

Budget and Business Planning Report 2024/25 – 2026/27

Update to the section:

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and High Needs Deficit

Paragraph 66

Dedicated Schools Grant

On 6 October 2023 the Department for Education (DfE) announced that the schools national funding formula that was published in July 2023 needs to be updated. This amendment is required to correct an error processing forecast pupil numbers, which means that the overall cost of the Core Schools Budget would have been 0.62% greater than the £59.6Bn funding available nationally for the Core Schools Budget. The additional £370m that would be needed nationally to fund additional costs resulting from error is not affordable within national funding for 2024/25.

Oxfordshire Schools' Dedicated School's Grant (DSG) was expected to increase by 3.12% to £503.9m in 2024/25, excluding growth funding. The impact of this correction is to reduce the provisional allocation by £4.6m to £499.3m (an increase of 2.19%). Behind the overall reduction the provisional Primary Unit of Funding has reduced from £5,067 to £5,022, and the Secondary Unit of Funding from £6,470 to £6,408.

Final DSG allocations for 2024/25 are expected to be notified in December 2023. Actual allocations for individual schools will re-calculated in December 2023, based on pupil data from the October 2023 census.

The 2024/25 high needs allocations (which fund provision for children with complex SEND) are unaffected, as are other funding streams outside the NFF, including the Teachers' Pay Additional Grant for 2023/24.