



Schools forum powers and responsibilities 2015 to 2016

A summary of the powers and responsibilities of schools forums.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Contracts (where the LA is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	Proposes at least one month prior to invitation to tender, the terms of any proposed contract	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None
Financial issues relating to: • arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and	Consults annually	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None

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the arrangements for paying top-up funding; • arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding; • arrangements for early years provision; • administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants			
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval
De-delegation for mainstream schools for: • contingencies • administration of free school meals • insurance • licences/subscriptions • staff costs – supply cover • support for minority ethnic • pupils/underachieving groups • behaviour support services • library and museum services	Proposes	Primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

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Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from: - growth fund (to meet requirements for basic need including pre-opening and diseconomy of scale costs) - falling rolls fund for surplus places in good or outstanding schools where a population bulge is expected in 2-3 years	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on: - equal pay back-pay - places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils - early years expenditure	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on: - admissions - servicing of schools forum	Proposes up to the value committed in 2014-15	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Central spend on: - capital expenditure funded from revenue - contribution to combined budgets - schools budget centrally funded termination of employment costs	Proposes up to the value committed in 2014-15 and where expenditure has already been committed.	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

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- schools budget funded prudential borrowing costs - special education needs transport costs			
Central spend on: - licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State - children and young people with high needs	Decides	None, but good practice to inform forum	None
Carry forward a deficit on central expenditure to the next year to be funded from the schools budget	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Scheme of financial management changes	Proposes and consults the governing body and Head of every school	Approves (schools members only)	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Membership: length of office of members	Decides	None (but good practice would suggest that they gave a view)	None
Voting procedures	None	Determine voting procedures	None
Chair of schools forum	Facilitates	Elects (<i>may not be an elected member of the Council or officer</i>)	None