

Dedicated Schools Grant 2024-25: Provisional Allocations

Report being considered by: Schools Forum
On: 4th December 2023
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Item for: Discussion **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To set out the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2024-25.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To note the provisional funding allocation.

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 finalised in December 2023.

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 2024-25 DSG allocation based on the October 2022 census pupil numbers. This will be updated in December 2023 for the October 2023 census.

DSG Provisional Allocation	Schools Block (Including growth) £m	High Needs Block £m	Central Schools Services Block £m	Early Years Block £m	Total £m
2023/24 block funding	127.44	27.39	0.97	10.85	166.65
Mainstream schools additional grant	4.33				4.33
High Needs Additional funding		1.10			1.10
2023/24 total funding	131.77	28.50	0.97	10.85	172.09
2024/25 block funding	134.60	29.11	0.97		164.68
Mainstream schools additional grant					0.00
High Needs Additional funding					0.00
2023/24 total funding	134.60	29.11	0.97	0.00	164.68
<i>Change from last year</i>	<i>2.83</i>	<i>0.61</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>-7.41</i>
<i>Percentage change</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>2.2%</i>	<i>-0.2%</i>		<i>-4.3%</i>

5. Schools Block

- 5.1 2024-25 is the second year of the transition to the direct NFF for schools. In 2024-25, 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 formulae factors 10% closer to the NFF values, compared to where they were in 2023-24, unless they are already mirroring the NFF.
- 5.2 Nationally, funding through the NFF in 2024-25 is increasing by 1.9% per pupil compared to 2023-24. The provisional allocation for 2024-25 is shown below before any allocation for growth:

		2024/25		
Schools Block	2023/24 Total funding	Unit of funding	Number of pupils	Total funding
Primary	62,513,308	5,135.27	12,936.50	66,432,470
Secondary	62,451,438	6,390.70	10,348.50	66,134,125
Premises factor (NNDR)	1,589,347			2,032,395
DfE allocation	126,554,093			134,598,990
Growth	885,348			
Total block allocation	127,439,441			134,598,990
Block transfer	-			-
Total formula funding	127,439,441			134,598,990
NNDR direct allocation	- 1,597,037			- 1,832,054
Total schools block after deductions	125,842,404			132,766,936

- 5.3 A 2024-25 block transfer would reduce the schools block allocation by:

(a) 0.5% = £0.670m.

6. High Needs Block (HNB)

- 6.1 The national increase in high needs funding from 2023-24 to 2024-25 is 4.3%.
- 6.2 The 2024-25 provisional allocation for West Berkshire is £29.11m (2023-24 £27.4m), an increase of £0.6m from last year (2.2%).

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 2024-25 is £970k, a reduction of £2.5k from last year (2%).

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 2024-25 has yet to be announced.