Exceptional Pupil Growth Funding - Existing Schools

This is allocated where schools are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need and are strategically planned by the Local Authority. This is determined by the criteria below. Schools who meet all three criteria will qualify for additional pupil growth funding:

Firstly:- Where the Local Authority agree one of the following with the school to meet basic need: increase planned admission numbers; provide an extra class or extend its age range.

Secondly: An increase in the number of notional classes. Measured by dividing the October pupil numbers, both preceding and during the financial year, by 30 pupils. The second criterion is met if the latter creates a higher number of classes.

Thirdly: - An increase in pupils of more than 2%. Measured by the increase in pupils between the October pupil counts preceding and during the financial year. The third criterion is met if the increase exceeds 2% when expressed as a % of the pupils as at October preceding the financial year.

Any resulting allocation will be calculated by multiplying the increase in pupils over the 2% trigger by 7/12ths of the average AWPU rate for the phase to reflect the period September to March. For maintained schools the AWPU rate will be adjusted by deducting the value of the AWPU de-delegations. Additional pupil growth funding will be adjusted to reflect SEN.

Pupil Growth funding will be time limited to a maximum of the relevant years applicable to the school setting or until the school reaches its capacity if earlier.

This funding will be cash limited if the demand exceeds the funding available.

Exceptional Pupil Growth Funding – New Schools

That one off pre-opening set up costs, for schools that are required to meet basic need and have been strategically planned by the LA, is allocated on the basis of the details below:

Pre-Opening

The actual funding provided to new schools will be determined on a case by case basis and will take into account the local context and potential impact on the sustainability of other schools. One off pre-opening set up costs, will be allocated on the basis of the details below:

- A Headteacher at an appropriate scale point as laid out in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions document for the planned size of the school for the agreed period of time prior to opening.
- Administration support on an appropriate grade for a comparable school of equal size for the period of time equal to that of the Headteacher.
- Initial office equipment, premises and consumables to cover temporary office costs in the period before the school opens.

There is no fixed period prior to opening, that these arrangements need to be in place for, but 5 months is considered as the minimum.
Post Opening

In the first year, the delegated budget share, for the period of the financial year open, will be based on estimated pupil numbers with social deprivation and SEN data based on the average of up to three schools of the same phase with demographic characteristics similar to those expected for the new school.

SEN data will continue to be based on this methodology for the first three financial years that the school is open.

Estimated pupil numbers will be used for new schools and schools which have opened in the last seven years and do not yet have pupils in every year to which the school can admit.

- An allocation will be made from the exceptional pupil growth fund to reflect the pattern of pupil growth only seen in new schools. The allocation will be calculated on the difference between the estimated pupil numbers used in the delegated budget share* and the actual pupil numbers, as at January during the financial year, rounded up to the nearest multiple of 30 pupils. This number will be multiplied by the appropriate AWPU value and the appropriate number of months with an adjustment for SEN and social deprivation funding.

- Post opening funding will be time limited to a maximum of 5 years from opening for primary schools and 3 years for secondary on the presumption the school will have a clear plan to operate at the planned admissions number and so by this time the school will be viable through the usual funding mechanisms. This will encourage efficient deployment and allocation of resources as the school grows and will protect the growth fund against long term, non-sustainable commitments where demographic change falls short of expectations.

- In the instance where a school is expanding to the extent that it could be viewed as a new school, as it is on a separate site, the school will be considered as eligible for the new school post opening element of the exceptional pupil growth policy.

*The estimated pupil numbers will need to be verified with the General Annual Grant (GAG) Statement for the school. Any difference in pupil numbers will need to be queried with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and adjusted as appropriate.

Funding for qualifying measures in order to meet Infant Class Size Legislation

The Strategic Schools Forum have a small contingency to support schools where the appointment of an additional teacher is required in order to meet infant class size legislation at no fault of the school, or due to the perverse decision of an appeals panel following an LA presented case. The funding will provide resources to the school to employ an additional teacher and therefore meet the infant class size requirements. It is not, however, a long term allocation and will only be available to the school while pupil numbers still require qualifying measures to be taken.

Teachers, funded from this source, should be appointed on a temporary contract for the maximum of one year, renewable on a termly basis (3 term).