

Funding for Home Educators in England

In principle there is no funding for home education and no money to support home educating families. Local authorities may have between 6 and 600+ home educated children 'on their books' i.e., children who are known to the authority, usually because they have been taken out of school. The job of overseeing home education may be a full-time or part-time post or may simply be passed to someone who is already working in Education Welfare, Alternative Provision, Special Needs or Traveller Education Services. In some areas the job of overseeing home education may be carried out on a contract basis by a retired teacher, who will be paid for each assessment or inspection. Local authorities do not receive any funding for home education services.

Funding for college and special needs (England)

On June 17th 2010 the Department for Education made the following announcement: 'Funding may be available where a local authority provides significant financial support for a home educated young person in two specific circumstances. These are, first, where the young person has SEN and secondly where the young person attends further education college to take GCSEs or other courses. Where significant financial support is being provided, the LA can claim funding from the Department through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).'

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/homeeducationsen>

10% of per pupil Schools Grant for GCSEs?

During 2009-10, before the General Election, the Government claimed that the January 2011 funding guidance would show that local authorities could claim 10% of the Dedicated Schools Grant via Alternative Provision where local authorities funded GCSEs for home educated young people. It remains to be seen whether this will materialise, given the massive cuts to the education budget.

Feedback from home educating families would suggest that local authorities are not willing to risk a financial outlay on college fees and are highly sceptical that the money will be refunded by central Government. It is not common for local authorities to pay for services to home educated children with special needs. A small number of local authorities have been able to offer a place for home educated young people to take exams, using a Pupil Referral Unit or Hospital Education facility. In a few other cases it has been possible for home educators to sit exams at a local school as private candidates.

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