

Funding arrangements for learners with SEND operates on a place-plus approach.

High needs learners are defined as those requiring over £10,000 per year to meet their special educational needs and/or disabilities. This additional funding is generally referred to as “Element 3” or “top-up” funding. Element 3 funding is a sum of money specific to a learner and the funding must follow learners when they move during the year.

Funding for high needs pupils (namely those with an EHCP) comprises of three elements:

Element 1: Funding per pupil at a school (AWPU – Age Weighted Pupil Unit) – each school will receive an amount to fund a place at the school.

Element 2: Additional learning support funding – each school will be expected to provide support to meet the additional requirements of a child/young person who would benefit from this.

Element 3: Top up funding from the commissioner to meet the assessed needs of individual learners, based on the city’s banding guidance.

| | Mainstream Setting | Special School/Resource Provision in Mainstream Setting |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Element 1 Universal | Basic entitlement per pupil/learner of approximately £4000 within school delegated budget. | Place funding of £10K through delegated budget. |
| Element 2 | Additional funding through the schools delegated notional SEN budget – schools are expected to provide support up to the equivalent of £6000 per learner per year | |
| Funding Available with EHCP | | |
| Element 3 Top up funding | Further funding above Element 2 funding to meet the assessed needs of the learner as set out in their EHC Plan. | Further funding required above the place element of £10 000 to meet the assessed needs of the learner as set out in their EHC Plan. |

Element 3 funding comes from the High Needs Block which is delegated to settings, by the Local Authority, based on the learners needs as assessed through the statutory process.

Element 3 funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The DSG is divided into four notional blocks:

- the schools block
- the high needs block
- the central school services block (which allocates funding to local authorities for their ongoing responsibilities towards both maintained schools and academies)
- the early years block.

Each of the four blocks of the DSG are determined by a separate [national funding formula](#).

Element 3 funding is decided for learners with an EHC Plan by a Moderating Group.

The funding is currently outlined in the Progressive Provision Levels document with levels 1-10 (4 onwards for EHCP, element 3).

The level of funding assigned to a learner is set out in the guidance which outlines the descriptors of need and the provisions at each level.

PPL and FUNDING DOCS LINKED HERE