24 DSG allocations, including those for both ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments in the CSSB. These allocations (updated in March 2023) form the 2023-24 LA baselines for the CSSB in 2024-25, which are used to apply year-on-year protections to LAs' 2024-25 CSSB allocations.

Funding for local authority ongoing responsibilities

6. This section explains how each LA's CSSB NFF allocation for ongoing responsibilities has been calculated. The provisional allocations for 2024-25 reflect any protections affecting LAs' funding for ongoing responsibilities, the calculation of which is explained in the final section of this note.
7. The CSSB NFF allocates funding to LAs for ongoing responsibilities using a pupil-led formula. The formula uses three factors: a basic per-pupil factor, through which LAs receive the majority of funding; a deprivation per-pupil factor; and for the 2024-25 CSSB NFF, a copyright licences per pupil factor to fund the additional costs of copyright licences that LAs faced in 2023-24.
8. The pupil counts used to calculate CSSB allocations are LAs' schools block pupil counts, taken from the 2023-24 DSG allocations – that is, pupils in mainstream schools in year groups reception to year 11 inclusive, including pupils occupying places in special educational needs (SEN) units. Detailed guidance on these pupil numbers is given alongside the allocations.

Basic factor funding

9. LAs will receive the majority of their CSSB NFF ongoing responsibilities funding through a basic per-pupil rate. This subsection explains how LAs' allocations, through this factor, have been calculated. This calculation uses, for each LA, a general labour market (GLM) area cost adjustment (ACA). More information about the ACAs, including the ACA figure for each LA, is provided in the ACA technical note, which is published alongside this technical note.
10. Each LA's GLM ACA weighted pupil count is calculated as:
 - the LA's schools block pupil count
 - multiplied by
 - the LA's GLM ACA.
11. The total budget for ongoing responsibilities in 2024-25 is £304m¹. This includes £5.5m to cover the increased costs of copyright licences that LAs faced in 2023-24. The remaining budget is used to fund ongoing responsibilities, with 90% of this forming the budget to be allocated to LAs through the basic per-pupil factor and the remaining 10% allocated through the deprivation factor.
12. The total budget for the basic per-pupil factor is divided by the national GLM ACA weighted pupil count to give the 'national basic per-pupil funding rate pre-ACA'.
13. Each LA's CSSB NFF funding rate for the basic per-pupil factor is this national rate multiplied by the LA's ACA, and their resulting allocation for the basic per-pupil factor is then calculated as:
 - the LA's funding rate for the basic per-pupil factor
 - multiplied by
 - the LA's schools block pupil count as given by the 2024-25 DSG allocations.

Note that for the provisional allocations accompanying this publication, the 2023-24 pupil count that has been used as the 2024-25 count will not be available until

¹ The total budget for ongoing responsibilities and the funding to cover the additional costs for copyright licences are rounded to the nearest £1m and £0.5m respectively.

Autumn 2023.

Deprivation factor funding

14. The remaining 10% of the national budget for ongoing responsibilities (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences) is allocated to LAs through the deprivation factor.
15. This factor uses the proportion of FSM6 pupils in mainstream schools as indicated in LAs' schools block data. For each school in an LA, the primary and secondary FSM6 proportions are multiplied by the primary and secondary schools block pupil counts, respectively, and the results summed across all schools in the LA to derive a total FSM6 pupil count. This LA level FSM6 count is divided by the total pupil count for the LA to produce an LA Level FSM6 proportion. This proportion is then applied to the 2023-24 adjusted schools block pupil count to produce the CSSB FSM6 pupil count. The adjusted schools block pupil counts differ from the initial schools block pupil counts, in that they account for any adjustments made between the October 2022 census, and the March 2023-24 DSG publication.
16. In a similar approach to the basic factor, a GLM ACA weighted CSSB FSM6 count is calculated for each LA. We calculate:

the LA's CSSB FSM6 pupil count (as described above)

multiplied by

the LA's GLM ACA.

17. The total budget for the deprivation factor is then divided by the national GLM ACA weighted FSM6 pupil count: this gives the 'national deprivation funding rate pre-ACA'.
18. Each LA's CSSB NFF funding rate for the deprivation per-pupil factor is this national rate multiplied by their ACA, and their resulting allocation for the deprivation per pupil factor is then calculated as:

the LA's funding rate for the deprivation per pupil factor

multiplied by

the LA's FSM6 pupil count

Protection

19. LAs that are set to face reductions in per-pupil funding for ongoing responsibilities (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences), compared to their 2023-24 baseline, will be protected against large losses year-on-year. This year-on-year protection is paid for by placing a maximum on the year-on-year gains an LA can receive in per-pupil funding. This protection operates on LA's ongoing responsibilities funding rate (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences), that is, their total ongoing responsibilities funding (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences) divided by their 2023-24 DSG allocations pupil count.
20. The maximum per-pupil reduction in funding for ongoing responsibilities (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences) each LA will receive is -2.5%. Permitted gains in per-pupil funding are set at the highest level possible that ensures the total CSSB funding does not exceed the available budget. In 2024-25 LAs will be able to gain a maximum of 5.51% per pupil for ongoing responsibilities (excluding the additional funding for copyright licences). All LAs will attract additional funding per pupil through the copyright licences factor after protections have been applied.

Copyright licences factor funding

21. The £5.5m for the copyright licences factor funding is allocated to LAs based on the additional costs for copyright licences they faced in 2023-24.
22. Each LA's CSSB NFF funding rate for the copyright licences per-pupil factor is the total increased cost to each LA of the copyright licences provided by DfE in the 2023-24 financial year, compared to the 2022-23 financial year, divided by the LA's schools block pupil count as given by the 2024-25 DSG allocations. 2023-24 cost is based on costs for each copyright licence provided by the Copyright Management Organisation (CMO) and the number of pupils in the school census, the independent school census, and the general hospital school census. The 2022-23 cost is also based on pupil numbers from the above censuses for the relevant year and costs for each licence provided by the CMO.
23. The department has made an adjustment to Christian Copyright Licencing International (CCLI) costs that were charged for the 2022-23 financial year due to an administrative error that meant LAs were charged incorrectly for this licence. Annex A shows the 2023-24 total charge for each LA, the corrected 2022-23 total charge, the amount each LA will receive to compensate for this increase, and the amount (if any) that the LA will receive to compensate for overcharge on CCLI in 2022-23. LAs that were undercharged for CCLI will not have funding deducted. This means the total ongoing responsibilities funding that each LA attracts will include the total additional cost for their copyright licences from 2023-24.

Funding for historic commitments

24. In 2024-25, for LAs that receive it, their historic commitments funding will be reduced by 20% compared to their 2023-24 baseline.
25. As in 2023-24, historic commitments funding will be protected from dropping below the total value of ongoing prudential borrowing or termination of employment costs, based on evidence received by the department. The NFF allocations will not include this protection as this will be applied in the 2024-25 DSG published in December 2023.

Annex A: Funding for additional copyright licences costs

26. For the copyright licences factor, the below table provides a breakdown of costs for LAs and compensation funding they will receive due to an error on CCLI.²

LA name	2023-24 copyright licence total	2022-23 copyright licence total	Cost increase in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23	Compensation for overcharging	Total cost funded through the CSSB NFF
Barking and Dagenham	£209,404	£191,652	£17,751	£0	£17,751
Barnet	£335,076	£299,400	£35,676	£0	£35,676
Barnsley	£195,150	£172,737	£22,413	£461	£22,874
Bath and North East Somerset	£172,849	£153,150	£19,700	£3,654	£23,354
Bedford	£168,170	£149,188	£18,983	£1,000	£19,983
Bexley	£232,405	£210,997	£21,408	£0	£21,408
Birmingham	£1,098,164	£988,194	£109,970	£0	£109,970
Blackburn with Darwen	£162,063	£143,903	£18,160	£0	£18,160
Blackpool	£104,433	£93,596	£10,836	£0	£10,836
Bolton	£290,421	£258,359	£32,062	£2,446	£34,508
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	£276,612	£248,730	£27,882	£0	£27,882
Bracknell Forest	£99,192	£89,230	£9,962	£0	£9,962
Bradford	£520,967	£470,734	£50,234	£421	£50,655
Brent	£247,243	£225,623	£21,620	£0	£21,620
Brighton and Hove	£168,593	£153,916	£14,677	£0	£14,677
Bristol, City of	£347,798	£311,336	£36,462	£981	£37,442
Bromley	£284,588	£259,011	£25,577	£0	£25,577
Buckinghamshire	£525,690	£466,371	£59,319	£4,561	£63,880
Bury	£168,789	£150,543	£18,245	£1,943	£20,188
Calderdale	£211,437	£189,848	£21,589	£2,495	£24,084
Cambridgeshire	£544,074	£479,588	£64,486	£2,828	£67,314
Camden	£133,714	£119,925	£13,789	£5,940	£19,729
Central Bedfordshire	£276,319	£243,395	£32,924	£2,362	£35,286
Cheshire East	£335,240	£297,621	£37,620	£2,991	£40,610
Cheshire West and Chester	£319,908	£283,237	£36,671	£5,062	£41,732
Cornwall	£500,379	£436,419	£63,960	£11,418	£75,377
Coventry	£306,680	£275,740	£30,940	£0	£30,940

² All figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest £1.

LA name	2023-24 copyright licence total	2022-23 copyright licence total	Cost increase in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23	Compensation for overcharging	Total cost funded through the CSSB NFF
Croydon	£302,921	£273,161	£29,760	£0	£29,760
Cumberland	£288,931	£249,985	£38,946	£7,299	£46,245
Darlington	£91,043	£81,720	£9,323	£426	£9,749
Derby	£243,232	£216,511	£26,720	£1,312	£28,032
Derbyshire	£744,170	£649,227	£94,943	£14,502	£109,445
Devon	£668,410	£585,953	£82,457	£12,609	£95,065
Doncaster	£271,997	£242,165	£29,832	£2,803	£32,635
Dorset	£316,718	£282,248	£34,470	£4,576	£39,045
Dudley	£253,510	£228,357	£25,153	£0	£25,153
Durham	£486,362	£427,779	£58,583	£4,511	£63,094
Ealing	£274,360	£250,709	£23,651	£0	£23,651
East Riding of Yorkshire	£289,540	£254,984	£34,556	£5,334	£39,890
East Sussex	£397,093	£353,540	£43,553	£0	£43,553
Enfield	£284,012	£262,122	£21,890	£0	£21,890
Essex	£1,260,480	£1,124,011	£136,469	£0	£136,469
Gateshead	£166,292	£147,238	£19,054	£1,029	£20,083
Gloucestershire	£591,193	£520,530	£70,663	£1,418	£72,081
Greenwich	£229,359	£207,876	£21,484	£1,814	£23,297
Hackney	£191,176	£173,104	£18,071	£1,939	£20,011
Halton	£122,114	£107,820	£14,294	£1,387	£15,681
Hammersmith and Fulham	£126,080	£112,599	£13,480	£1,330	£14,810
Hampshire	£1,089,936	£963,033	£126,903	£0	£126,903
Haringey	£202,840	£183,360	£19,480	£0	£19,480
Harrow	£188,016	£172,269	£15,747	£0	£15,747
Hartlepool	£82,794	£74,102	£8,692	£85	£8,777
Havering	£214,651	£192,870	£21,782	£0	£21,782
Herefordshire, County of	£166,654	£144,602	£22,052	£3,617	£25,669
Hertfordshire	£1,177,611	£1,046,493	£131,118	£1,876	£132,994
Hillingdon	£270,114	£246,368	£23,745	£0	£23,745
Hounslow	£229,225	£207,656	£21,569	£0	£21,569
Isle of Wight	£102,061	£91,411	£10,650	£0	£10,650
Islington	£136,292	£121,962	£14,329	£815	£15,144
Kensington and Chelsea	£84,118	£73,542	£10,576	£317	£10,893
Kent	£1,412,502	£1,259,106	£153,395	£0	£153,395
Kingston upon Hull, City of	£228,790	£203,369	£25,421	£668	£26,089
Kingston upon Thames	£142,351	£127,927	£14,425	£0	£14,425
Kirklees	£386,833	£345,404	£41,429	£2,379	£43,808
Knowsley	£119,739	£105,042	£14,698	£949	£15,646
Lambeth	£206,903	£186,817	£20,086	£0	£20,086
Lancashire	£1,150,225	£1,008,657	£141,568	£7,406	£148,974

LA name	2023-24 copyright licence total	2022-23 copyright licence total	Cost increase in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23	Compensation for overcharging	Total cost funded through the CSSB NFF
Leeds	£679,809	£606,594	£73,215	£0	£73,215
Leicester	£295,732	£265,604	£30,128	£0	£30,128
Leicestershire	£604,782	£536,167	£68,614	£1,972	£70,587
Lewisham	£205,687	£187,339	£18,348	£0	£18,348
Lincolnshire	£706,218	£621,652	£84,567	£10,101	£94,668
Liverpool	£413,796	£368,971	£44,824	£2,328	£47,153
Luton	£198,275	£178,082	£20,193	£0	£20,193
Manchester	£463,895	£411,908	£51,987	£1,323	£53,310
Medway	£262,216	£234,388	£27,828	£0	£27,828
Merton	£144,245	£130,975	£13,271	£0	£13,271
Middlesbrough	£131,681	£116,965	£14,716	£377	£15,093
Milton Keynes	£276,294	£245,868	£30,426	£1,334	£31,760
Newcastle upon Tyne	£232,196	£205,274	£26,922	£220	£27,142
Newham	£301,226	£275,649	£25,578	£0	£25,578
Norfolk	£778,769	£681,829	£96,940	£11,677	£108,617
North East Lincolnshire	£135,763	£120,941	£14,822	£0	£14,822
North Lincolnshire	£152,915	£135,783	£17,133	£1,295	£18,427
North Northamptonshire	£321,279	£283,370	£37,910	£0	£37,910
North Somerset	£179,651	£159,452	£20,199	£2,114	£22,313
North Tyneside	£174,442	£156,140	£18,302	£1,167	£19,469
North Yorkshire	£609,385	£530,191	£79,194	£17,101	£96,295
Northumberland	£304,108	£264,528	£39,580	£4,582	£44,162
Nottingham	£253,693	£224,529	£29,164	£0	£29,164
Nottinghamshire	£732,632	£649,115	£83,518	£18	£83,535
Oldham	£245,402	£218,318	£27,084	£2,084	£29,168
Oxfordshire	£610,960	£538,985	£71,975	£0	£71,975
Peterborough	£213,826	£192,219	£21,607	£0	£21,607
Plymouth	£225,977	£202,643	£23,334	£195	£23,529
Portsmouth	£145,637	£129,904	£15,733	£316	£16,049
Reading	£135,405	£119,575	£15,831	£0	£15,831
Redbridge	£281,152	£260,594	£20,558	£0	£20,558
Redcar and Cleveland	£120,052	£107,467	£12,586	£781	£13,366
Richmond upon Thames	£152,262	£137,449	£14,813	£0	£14,813
Rochdale	£202,221	£179,688	£22,533	£1,892	£24,424
Rotherham	£259,744	£231,069	£28,676	£2,258	£30,934
Rutland	£37,789	£33,062	£4,727	£680	£5,408
Salford	£208,600	£183,618	£24,982	£3,343	£28,325
Sandwell	£317,580	£284,836	£32,744	£0	£32,744
Sefton	£227,121	£202,334	£24,787	£1,180	£25,967
Sheffield	£440,978	£396,180	£44,798	£1,221	£46,019
Shropshire	£264,530	£231,072	£33,458	£3,092	£36,550

LA name	2023-24 copyright licence total	2022-23 copyright licence total	Cost increase in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23	Compensation for overcharging	Total cost funded through the CSSB NFF
Slough	£164,146	£148,401	£15,746	£0	£15,746
Solihull	£211,295	£191,588	£19,706	£494	£20,200
Somerset	£479,867	£421,422	£58,444	£6,614	£65,059
South Gloucestershire	£244,868	£217,367	£27,501	£1,301	£28,802
South Tyneside	£130,135	£115,252	£14,883	£679	£15,562
Southampton	£180,174	£160,607	£19,566	£0	£19,566
Southend-on-Sea	£158,594	£144,003	£14,592	£0	£14,592
Southwark	£246,383	£221,223	£25,160	£0	£25,160
St. Helens	£153,014	£137,099	£15,915	£1,296	£17,211
Staffordshire	£785,071	£689,586	£95,485	£11,924	£107,409
Stockport	£240,884	£213,857	£27,027	£3,161	£30,188
Stockton-on-Tees	£173,849	£155,403	£18,446	£926	£19,372
Stoke-on-Trent	£214,446	£192,942	£21,504	£0	£21,504
Suffolk	£632,113	£560,291	£71,821	£9,859	£81,680
Sunderland	£236,354	£210,568	£25,786	£1,594	£27,380
Surrey	£903,027	£807,491	£95,536	£0	£95,536
Sutton	£207,445	£189,054	£18,391	£0	£18,391
Swindon	£198,936	£176,584	£22,352	£1,458	£23,810
Tameside	£208,685	£185,650	£23,036	£3,263	£26,299
Telford and Wrekin	£166,009	£147,112	£18,897	£0	£18,897
Thurrock	£154,175	£137,425	£16,750	£0	£16,750
Torbay	£108,943	£99,120	£9,823	£356	£10,178
Tower Hamlets	£245,191	£222,325	£22,865	£0	£22,865
Trafford	£232,274	£207,752	£24,522	£2,067	£26,589
Wakefield	£301,632	£267,737	£33,895	£948	£34,844
Walsall	£289,248	£259,013	£30,235	£0	£30,235
Waltham Forest	£210,735	£191,412	£19,324	£0	£19,324
Wandsworth	£194,244	£175,577	£18,668	£0	£18,668
Warrington	£187,599	£166,943	£20,657	£874	£21,531
Warwickshire	£527,186	£466,661	£60,525	£0	£60,525
West Berkshire	£168,092	£148,633	£19,459	£778	£20,237
West Northamptonshire	£400,145	£354,894	£45,251	£1,138	£46,389
West Sussex	£662,405	£593,683	£68,722	£0	£68,722
Westminster	£131,343	£117,947	£13,396	£0	£13,396
Westmorland & Furness	£235,777	£203,278	£32,499	£6,852	£39,351
Wigan	£273,926	£244,212	£29,714	£2,984	£32,698
Wiltshire	£457,183	£403,250	£53,933	£6,017	£59,950
Windsor and Maidenhead	£139,527	£124,853	£14,674	£456	£15,130
Wirral	£286,976	£257,584	£29,392	£2,272	£31,664
Wokingham	£164,328	£144,458	£19,869	£751	£20,621
Wolverhampton	£262,902	£232,614	£30,288	£508	£30,796
Worcestershire	£500,125	£443,585	£56,540	£5,372	£61,913

LA name	2023-24 copyright licence total	2022-23 copyright licence total	Cost increase in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23	Compensation for overcharging	Total cost funded through the CSSB NFF
York	£145,959	£132,201	£13,758	£0	£13,758



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