

# Your guide to how SEN funding is calculated and allocated

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**The new funding structure for pupils with SEN in mainstream schools is now in place. How does it work? How, for instance, do schools secure the right budget to deliver high-impact outcomes and value for money?**

With the Institute of Fiscal Studies outlining in recent reports the significant cost pressures on school spending until 2020, school business managers and special needs co-ordinators (Sencos) will have a hard fight to secure the funding needed for SEN pupils.

Creating a simpler, fairer and transparent system was a coalition aim and an intention of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms brought in from last September. Underpinned by the legislation in the Children and Families Act 2014, the new

SEND code of practice emphasises "person-centred approaches" – with education, health and care plans (EHC plans) up to the age of 25 replacing statements of SEN for those aged up to 18.

SEN consultant Anita Devi (pictured) believes the reforms and the funding changes dovetail to reflect a significantly more joined-up approach. Speaking at a recent Optimus Education seminar, she outlined how SEN funding for mainstream schools is worked out from the dedicated schools grant (DSG), the core of funding given to local authorities (LAs).



## 3 ELEMENTS OF MAINSTREAM SEN FUNDING

NOTIONAL SEN AND DEPRIVATION FUNDING

**1 BASIC PER-PUPIL ENTITLEMENT (I.E. SCHOOL PLACE)**

**2 HIGH-NEED, LOW INCIDENCE SEN (TOP UP FUNDING FOR SUPPORT NEEDS ABOVE £6,000)**

**3 HALI**

SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL NEEDS UP TO £6,000

+

**5% OF AGE WEIGHTED PUPIL UNIT**

+

**FREE SCHOOL MEAL FUNDING**

+

**IDACI (INCOME DEPRIVATION AFFECTING CHILDREN INDEX)**

+

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

+

**EAL (ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE)**

+

**LOW PRIOR ATTAINMENT**

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