



Academies planning calendar 2025 to 2026

A summary of key dates and actions relating to academy funding, finance and trust compliance with their funding.

September

Trust action

- Academies accounts return online form available **16 September 2025**

Information and published guidance

- Academy trust handbook for 2025 comes into effect
- Land and buildings collection tool guidance and workbook
- Academies accounts return guidance and workbook
- Findings following the 2024 to 2025 assurance work relating to:
 - academy trust financial statements
 - academy funding audits
 - financial management and governance reviews
- Pupil number adjustment (PNA) plans start for the 2024 to 2025 debts

Payment

- Initial teacher training (ITT) general mentor grant
- Early years National Insurance contributions and teachers' pay grant (EY NTPG) - payments made to local authorities to pass on to eligible academies
- Core schools budget grant (CSBG) for special schools and alternative provision (National Insurance contribution element) - payments made to local authorities to pass on to eligible academies

October

Trust action

- Autumn school census day, **2 October 2025**
- Academies can begin consultation on admission arrangements for September 2027 from **1 October 2025**
 - they must publicly consult for a minimum of 6 weeks by **31 January 2026** if proposing changes to their admission arrangements
 - or if they have not consulted in the past 7 years
- Academies in scope submit estimated pupil numbers for 2026 to 2027 academic year
- Academies must return the school census by **29 October 2025**

Information and published guidance

- 16 to 19 revenue funding allocation data for 2025 to 2026
- PNA calculator and guidance notes for 2025 to 2026
- PE and sport premium conditions of grant and allocations for 2025 to 2026 academic year
- High needs place change guidance 2025 to 2026
- Accounts submission coversheet (ASC) online form available to submit audited financial statements, auditors management letter and annual summary internal scrutiny report
- Core schools budget grant (CSBG) allocations for special and alternative provision (AP) schools (including staff pay)
- Schools budget support grant (SBSG) allocations

Payment

- Second quarterly pupil premium for 2025 to 2026
- Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) for newly eligible academies
- National professional qualification – late claim payment
- National Insurance contributions (NICS) grant 2025 to 2026
- CSBG for special and alternative provision (AP) schools (staff pay element) – payments made to local authorities to pass on to eligible schools

November

Trust action

- School workforce census day **6 November 2025**
- Land and buildings collection tool available from **11 November 2025**

Information and published guidance

- Early career teacher entitlement (ECTE) funding allocations for time-off timetable
- Early career training programme for mentors (ECTPM) allocations
- School resource management self-assessment checklist support notes

Payment

- SBSG

For the latest information and actions from DfE about funding, assurance and resource management, [view DfE Update on GOV.UK](#)

December

Trust action

- Academies must return the school workforce census by **5 December 2025**
- Deadline for trusts to submit their 2024 to 2025 audited financial statements, auditor’s management letter, annual summary internal scrutiny report and accounts submission coversheet by **31 December 2025**
- Deadline for land and buildings collection tool submission **16 December 2025**

Announcement

- DfE announces the schools revenue funding settlement for 2026 to 2027

Payment

- Breakfast club early adopters grant - first fixed payment for 2025 to 2026
- ECTE funding
- ECTPM funding

January

Trust action

- Academies accounts return submission deadline **28 January 2026**
- Spring school census day - **15 January 2026**
- Schools resource management self-assessment checklist online form available
- Trusts publish their 2024 to 2025 audited financial statements on their website by **31 January 2026**
- Academies expecting high needs place funding in 2026 to 2027 academic year to check place change published outcomes for use in funding allocations
- Complete consultation on admission arrangements for September 2027 (if required) by **31 January 2026**

Information and published guidance

- Outcomes of requests from local authorities for changes to high needs places for 2026 to 2027 – academies have 2 weeks to submit a query about the outcomes
- Guidance on estimating your funding for April 2026 to March 2027 openers
- Revised general annual grants (GAGs) made available in MYESF for 2025 to 2026 following the early PNA exercise

Payment

- Third quarterly pupil premium for the 2025 to 2026 financial year

February

Trust action

- Academies must submit their spring census return by **11 February 2026**
- Academies must agree their admission arrangements for entry in September 2027 by **28 February 2026**
- Academies must publish their admission appeals timetable for 2027 on their website by **28 February 2026**

Information and published guidance

- 2026 to 2027 general annual grant funding allocations guidance for all academies
- 2026 to 2027 16 to 19 allocation calculation toolkits (ACT), including funding factors and student numbers
- Allocations of mainstream NICs grant for special units or resource provision (SURPs) and new and growing schools

Payment

- Positive early PNA payments made to academies for 2025 to 2026
 - these payments are backdated to September 2025, with the remainder of the uplift profiled over the period from March to August 2025

March

Trust action

- Academies must publish their admission arrangements for entry in September 2027 on their website and send a copy to their local authority by **15 March 2026**
- Deadline for trusts to complete and submit the school resource self-assessment checklist

Information and published guidance

- Academy revenue funding allocations for 2026 to 2027, including 16 to 19 allocations (including student support, 16 to 19 Bursary Fund and free meals in further education) where applicable
- Academies accounts direction, model accounts and framework and guidance for external auditors and reporting accountants for 2025 to 2026
- CSBG updated allocations

Payment

- PE and sport premium for newly eligible academies for 2025 to 2026 financial year
- Mainstream NICs grant for SURPs and new and growing schools
- Updated CSBG for special schools and AP – payments made to local authorities to pass on to eligible academies
- Breakfast club early adopters – second payment for 2025 to 2026 based on numbers attending

April

Information and published guidance

- 16 to 19 funding regulations guidance, funding rates and formula guidance for 2026 to 2027
- 16 to 19 student support eligibility and guidance, including 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guidance
- Guidance and workbook for the budget forecast return
- Provisional allocations of pupil premium for the 2026 to 2027 financial year

Payment

- Final quarterly pupil premium payment for the 2025 to 2026 financial year

May

Trust action

- Summer school census day, **21 May 2025**
- Trusts must submit their audited financial statements to Companies House within 9 months of the end of the accounting period which is **31 May 2026**

Information and published guidance

- Main PNA statements for 2025 to 2026 are issued- this includes outcomes for positive and negative adjustments
- Chart of Accounts 2025 to 2026

Payment

- Mainstream NICs additional payment for April to August 2026

June

Trust action

- Budget forecast return form available
- Academies must submit their summer census return by **17 June 2026**
- Academies agree repayment plans for PNA recoveries for 2025 to 2026

Information and published guidance

- Academy trust handbook 2026
- 16 to 19 sub-contracting controls guidance for 2024 to 2025

July

Information and published guidance

- 16 to 19 interactive census tool

Payment

- Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) -comprising 2025 to 2026 final and 2026 to 2027 provisional payments
- Quarter 1 payment of pupil premium for 2026 to 2027 financial year
- Main PNA positive payments made to academies for 2025 to 2026

August

Trust action

- Complete and submit the budget forecast return
- By **1 August**, academies must inform the local authority whether they intend to:
 - be part of the local authority’s in-year co-ordination scheme for the 2026 to 2027 academic year (if so, they must, by **1 August**, provide the local authority with all the information that the local authority is required to publish on its website, including application forms) or
 - handle their own in-year applications for that period (if so, they must, by **31 August**, publish information about making in-year applications on their website, including any forms that parents need to submit)
- By **8 August**, academies must provide the local authority with information on its admission arrangements for September 2026, to allow the local authority to compile the composite prospectus.