

SCHOOL FUNDING REFORMS - NEXT STEPS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-15
Initial submission to EFA October 2103

1) **CHANGES TO THE SCHOOLS BLOCK FUNDING FORMULA**

LOW PRIOR ATTAINMENT – extension of the Secondary measure to pick up students falling behind in English OR Maths (rather than in both subjects).

PUPIL MOBILITY – introduction of a 10% threshold from 14-15. Funding can only be allocated beyond this 10% mark.

SPARSITY FACTOR – help for isolated rural schools. Criteria: - Small schools only [Primary fewer than 150 pupils, Secondary fewer than 600] and where the average distance to pupils' second nearest schools is more than two miles or three miles respectively.

DIFFERENTIAL SECTORAL LUMP SUMS – Lump sum ceiling value lowered from £200k to £175k from 2014-15. Primary lump sum value and Secondary lump sum value can be different from 2014-15.

2) **OTHER CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED**

DE-DELEGATION DECISIONS FOR 2014-15 – decisions taken last year covered 13-14 only. Schools need to decide again the de-delegation pattern for 2014-15.

- School Contingencies
- Free School Meals Eligibility Checks
- Maternity / Paternity
- Trade Union Duties
- Public Duties
- International New Arrivals Service
- Phased Support for withdrawal of Nurture Group funding

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FALLING ROLLS FUND – Local authorities can top-slice funding to create a small fund to support good or outstanding schools (with short-term falling rolls) where local planning data show that their surplus places will be needed in the near future.

FORMULA-BASED SUPPORT FOR DISPROPORTIONATE SEN NUMBERS – local authorities can use their High Needs block funding to make additional allocations to schools that have a disproportionate population of pupils with high needs. We are asked to construct a formula basis to underpin any such allocations.