



Pearson UK – Funding News

4 September 2015

Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-18, 19+ and apprenticeship funding, and related news from government departments, funding agencies and other relevant organisations.

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News this week includes a policy note from the Crown Commercial Service setting out how Government departments and their executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies will be required to consider the opportunity for apprenticeships and skills development in their contracting requirements, Skills Funding Agency funding agreements for 2015 to 2016, the September update of FE choices, and requirements and advice for institutions directly recruiting 14 to 16 year-olds in 2015 to 2016 from the Education Funding Agency.

Crown Commercial Service and Cabinet Office

- Procurement policy note: supporting apprenticeships and skills through public procurement

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

- Participation rates in higher education: 2006 to 2014

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Skills Funding Agency

- FE data library: apprenticeship vacancies

Skills Funding Agency

- Moratorium: approving qualifications for 19+ funding, and the latest funding catalogue
- Funding calculation for 2015 to 2016
- Qualification achievement rate 2015 to 2016 (formerly QSR)
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- Post-16 school census tool

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- Steve Besley's Policy Watches

Crown Commercial Service and Cabinet Office

Procurement policy note: supporting apprenticeships and skills through public procurement

The CCS have produced a nine page [policy note](#) to help deliver the government's pledge to support 3 million apprenticeships over the next five years. Government departments and their executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies will be required to consider the opportunity for apprenticeships and skills development in their contracting requirements. Businesses bidding for relevant contracts will need to propose the number of apprenticeships they expect to create in fulfilling the contract. These changes apply from 1 September to contracts with a full life value of £10 million or more with duration of 12 months and above.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Participation rates in higher education: 2006 to 2014

New [statistics](#) on higher education initial participation rates, published on 2 September, include data on students who are 17 to 30 years old, in higher education for the first time, living in England, in UK HE institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish further education colleges, and staying in HE for at least 6 months.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Skills Funding Agency

FE data library: apprenticeship vacancies

This [statistical data set](#) provides information through a number of reports on the number of apprenticeship vacancies and traineeship opportunities for 2008/09 to 2014/15 year-to-date.

Skills Funding Agency

Moratorium: approving qualifications for 19+ funding, and the latest funding catalogue

A reminder that the 3 September was the last submission date for 2015 to 2016 19+ funding for most qualifications. The Agency will continue to approve qualifications that are approved automatically, and vocational qualifications at levels 3 and 4 for 24+ loan funding. The moratorium is in place until further information is available on the new process for 2016 to 2017 which is expected in the autumn. The latest [Skills Funding Agency's catalogue](#) was published on 31 July, and the next catalogue, which will include the results of the 3 September submissions, will be published on 1 October.

Funding calculation for 2015 to 2016

The Agency has published a [technical document](#) which includes the 'rulebase' which performs the funding calculation. It sets out the main funding calculation for the 2015 to 2016 funding year and corresponds to the logic in the current version of the Funding Information System (FIS) and online systems.

Qualification achievement rate 2015 to 2016 (formerly QSR)

On 1 September the Agency published a six page [guidance](#) document explaining how qualification achievement rates (formerly qualification success rates) are calculated. The names of Qualification Success Rates (QSR) have been changed to Qualification Achievement Rates

(QAR) in preparation for the introduction of a broader range of success measure in the future. The document outlines the business rules that govern the method of calculation for the official qualification achievement rates (QAR) for apprenticeships, education and training and OLASS for the 2015 to 2016 academic year and describes the changes to the business rules since the 2014 to 2015 academic year.

Funding agreements: 2015 to 2016

The Agency has published the [funding agreements](#) for providers, local authorities, colleges and employers who receive funding from the Agency for education and skills training.

FE choices September 2015: performance indicators

[FE choices](#) has been updated for September 2015. It provides comparable information to help learners and employers make choices about post-16 further education and training. It is based on performance indicators which include success rates, learner destinations, learner satisfaction and employer satisfaction.

[Education Funding Agency](#)

Enrolment of 14 to 16 year-olds in full-time further education

The EFA published [requirements and advice](#) for institutions directly recruiting 14 to 16 year-olds in the 2015 to 2016 academic year. Since September 2013, FE and sixth-form colleges have been able to enrol, and receive direct funding from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for 14 to 16 year-olds. The guide explains the funding, eligibility criteria, and requirements colleges must follow, and explains the guidance Ofsted has produced about inspection. A list of institutions intending to deliver the programme in 2015 to 2016 is also included.

Financial assurance on local authority-maintained institutions with sixth-form funding

The EFA has published a [guide](#) for local authorities on gaining assurance over the funding provided for local authority-maintained institutions with sixth forms in 2014 to 2015. It is not mandatory for local authorities to follow the guide; local authority chief financial officers must determine whether and how any work should be undertaken to enable them to make their grant returns to the EFA.

Post-16 school census tool

The EFA has created an [interactive tool](#) to help schools and academies submit accurate autumn census returns. The tool is designed to help schools understand how data is used to calculate post-16 funding, and understand common errors and how they impact on the funding calculations.

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Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley can be found on the [Pearson UK](#) website or [sign up](#) for email updates direct to your inbox.

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