

SUMMARY OF SCHEME CHANGES

This note outlines and explains the changes to the DfE guidance on local authority schemes for financing schools, effective from 1 April 2013. Updated detailed guidance is now available on the DfE website at:

[Finance Regulations and legal framework - The Department for Education](#)

Changes from the previous version, published in December 2010, are underlined within the detailed guidance. In making any changes to their schemes, local authorities must consult all schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools.

The changes are set out below. References are to the section number in the previous guidance. There are also some minor amendments to the wording intended to provide additional clarity.

Directed revisions already announced:

- 2.4 Remove requirement for schools to submit a statement of Best value with their budget plan and replace with directed text relating to efficiency and value for money
- 2.16 Remove requirement for Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) and replace with directed text for Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)
- 2.17 New section regarding fraud
- 6.3 Remove requirement for payments to General Teaching Council (GTC- abolished from 1st April 2012)
- Annex B Amended and additional text relating to redundancy and early retirement costs of community facilities staff

Revisions in respect of new funding arrangements from 1st April 2013

- Introduction Updated reference to regulations
- 1.2.1 Confirmation that legislation has already been amended to put maintained Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in coverage
- 1.4 Only schools forum members representing maintained schools should now approve scheme changes
- 2.13 Updated references to legislation
- Section 3 Clarification that place-led funding is included in arrangements for payments by instalment
- 3.1 Clarification that top up payments should be made monthly unless otherwise agreed
- 4.7 Funding to support schools in financial difficulty can only come from a de-delegated contingency for mainstream schools, or a central budget for special schools and PRUs.
- 5.5 Clarification around bought in meals service, not centrally retained
- Section 6 Clarification that schools forum can agree dedelegation

- 6.2.15 Amended wording in relation to charging the school budget share if appropriate support has not been made for a HN pupil
- 8.1 Restriction to existing commitments for redundancy / PRC payments and removal of reference to non-provision of LA services where funding has been provided to some schools only
- 11.7 Deletion of references to optional delegated funding
- 12.4 Removal of provision for LAs to retain centrally money for R&M of school kitchens where funding for school meals has not been delegated
- Annex A Clarification that school detail budgets are no longer included in S251 collection
- Annex B Restriction of termination of employment costs funded from central schools budget to value of previous year and existing commitments; clarity that contingency for schools in financial difficulty will need to be de-delegated