This bulletin is intended for colleges, schools and other providers. You can read other articles for academies in the full version of the e-bulletin on our website.

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In July this year, we published the results of a consultation on options for significant changes to the way 16-19 education and training is funded. We are now publishing an update. The Update on 16-19 Funding Formula 2013/14 will be available on the same page shortly.

The new formula requires fewer items of data. We have instigated a major review of how the formula will be evidenced and assured. We will issue an interim statement on evidential requirements by the end of the year. We will provide full details within the Funding Guidance in March, prior to enrolments in September.

Minister for Skills Matthew Hancock MP has agreed proposals that give opportunity for FE colleges to legally recruit and enrol 14 and 15 years olds into their institutions.

Speaking at the Association of Colleges conference on 22 November, he said plans are being developed for FE colleges wishing directly to recruit pupils aged 14 and 15 to be directly funded.

The Minister subsequently agreed that the 16-19 funding methodology will be applied to 14-16 funding for pupils aged 14 and 15 who enrol directly with an FE college on a full time basis.

You can get more information about this from slides used at the AoC Conference workshop.

The third ‘window’ for applications to the zero-funded gateway will be open on the contracts finder website between 7-31 January. This is for applicants wishing to deliver education and training for the EFA. Guidance and documentation about the gateway is available.

If you are applying, you must remember that your proposed learning programmes must meet the new Study Programmes for 16-19 year olds requirements. Sub-contracting is not permitted during the zero funded period of delivery. When evaluating applications we will score the extent to which the application meets the programme of study requirements.

The EFA has now established how it will incorporate institutions entering the market via the zero-funded route once the zero funded period has concluded, and subject to acceptable performance.
The funding arrangements start with three principles:

1. We will not make any payments for provision until it has received at least one validated ILR return.
2. The maximum period that any provider should be ‘zero funded’ is twelve months.
3. All providers entering the market through this route should fit into the EFA standard funding and business cycle as soon as is practicable.

Further detail on the funding arrangements is available on our website.

The fourth window for applications to the gateway runs from 1-26 April 2013. In view of the cycle set out above, successful applicants will be expected to commence delivery no earlier than August 2013. They will become eligible for funding in August 2014.

Applications to the gateway through the third and fourth windows will include an additional questionnaire. This will ask applicants to assess their own facilities as a check that the proposed premises for delivery are of an acceptable standard.

Update: High Needs Students - extended deadline for LAs to check data

We will shortly be sending letters to local authorities to provide you with your student numbers by provider.

You will be asked to review these numbers and sign them off by 7 January 2013.

After this date, any requests for changes to this data should be raised through email requests to the EFA territorial email addresses.

At the end of January, we will issue student number statements and guidance to providers. Summaries outlining the volume of places with providers in each local authority area will be shared with local authorities.

Information: ILR reconciliation statements

We will send ILR providers subject to reconciliation their funding reconciliation statement in the week commencing 17 December. We will do this through the IM Portal.

The statement will follow receipt of individual final funding claims and final ILR R15 2011/12 data returns.

These statements confirm the reconciliation values for both clawback and responsive growth.

Where providers have no Skills Funding Agency adult skills budget, learners aged under 19 at the start of their programme and who were 19 on the 31 August 2011 of the funding year 2011/12 will count for 16-19 funding under the reconciliation process. This has been agreed with the Skills Funding Agency.
This single 2011/12 concession will not be applied to learners aged 19 on 31 August 2012 of the funding year 2012/13 who remain the funding responsibility of the SFA.

In January, those ILR providers who are not subject to reconciliation in 2011/12 (generally those with a grant-in-aid contract) will receive their funding out-turn statements through the IM Portal. This will be following receipt of individual final funding claims and final IRL R15 2011/12 data returns. The EFA has issued confirmation of allocations to known financial statement audit firms to assist in sign off of college financial accounts for 2011/12.

**Action: Download your 2011/12 documents**

The Information Management Portal (IMP) is our website for exchanging documents with education providers including academies.

You can access your latest EFA documents using IMP, however we will remove out of date documents regularly.

Our first clear-out of old documents (such as funding documents for 2011/12) will happen on 14 December 2012. If you would like keep any old EFA documents for your records, please ensure that you have downloaded them by this time.

If you cannot remember your password, contact your 16-19 territorial team.

**Information: NUT and NASUWT industrial action**

The Secretary of State for Education has written to all schools – both maintained and academies – to give them Government advice on dealing with the NUT and NASUWT’s current “work to rule” industrial action in their schools. You can access his letter and the accompanying Department for Education advice on our website.

**Information: 16-19 accountability: inspection and minimum standards**

The Department for Education has set out new accountability arrangements for 16-19 education and training. These explain how education under-performance will be identified through Ofsted inspection and an interim national minimum standard.
Information: The Dux Awards 2013

On 11 December, the Minister of State for Schools wrote to all maintained secondary schools announcing the continuation of the Dux Awards Scheme. The scheme provides the opportunity for schools to celebrate success and reward and develop high performance in year 9.

The scheme aims to promote excellence and to help raise aspirations of all pupils to go on to university, including the top higher education institutions. Schools are invited to nominate one top performer in year 9 as their Dux (Latin for leader or champion). How the Dux is chosen is left up to individual schools. The reward for the pupil you nominate is a visit to a Russell Group University, with the visits taking place during June and July of this year.

You can find out more about the scheme, feedback from pupils who attended in 2012 and how to take part on our website. You are invited to revisit the web pages between 28 January and 8 February 2013 to register the name of your Dux award winner.

If you have any queries about the Dux Award Scheme please visit the website or call 020 8481 3317.

Information: 2012 Key Stage 4 unvalidated interactive data now available

The RAISE newsletter contains information in relation to 2012 Key Stage 4 unvalidated data release.

It includes

- changes implemented within RAISEonline reports
- updates to RAISEonline summary report; how to view and print the 2012 summary report
- Key Stage 4 checking exercise and changes to RAISEonline data
- accessing RAISEonline
- where to get further information