



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 30th June 2020

Title: Post-19 Students - Change to School Funding Regulations for Post-19 Students

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Recommendations: Schools Forum is asked to support the application to the DfE to vary the Schools Funding rules to enable continued support of post-19 students in special schools as a result of Covid-19

Reason for decision: to enable application to the Secretary of State to disapply the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations

1. Content of report

- 1.1 Due to the impact of COVID-19, there are a number of students, specifically within our special school community for whom requests are coming in to continue to spend additional time Post-19 in their school. This is because the usual transition work either into employment or their next placement has not occurred, and this has been assessed by the school as having a potential significant impact on this young person’s individual outcomes.
- 1.2 Applications from local authorities for a relaxation of the normal rules for continuing financial support to schools of all kinds for students aged 19 and over will be considered under the established ESFA process, if students need to remain on the roll of the school to complete their supported internship in the new academic year. This will involve the LA making a general application to disapply the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations, by continuing to educate young people for specifically defined periods of time post-19. To make this application, the LA needs to consult with Schools Forum and a vote taken to agree this decision in principle. We expect this to affect less than 10 students from the information provided to us so far.

- 1.3 The financial impact of these changes will be determined when the final number of students is confirmed with schools and will be an additional cost to the high need block. Schools Forum agreement is required in order to make the application to Secretary of State to enable continued funding of these pupils within their special school settings.
- 1.4 Further guidance has also now been issued by the government in relation to the potential extension of supported internships. Where the core aim of a student's supported internship has not been met due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19), students will be able to complete their internship in the next academic year. Each student should be assessed to determine the necessary duration of this extension, and an appropriate planned number of hours agreed. Supported internship providers will need to enrol the young person onto a new study programme, but it is not envisaged that all students will require a further full year programme. The new study programme will be funded through the usual funding routes. The normal ESFA processes will be followed and payments will be issued through the usual lagged funding system – therefore affecting the allocations under the 16 to 19 funding formula to be issued for the academic year 2021 to 2022. In addition, all providers should continue to record their school census and ILR data and ESFA will take into consideration in-year growth calculations and any adjustments in the normal way. This will need further exploration by the LA as to the number of placements that this could affect and where this would need employment, however we are seeking an agreement in principle to proceed with these from Schools Forum as well.