
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2006 No. 468

The School Finance (England) Regulations 2006

PART 3

FORMULAE FOR DETERMINATION OF BUDGET SHARES

CHAPTER 1

factors and criteria taken into account

Pupil numbers

14.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (5), in determining and redetermining budget shares for maintained nursery schools, other primary schools and secondary schools, a local education authority must take into account in their formulae for funding periods 1 and 2 the number of registered pupils at those schools on the dates specified in paragraph (6), weighted, if the authority consider it appropriate, in accordance with paragraph (4).

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the number of registered pupils does not include pupils—

(a) in places—

(i) in maintained nursery schools,

(ii) in other primary or secondary schools which the authority recognise as reserved for children with special educational needs,

(iii) in nursery classes, and

(iv) in boarding accommodation at boarding schools other than special schools where the authority exercise their discretion to take these places into account under regulation 15(1)(b);

(b) in respect of whom grant is payable to the authority by the LSC; or

(c) in infant classes where the authority choose to take the class into account as an additional factor under paragraph 35 of Schedule 4.

(3) Where a local education authority exercise their discretion under regulation 15(1) to take into account places, they may also take into account in their formula the number of registered pupils at the schools, or in the reserved places at primary or secondary schools, referred to in that paragraph, on the dates specified in paragraph (6).

(4) A local education authority may weight pupil numbers according to any or all of the following factors—

(a) age, including weighting according to key stage or year group;

(b) whether the pupil is provided with nursery education by a school;

(c) in the case of pupils aged under five, their exact age when admitted to the school;

(d) in the case of pupils aged under five, whether they have been admitted to the school in excess of the admission number agreed with the authority;

- (e) in the case of pupils aged under five, hours of attendance;
- (f) special educational needs;
- (g) whether the pupil is attending a middle school;
- (h) whether the pupil is at key stage 4, and spends more than half of his time in full time education accessing vocational education either at school or elsewhere;
- (i) whether a pupil at a school is also attending a college of further education or a course delivered by any training provider; and
- (j) whether the pupil is in an infant class (in cases where an infant class is not taken into account as an additional factor under paragraph 35 of Schedule 4).

(5) Subject to paragraph (7), for the purposes of determining budget shares for funding period 2 under regulation 10, a local education authority must estimate the number of pupils they will take into account under paragraph (1) for that funding period.

(6) The dates for ascertaining pupil numbers are—

- (a) 19th January 2006 in respect of funding period 1, and
- (b) 18th January 2007 in respect of funding period 2.

(7) Subject to paragraph (8), where—

- (a) a primary school operates a policy of admitting children into nursery or reception classes in the summer term, and
- (b) will admit pupils into such classes in the summer term immediately after either of the dates specified in paragraph (6)

a local education authority may determine a number representing the number of pupils who will be admitted in that summer term, and take such number into account in their formulae for funding period 1 or 2.

(8) In determining the number of pupils they will take into account under paragraph (7), a local education authority—

- (a) must not determine any number which exceeds the number of pupils admitted in the summer term immediately prior to either of the dates specified in paragraph (6), and
- (b) must make any such determination before the beginning of the funding period during which the pupils will be admitted.

(9) A local education authority may adjust the number of registered pupils used to determine or redetermine a school's budget share where it is appropriate to do so in order to take into account, wholly or partly, the permanent exclusion of a pupil from the school or the admission of a pupil following his permanent exclusion from another school maintained by a local education authority.

Places

15.—(1) In determining and redetermining budget shares for funding periods 1 and 2, a local education authority may take into account the number of places they wish to fund—

- (a) in special schools, or
- (b) in—
 - (i) maintained nursery schools,
 - (ii) primary or secondary schools with places which the authority recognise as reserved for children with special educational needs,
 - (iii) nursery classes, or
 - (iv) schools with boarding accommodation.

(2) In determining and redetermining budget shares for funding periods 1 and 2, a local education authority may take into account the nature of any special educational needs in question when funding places at special schools or places reserved for children with special educational needs in primary and secondary schools.

(3) A local education authority must provide that, if any places are taken into account in accordance with paragraph (1)(a), the number must be no fewer than the number of registered pupils at the school on the relevant date in regulation 14(6).

(4) For the purpose of determining budget shares for funding period 2 under regulation 10, a local education authority must estimate the number of places they will fund under paragraph (1) for that funding period.

Differential funding

16.—(1) For the purpose of initially determining budget shares in respect of funding periods 1 and 2, a local education authority must use factors or criteria which differentiate between different categories or descriptions of schools in so far as the functions of the governing bodies of those schools justify such differentiation, but may not otherwise do so except as required or expressly permitted by these Regulations.

(2) A local education authority must use factors or criteria which differentiate between a school and other schools of the same category or description if such differentiation is justified by reference to the choice that that school's governing body have made as to the inclusion in their school's budget share of funding in respect of expenditure of the kinds referred to in paragraph 15(a) and (b) (meals), 26 (insurance) or 28 (library services) of Schedule 2.

(3) A local education authority are not required to use factors or criteria in their formulae which differentiate between maintained nursery schools, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, or schools whose pupils are in different age ranges, but they may do so.

Additional factors or criteria

17.—(1) Subject to regulation 16 (differential funding), a local education authority may, in determining budget shares in respect of funding periods 1 and 2, take into account in their formulae any or all of the factors or criteria set out in Schedule 4.

(2) A local education authority must, in determining budget shares for both primary and secondary schools which they maintain, take into account in their formulae a factor or factors based on the incidence of social deprivation among pupils registered at all such schools if they have no factor elsewhere in their formulae which is based on such incidence.

(3) A factor included in an authority's formula pursuant to paragraph 17 of Schedule 4 (school milk, meals and refreshment) is not, for the purpose of paragraph (2), a factor based on the incidence of social deprivation among pupils registered at a school.

(4) The factors and criteria set out in Schedule 4 may not be taken into account by a local education authority on the basis of actual or estimated cost unless otherwise stated in that Schedule.

(5) Where a local education authority take new factors or criteria into account in their formula or delete factors from their formula or determine a formula substantially or wholly different from the previous year, they may make such transitional provision as they consider reasonable.

Minimum funding guarantee

18.—(1) Subject to regulation 25 (additional arrangements), in determining and redetermining budget shares for all schools maintained by them in respect of funding periods 1 and 2, a local education authority must ensure—

- (a) in respect of primary (other than maintained nursery schools) and secondary schools, that an amount equal to the guaranteed funding level is included for each of those funding periods, calculated in accordance with paragraphs 1–4 of Schedule 5;
 - (b) in respect of special schools, that the formula must provide for an increase in those schools' budget shares for each of those funding periods, calculated in accordance with paragraph 5 of Schedule 5; and
 - (c) in respect of maintained nursery schools either—
 - (i) that an amount equal to the guaranteed funding level is included for each of those funding periods, calculated in accordance with paragraphs 1–4 of Schedule 5, or
 - (ii) that the formula must provide for an increase in those schools' budget shares for each of those funding periods, calculated in accordance with paragraph 5 of that Schedule as if every reference to a special school were a reference to a maintained nursery school, save that the figure of 4% must be used instead of the figure of 3.4% where it occurs in paragraph 5 of that Schedule.
- (2) For the purposes of determining budget shares in respect of funding periods 1 and 2, paragraph (1) does not apply to any school opening during either funding period save in the circumstances set out in paragraph 4 of Schedule 5.
- (3) For the purpose of determining budget shares for funding period 2 under regulation 10, a local education authority must apply the relevant provisions in Schedule 5 using estimates of—
- (a) the number of registered pupils in schools funded on the basis of pupil numbers in accordance with regulation 14(5), or
 - (b) the number of places they will fund in accordance with regulation 15(4).

Sixth form funding

19.—(1) A local education authority must include in a secondary school's budget share for funding periods 1 and 2 an amount equal to any sum notified to the local education authority by the LSC as being the allocation in respect of that school's sixth form⁽¹⁾.

(2) A local education authority may, in determining budget shares, use a factor which allocates funding in respect of sixth forms.

(3) A local education authority may, in determining budget shares for schools with sixth forms, reduce the amount payable to each such school under their formula by a sum representing any element which has been duplicated in the LSC's allocation.

(4) A secondary school's budget share for funding periods 1 and 2 must be redetermined before the end of the relevant funding period where the authority receive a written notification from the LSC of a revised allocation in respect of the sum referred to in paragraph (1).

New, reorganised and closing schools

20.—(1) A local education authority must include factors or criteria in their formulae which enable them to determine a school's budget share for funding periods 1 and 2 so as to take into account the particular needs of that school in the following cases—

- (a) a proposed school;
- (b) a school, proposals for the establishment of which have not been fully implemented⁽²⁾;

(1) The authority's funding in respect of sixth forms is paid by the LSC in the form of a grant under section 7 of the 2000 Act. Section 7 was amended by section 215(1) of, and paragraph 124(1) and (2) of Schedule 21 to, the 2002 Act, and section 117 of, and paragraph 12 of Schedule 18 to, the 2005 Act.

(2) Proposals for the establishment of a school may be published under section 28 or 31 of, paragraph 5 of Schedule 7 to, the 1998 Act, section 113A of and Schedule 7A to the 2000 Act or section 70 of the 2002 Act. Section 113A and Schedule 7A

- (c) a school which is the subject of a prescribed alteration⁽³⁾;
- (d) a school which is to be discontinued;
- (e) a school which is to be the subject of a significant change, as determined by the authority.

(2) In the case of schools falling within sub-paragraph (1)(a), the authority must, in any funding period preceding the funding period in which the school first admits pupils, determine the amount of the budget as an amount which is sufficient to fund the appointment of staff, and purchase any services and goods necessary to enable the school to admit pupils.

(3) In the case of schools falling within sub-paragraph (1)(c), such factors or criteria may only be used within seven years of the date of implementation of the relevant change to the school.

(4) For the purposes of these Regulations, proposals for the establishment of a school have been fully implemented when the number of pupils admitted to the school in each age group has, in the opinion of the local education authority, reached—

- (a) the number of pupils indicated, when proposals for the establishment of the school were published, as the number of pupils to be admitted to each age group when the proposals were fully implemented; or
- (b) if no such number was indicated, such number as the authority may determine.

were inserted by section 72 of, and Schedule 9 to, the 2002 Act. Section 70 of the 2002 Act is prospectively repealed by section 123 of, and Schedule 19 to, the 2005 Act.

(3) A prescribed alteration is an alteration prescribed by regulations made under section 28(1)(b) or (2)(b) of the 1998 Act.