

MEETING	SCHOOLS FINANCE FORUM
DATE	25 June 2013
TITLE	School Grants 2013/14
PURPOSE	To explain the arrangements and the delegated funding of grant resources and the required accountability
RECOMMENDATION	To approve the allocations and the working plans
AUTHOR	Dewi R Jones, Head of Education
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Councillor Sian Gwenllian

All schools will receive full details of their SEG, PDG and WG allocation, and detailed directions for financial planning/monitoring proforma between the 1-5 of July. See Appendix 1 for allocation details.

School Effectiveness Grant (SEG)

All Local Authorities are expected to delegate at least 75% of the SEG this year, with the expectation of increasing this further next year. A summary of the WG guidance on the SEG has been presented in GYDCA, GCSU and full headteachers' meetings, and draft details of the allocation to schools was shared at these meetings.

Clear instructions have been received by WG about the expectations on schools to target funding to tackle Literacy, Numeracy and Reducing the Effects of Deprivation. Schools are expected to claim the grant according to WG guidance and the demands of the statutory framework for Literacy and Numeracy from September 2013, and the guidance offered by the Sutton Trust.

Expectations have also been heightened regarding schools' accountability this year. As Cynnal no longer administers the INSET programme for schools, nor allocates 'credits' for primary and special schools for CPD, the grant has been allocated to all sectors according to a new formula based on the following: number of pupils(60%), number of staff (20%) percentage of pupils e-FSM (20%).

National guidance for SEG, PDG and WG demands that all schools must present a Spending and Strategy Plan devised according to the North Wales Consortium agreement. The plan should include details of planned spending according to national priorities (Literacy, numeracy and reducing the Effects of Deprivation).

Outcomes for pupils and costs must be clearly noted. All schools will be required to present evidence of their spending in order to claim the grant from the LA. Schools and LAs are required to present financial reports three times a year To the Consortium based on these plans. In addition to this schools are required to present evidence of the 'effect' of any plans on pupil outcomes and attainment e.g. tracking improvements in reading/numeracy.

Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)

The Pupil Deprivation Grant is allocated 100% to schools based upon £450 per capita for every FSM pupil registered during the PLASC census in January 2012. Some schools will have no PDG allocation whilst other schools may have substantial sums allocated to them. In all cases the grant must be used for the direct benefit of the pupils identified as FSM, and according to the demands of the guidance issued by WG for the SEG. Improving parental engagement with education is an additional area of priority identified for the PDG.

A number of Gwynedd schools that are located within Communities First areas have collaborated to present a joint bid for matched funding from WG to finance specific activities which encourage parental participation in their children's education, for example facilitating successful transitions between sectors, empowering parents to support their children's education. Confirmation of the success of this bid is expected during the summer.

The requirement for detailed financial planning and tracking pupil outcomes are similar to the demands of the SEG. Schools will be expected to present spending plans and progress reports on the same format (and the same form) as the SEG Financial and Outcomes Plan.

Pupil Deprivation Grant – Looked After Children (LAC)

An additional allocation of £450 per pupil will be offered to schools according to the LAC (Looked after Child) data. Schools are expected to justify their spending according to the demands of the guidance presented for SEG and PDG funding.

Welsh in Education Grant

The Welsh in Education grant will be delegated according to the priorities of the strategic plan for Welsh. Spending will be targeted mainly through the successful Language Unit provision for latecomers, the 'immersion' schemes for pupils at secondary transition age and the catchment area language co-ordinator posts.

Grant for Band 4/5 schools

£10,000 is allocated to the five schools in Gwynedd that are within the 4/5 band range, for the purpose of raising standards. Four secondary schools are within the band 4 range with one school within the band 5 range.