

Education Improvement Grant (EIG)

2017-18

Draft Welsh Government Terms and Conditions & Frequently Asked Questions



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1.1 Aim of the Funding

The award of funding letter outlines the specific aims of the Education Improvement Grant (EIG):

To improve educational outcomes for all learners and reduce the impact of deprivation on learner outcomes by:

- » improving the quality of teaching and learning;
- » addressing learners' barriers to learning and improving inclusion;
- » improving the leadership of educational settings; and
- » improving the provision for learners and the engagement of learners.

In keeping with our shared ambition and Welsh Government policies, improvements for learners in all language settings will support the development of a bi-lingual Wales. This includes capacity building and increasing the number of learners with higher-level Welsh language skills.

Strategic Context

The Funding will support the strategic objectives identified in Qualified for Life:

- i. An excellent professional workforce with strong pedagogy based on an understanding of what works
- ii. A curriculum which is engaging and attractive to young people and which develops within them the ability to independently apply knowledge and skills
- iii. Qualifications which young people achieve that are nationally and internationally respected and act as a credible passport to their future learning and employment
- iv. Leaders of education at every level working together in a self-improving system, providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools

Qualified for Life seeks to ensure that all learners benefit from excellent teaching and learning. These strategic objectives support our priorities of:

- v. Improving literacy
- vi. Improving numeracy
- vii. Breaking the link between disadvantage and educational attainment

Further to this, outcomes must:

- » encompass all learners;

- » encompass learners in all language settings;
- » encompass those belonging to recognised groups of learners where under attainment is a significant concern, such as eFSM children, minority ethnic groups or gypsy traveller children; and
- » address the priorities of literacy, numeracy and breaking the link’.

In addition, the Welsh Government have outlined specific requirements relating to a number of areas covered by the grant (14-19 Learning Pathways, Induction, Welsh in Education, Foundation Phase & HLTA support).

1.2 School Development Plans

Individual school-level grant spending plans will no longer be required.

Schools will use their School Improvement Plans to iterate how they will use their Funding to achieve their outcomes. Further guidance can be found in the document ‘Guidance to Support School Improvement Planning’.

Consortia Challenge Advisers (including Schools Challenge Cymru Advisers) will provide support and challenge to schools to ensure their school improvement plans appropriately reflect their improvement journey and expected outcomes in line with the grant terms and conditions and approved business plans.

1.3 Statutory Responsibilities and Measures

The Education Improvement Grant includes funding to support schools in undertaking certain elements of their statutory duties. A brief summary of these requirements are set out below:

14-19 – Learner Support

Part 3 of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 provides for secondary schools and FE colleges to provide, secure the provision of, and participate in the provision of learner support services – to encourage, enable or assist young people (directly or indirectly) to:

- » Participate effectively in education and training
- » Take advantage of opportunities for employment; or
- » Participate effectively and responsibly in the life or their Communities

Learner support services include personal support, careers advice and guidance and learning coaching.

Induction

Supporting the statutory induction of newly qualified teachers (NQTs) as set out in the Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, working in partnership with the Welsh Government, the Education Workforce Council, external mentors and schools to ensure that all NQTs (full time, part time and short term supply) are provided with the highest quality induction experience.

Foundation Phase element

A number of prescribed activities in the previous Foundation Phase Grant remain within the new Education Improvement Grant for Schools for 2017-18. This will be reviewed for future years. The Grant will be used to undertake the following tasks:

- i. the employment of classroom assistants (including payment for supply cover for training purposes) to work towards or to achieve the Foundation Phase ratios of 1:8 for 3 to 5 year-olds and 1:15 for 5 to 7-year-olds.
- ii. The grant will cover the cost of employing Foundation Phase Training and Support Officers to manage and deliver training programmes and provide support to Foundation Phase practitioners across the consortium including funded non-maintained settings.
- iii. The Grant will be used to provide all funded non-maintained settings with at least 10% of a qualified teacher's time to improve the quality of education provision in all of those settings.

Currently, we do not have the final terms and conditions for 2017-18. If there are any subsequent changes to these conditions, we will update this guidance and communicate this to schools.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Why has the funding structure changed?

On the 8th October 2014 the Welsh Government published its provisional Local Government Settlement for 2015/16. This included the announcement that 11 individual education grants would be combined into a single funding stream from 2015/16 onwards.

Why has my funding been reduced?

At the same time there was the announcement of a 10% cut to EIG. In 2016/17 there was a 5% cut, followed by a further cut of 0.62% in 2017/18.

Has there been an increase in the delegation to schools?

As a result of the additional flexibility within the grant, the consortium has worked to increase the delegation rate to schools. As a result overall 92% of the grant continues to be delegated to schools. This is above the Welsh Government target of 80%.

How long will the protection mechanism be in the place?

When a regional formula for the EIG was developed in 2014/15, in order to protect schools from turbulence, a protection mechanism was introduced.

Protection has been relaxed in 2017/18 and so schools will see a change in allocations.

No school across the Consortium region will see an increase of more than 15% to previous allocations, but at the same time, no school will see a reduction in allocations of more than 32%.

2017/18 is the final year of protection.

What are the aims of the grant?

'To improve educational outcomes for all learners and reduce the impact of deprivation on learner outcomes by:

- » improving the quality of teaching and learning;
- » addressing learners' barriers to learning and improving inclusion;
- » improving the leadership of educational settings; and
- » improving the provision for learners and the engagement of learners.

In keeping with our shared ambition and Welsh Government policies, improvements for learners in all

language settings will support the development of a bi-lingual Wales. This includes capacity building and increasing the number of learners with higher-level Welsh language skills’.

What strategic objectives will the grant support?

- i. The funding will support the strategic objectives identified in Qualified for Life:
- ii. An excellent professional workforce with strong pedagogy based on an understanding of what works
- iii. A curriculum which is engaging and attractive to young people and which develops within them the ability to independently apply knowledge and skills
- iv. Qualifications which young people achieve that are nationally and internationally respected and act as a credible passport to their future learning and employment
- v. Leaders of education at every level working together in a self-improving system, providing mutual support and challenge to raise standards in all schools

Qualified for Life seeks to ensure that all learners benefit from excellent teaching and learning. These strategic objectives support our priorities of:

- i. Improving literacy
- ii. Improving numeracy
- iii. Breaking the link between disadvantage and educational attainment

What outcomes will the school be measured upon?

For each strategic objective local authorities and consortia will develop a range of measureable outcomes which will need to be agreed with and subsequently reported on to Welsh Government.

Further, these measurable outcomes must:

- » encompass all learners;
- » encompass learners in all language settings;
- » encompass those belonging to recognised groups of learners where under attainment is a significant concern, such as eFSM children, minority ethnic groups or Gypsy Traveller children; and
- » address the priorities of literacy, numeracy and breaking the link.

Will the overall figure for EIG have to be allocated against literacy, numeracy, Welsh in education etc in the school improvement plan, as in previous years?

Schools will not be required to classify spend in relation to the Purposes of the Grant. It is for individual headteachers in consultation with their challenge adviser to determine how much and on which priority area they wish to spend the grant. Details must be incorporated into the school improvement plan.

Will we have to report on individual spends within the EIG?

Where applicable, schools will only be required to report on the Foundation Phase element as an individual priority.

Will I have to produce a separate costed annual plan?

No. The school improvement plan will contain a breakdown of the EIG. However as outlined in the guidance, a summary of how the school budget supports the SIP including the deployment of EIG/PDG should be included.

Will the consortium provide a template for the SIP?

The consortium will work with schools to determine a standardised template. Schools are not expected to use this template however.

Foundation Phase

Will I receive a separate allocation to meet the required ratios within Foundation Phase?

No, the allocation of funding will be left to each headteacher to determine. They must however be mindful of the requirements within the grant terms and conditions that schools should work towards achieving the recommended ratios.

Will training continue to be provided by the Consortium?

Support for the Foundation Phase will be provided by the Foundation Phase Alliance Schools.

Will I be able to claim supply cover costs for Foundation Phase courses?

No. Schools have received this element within their allocation for EIG

Non-Maintained Foundation Phase Settings

Will I be able to access central courses free of charge and be reimbursed for my supply cover?

No. All Local authorities (except Bridgend) have received delegated funding to provide training for all non-maintained settings.

Support for Bridgend non-maintained settings will be provided by the Consortium until 31.8.17.

Will I receive 10% of a qualified teacher's time from the consortium?

Local Authorities have received delegated funding to support their non-maintained settings. Bridgend schools will continue to receive their 10% qualified teacher time from the Consortia for the Summer Term 2017.

Welsh in Education

What Welsh language training is available?

Schools can access short programmes for improving aspects of oracy, reading and writing in Welsh Second Language by referring to Cronfa (www.cscjes-cronfa.co.uk).

14-19 Learning Pathways

How has this funding being distributed?

Funding for 14-19 is now included within the EIG allocation for secondary schools.

Local Authorities continue to retain a small amount for the co-ordination/procurement of places Learning Coaches are provided centrally in Bridgend and Cardiff.

MEAG

Is the funding for MEAG going to the LAs for distribution or will it be allocated directly to schools?

The funding has been delegated to individual LAs and the mechanism for the distribution of this element of the grant will be determined at local authority level.