

## **The functions of the Education Funding Agency (EFA)**

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) was established on 1 April 2012 as an executive agency of the Department for Education. It brings together work previously carried out by the Young People's Learning Agency, Partnerships for Schools and the maintained schools funding division of the Department.

The EFA is responsible for the operation of the education capital and revenue funding system and the delivery of capital programmes. Responsibility for the development of education funding policy rests with the relevant policy directorates within the Department for Education. The EFA provides advice to policy colleagues to support effective policy making. Decisions on funding policy are ultimately the responsibility of Ministers. Corporate services are provided by the Department.

The EFA has four high-level objectives:

- **Allocations:** ensuring that revenue and capital allocations are accurate and on time.
- **Payments:** ensuring that funding agreements are in place and payments are made accurately and on time.
- **Capital:** delivering effective programme management and evaluation of strategic capital programmes that will improve the condition of existing buildings and support the creation of new places for pupils and learners.
- **Financial Assurance:** ensuring the proper use of public funds through financial assurance undertaken by the EFA itself, or by others.

It is responsible for the following functions:

- Calculating annual revenue funding allocations for all open academies, including Free Schools.
- Providing an efficient customer enquiry service for academies on issues arising from the funding agreement and deal with any compliance issues on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- Payment of funding to academies and Free Schools.
- Ensuring academy and Free School funding agreement compliance.
- Responsive case management.
- Ensuring general funding compliance.
- Financial monitoring and assurance.
- Support for education providers in achieving value for money and ensuring efficient use of resources.
- Support to sponsors and education providers on funding and financial matters.

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- Provision of advice and guidance as required by statute and as required by the sectors.
- Investigation of suspected fraud or financial irregularity.
- Providing advice to the Department's policy directorates to inform the development of funding policy.
- Allocating 16-19 revenue funding and learner support budgets to 2500 providers accurately and on time.
- Maintaining and developing the funding systems for 16-19 education and for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to age 25.
- Tendering and funding the 'youth contract' allocations for disengaged 16- and 17-year-olds.
- Ensuring general funding compliance.
- Distribution of learner support bursaries to providers.
- Financial monitoring and assurance.
- Support to providers in achieving value for money and ensuring efficient use of resources.
- Support to providers on funding and financial matters.
- Provision of advice and guidance as required by statute and as required by the sectors.
- Investigation of suspected fraud or financial irregularity.
- Responsive case management.
- Support to Secretary of State in his role as Principal Regulator.
- Providing advice to the Department's policy directorates to inform the development of funding policy.
- Providing programme management and support for the Priority School Building Programme, Free Schools, the Property Data Survey Programme, Building Schools for the Future, and make capital grants for building programmes at academies and sixth-form colleges.
- Ensuring capital investment is delivered on time, on budget and to agreed quality standards.
- Providing advice and guidance on the effective and efficient design of school buildings.
- Managing the co-location fund, the secure homes capital programme and PFI revenue payments.
- Making payments under the Voluntary-Aided (VA) Capital Programme (including VA PFI payments).
- Project management of Framework Academy capital projects and advise on procurement of new accommodation for academies.

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- Delivery, project management, support and advice for PFI procurements.
- Providing Free School proposers with advice, support the Department's assessment of Free School proposals and purchase and hold land and buildings to accommodate Free Schools.
- Support to academy converters (including PFI), studio schools and University Technical Colleges through advice to providers and sponsors.
- Support to operational PFI projects. Liaison with HMT and other government departments.
- Managing framework contracts to support any schools capital project.
- Support and advice across capital programmes on ICT infrastructure and services.
- School assets - administer applications, and provide evidence for recommendations to the Secretary of State on the disposal of assets.
- Building design guidance - provide advice and guidance on all aspects of school building design and construction cost matters.
- Pupil place planning - collect and review local authorities' pupil forecasts as part of the annual school capacity survey.
- Stakeholder management, including relationship and market management in relation to capital investment.
- Allocation and distribution of capital funding to 16-19 providers.
- Making payments to local authorities (for maintained schools), academies, sixth form colleges, further education colleges and other providers, accurately and on time.
- Payment of the Dedicated Schools Grant and the Pupil Premium to local authorities for their maintained primary and secondary schools, including those with sixth forms.
- Seeking assurance on the proper use of funds provided by the EFA.
- Preparing and publishing accurate accounts for the EFA's £52 billion spend

Taken from pages on the DfE website: The Education Funding Agency:  
EFA functions (on 22 August 2012):

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/armslengthbodies/b00199952/the-education-funding-agency-efa>