



## Guide to Post-16 Funding for Learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

### Summer 2023 Revision

This briefing is designed as a quick summary guide to commonly used funding arrangements for SEND learners in the post-16 sector. Further reading to understand the processes and rates that are applicable at any given time is strongly recommended, and some useful links are provided throughout.

Please note that the information is **not** comprehensive, and is **not** intended to replace guidance and supporting information published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) which must in all cases of dispute take precedence over the information supplied below. Although AELP has taken every care to ensure the information given in this Briefing Paper is accurate, we do not accept responsibility for any actions or omissions resulting from its use.

### Apprenticeships

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apprenticeship-funding-rules>

Please note that you will need to use the rules relating to the funding year in which the apprentice started, rather than just the latest set.

Learning support is available to meet the costs of putting in place a reasonable adjustment for apprentices with a learning difficulty or disability where this affects their ability to continue and complete their apprenticeship, including costs associated with meeting any identified needs in end point assessment. Learning support can only be claimed when required in any given month.

Support is available to those who have self-declared disabilities or learning difficulties, and those who do not have a diagnosis but whom the main provider has assessed as having a learning need. Learning support must not be used to deal with everyday difficulties not directly associated with an apprenticeship. Where support is required that is not solely required to complete the apprenticeship, "[Access to Work](#)" funding should be considered.

As a provider, you must:

- As part of the initial assessment undertake a screening exercise for learning support (this is an eligible cost).
- Consider if you need to undertake a further detailed assessment to identify whether an apprentice has a learning difficulty or disability that directly impacts their ability to complete the apprenticeship on which they are enrolled (the additional assessment is an ineligible cost), deliver that support and review progress and continuing needs on a monthly basis.
- record and gather appropriate evidence to this end
- report in the ILR that an apprentice has a learning support need and what it is

Learning support is fixed at a monthly rate of £150 when reported in the ILR for the months in which there is an identified learning need. However, providers can't claim funding where no costs are incurred in putting appropriate support or reasonable adjustments in place.

If your costs exceed £150 per month, but less than £19,000 per annum, you can claim this from the ESFA via the earnings adjustment statement (EAS). You must keep evidence of these costs.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/earnings-adjustment-statement-eas>

You will not be paid for claims from previous funding years if you do not claim on time.

See also:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1112154/Learning\\_support\\_funding\\_for\\_apprentices\\_with\\_learning\\_difficulties\\_and\\_disabilities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1112154/Learning_support_funding_for_apprentices_with_learning_difficulties_and_disabilities.pdf)

### **Exceptional Learning Support (ELS)**

Apprentices requiring significant additional support in excess of £19,000 per funding year can access ELS. You should submit ELS claims at the beginning of the apprentice's programme, or when you identify the apprentice requires support costing more than £19,000 in the funding year, by completing and sending the [exceptional learning support cost form](#) for authorisation by ESFA.

## **Study Programmes**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-rates-and-formula>

ESFA Formula Funding covers young people aged 16-19, and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 19-24 who have an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan. This includes young people studying T levels but does not include apprentices.

Disadvantage funding – including for SEND learners - is built into the funding formula allocation for providers. Disadvantage funding is not ring-fenced, which means providers are free to use this element of the funding to choose the best way to attract, retain and support disadvantaged students and those with SEND.

It is made up of two blocks, one (Block 1) for economic deprivation and one (Block 2) for low prior attainment in English and maths which is likely to be relevant for support of learners with SEND. Block 2 builds an additional allocation per student into overall provider allocations on the basis of each student who did not achieve English and/or maths GCSEs at Grades 9-4 at the end of Year 11, as follows:

### **High Needs Funding.**

There is additional funding available through high needs funding, this is a centre-based grant aimed primarily at schools and colleges to pay for environmental adjustments needed to help SEND learners remain in mainstream education. This funding is available for learners aged 19 to 25 who do not have an EHC plan or those

over the age of 25 and pre-16 pupils in AP who, because of exclusion, illness, or other reasons receive their education in mainstream schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-needs-funding-arrangements-2024-to-2025>

<b>Planned hours</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Block 2 funding rate, per subject</b>
1250 – 1750+	6-9 (T levels only)	£650
540+ (16 and 17 years old: 18+ with high needs)	5	£480
450+ (Students 18+ without high needs)	4a	£480
450-539 hours (16- and 17-year-olds: 18+ with high needs)	4b	£292
360-449	3	£292
280-359	2	£292
Up to 279 hours	1	Band 5 (£480) pro rata

### **Adult Education Budget**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sfa-funding-rates>

Learning support is available to meet the cost of putting in place a reasonable adjustment, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, for learners who have an identified learning difficulty and/or disability, to achieve their learning goal.

Learning support must not be used to deal with everyday difficulties that are not directly associated with a learner's learning on their programme.

To claim, you must:

- carry out a thorough assessment to identify the support the learner needs
- agree and record the outcome of your assessment in the evidence pack
- record all outcomes on the evidence pack and keep all evidence of the assessment of the needs, planned and actual delivery
- report in the ILR that a learner has a learning support need associated with

an identified learning aim, by entering code LSF1 in the 'Learning Delivery Funding and Monitoring' field and entering the corresponding dates in the 'Date applies from' and 'Date applies to' fields.

Learning support is fixed at a monthly rate of £150 when reported in the ILR for the months in which there is an identified learning need.

If your costs exceed £150 per month, but less than £19,000 per annum, you must keep evidence of these additional costs in the evidence pack. You must only record the excess amount on the EAS, not the whole learning support cost.

There are 2 exceptions when you may claim the entire cost through the EAS. These are:

- where the learning aim is delivered in less than one calendar month
- where the learner has started a 16 to 18 traineeship without a 16 to 19 study programme on or before 31 July and continues into the 2023 to 2024 academic year

You can continue to claim learning support if learning continues past the planned end date and the learner needs continued support in order to complete their programme. You will not be paid for claims from previous funding years if you do not claim on time.

### **Exceptional Learning Support (ELS)**

If a learner needs significant levels of support to start or continue learning and has support costs of more than £19,000 in a funding year, you can claim exceptional learning support (ELS).

Learners aged 19 to 24 who require significant levels of support should have an EHC plan provided by their local authority and, therefore, would access funding from their local authority. Where the individual does not have an EHC plan, you should submit a letter or email from the learner's local authority stating the reason(s) why.

You must only claim amounts for your costs of providing support to the learner and not include any indirect costs or overheads. You must submit ELS claims at the beginning of the programme, or when you identify that support will cost more than £19,000 in a funding year, by completing and sending the [ELS claims document](#).

In all cases, when you claim exceptional learning support you must explain why you have claimed the amount you have, which would be linked to the learner's assessment and planned learning support claim. You must only claim amounts for your costs of providing the support to the learner and not include any indirect costs or overheads.

### **Traineeships and Integrated provision**

Learner and learning support is available for traineeships for continuing learners who started on or before 31 July 2023 and through the integration into general provision from 1 August 2023.

For 16 to 18-year-olds, disadvantage funding, high-needs student funding, vulnerable student bursaries and discretionary bursaries are available through the ESFA's young people's funding methodology. More information is available in the 16 to 19 financial support for students guidance.

The ESFA include learner support for traineeships in a provider's 19 to 24 traineeship allocation.

## **Advanced Learner Loans - funded learners**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-learner-loans-funding-rules-2023-to-2024/advanced-learner-loans-funding-rules-2023-to-2024>

Learning support is available to meet the cost of putting in place a reasonable adjustment, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, for learners who have an identified learning difficulty or disability, to achieve their learning goal. It must not be used to deal with everyday difficulties that are not directly associated with a learner's learning on their programme.

As a provider, to claim you must:

- carry out a thorough assessment to identify the support the learner needs
- agree with the learner and record the outcome of your assessment in the learner file, ensuring all evidence of the assessment of the needs, planned and actual delivery is included

### **Contract-funded providers**

There are three basic monthly rates that can be claimed depending on the level and type of support required:

- Rate 1 (£50) - low-cost learner support, not including childcare and residential (e.g., travel, meals)
- Rate 2 (£150) – learning support recognising the learner could have learner support needs as well
- Rate 3 (£250) – residential or childcare support recognising the learner could have other learning support or learner support needs as well.

Only one rate per month per learner can be claimed, but the rate used each month can change to reflect the needs of the learner being supported. Evidenced costs in excess of this amount can be claimed using the EAS.

### **Grant-funded providers**

If you are grant funded for your AEB provision and hold a loan agreement/contract and bursary fund agreement/contract you must only claim rate 2 (£150) for learners needing learning support. You must claim the actual cash value for learner support (hardship, childcare and residential) through the funding claims process.

### **All providers**

If the cost of providing support to a learner goes above the total earned from the fixed monthly rate, you can claim the excess through the EAS. You must have evidence to support the excess claim.

If you plan to deliver a loan funded qualification in less than one month and the learner is receiving learning support, you must claim the full value of the learning support through the earnings adjustment statement (EAS).