

Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24: Provisional Allocations

Report being considered by: Schools Forum on 5th December 2022

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Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To set out the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2023-24.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the provisional funding allocation for 2023-24.

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?

Yes:

No:

3. Introduction

3.1 The National Funding Formula (NFF) is used by the Department for Education (DfE) to calculate the blocks within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) that will be allocated to local authorities in December 2022.

3.2 The DSG consists of four blocks: Schools, High needs, Central School Services and Early Years.

4. Overall position

4.1 The following table shows the provisional 2023-24 DSG allocation based on the October 2021 census pupil numbers. This will be updated in December 2022 for the October 2022 census.

DSG Allocation	Schools Block (before growth)	High Needs Block	Central Schools Services Block	Early Years Block	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
2022/23	119.19	25.32	0.99	10.02	155.52
2023/24 (provisional)	125.60	27.35	0.97		
<i>Change from last year</i>	6.41	2.03	-0.02		8.41
<i>Percentage change</i>	5.4%	8.0%	-2.3%		11.1%

5. Schools Block

5.1 2023-24 is the first year of the transition to the direct NFF for schools. In 2023-24, local authorities will only be allowed to use NFF factors in their local formulae, and must use all NFF factors. Local authorities will also be required to move their local

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formulae factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2022-23, unless they are already mirroring the NFF.

- 5.2 Nationally, funding through the NFF is increasing by 1.9% overall in 2023-24, and by 1.9% per pupil compared to 2022-23.
- 5.3 The provisional allocation for 2023-24 is shown below before any allocation for growth:

Schools Block	2022/23 Total funding	2023/24		
		Unit of funding	Number of pupils	Total funding
Primary	59,679,321	4,832.32	12,996.00	62,800,794
Secondary	57,946,639	6,034.83	10,142.50	61,208,270
Total before growth allocation	117,625,960			124,009,064
Growth allocation	874,544			
DfE total allocation	118,500,504			124,009,064
Block transfer (22/23 0.25%)	- 300,165			
Total formula funding after NDR allocation	118,200,339			124,009,064

- 5.4 A 2023-24 block transfer would reduce the schools block allocation by:

- (a) 0.25% = £0.314m.
(b) 0.5% = £0.628m.

6. High Needs Block (HNB)

- 6.1 The national increase in high needs funding from 2022-23 to 2023-24 is 6.3%.
- 6.2 The 2023-24 provisional allocation for West Berkshire is £27.35m (2022-23 £25.32m), an increase of £2m from last year (8%).

7. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- 7.1 The CSSB within the DSG provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. This covers Statutory and Regulatory duties, Education Welfare, asset management and other duties such as licences, admissions and servicing of Schools' Forum.
- 7.2 The provisional CSSB DSG funding for 2023-24 is £967k, a reduction of £23k from last year (2.5%).

8. Early Years Block

- 8.1 The new Early Years formula was introduced in 2017-18 with new funding rates to local authorities, and a revised simplified formula for allocating funding to providers was also brought in. All providers are now on the same rates.
- 8.2 Funding for 2023-24 has yet to be announced.