

Fighting for fairer funding for our schools



The existing way the government funds schools is a mess. Funding for individual schools with similar characteristics is inconsistent and unfair.

As a result, schools around the country that are similar can get very different budgets and children with the same needs can receive very different levels of financial help depending on where they go to school. It's a postcode lottery!

That's why f40, a group made up of low funded local authorities, has been fighting for a fairer funding system. The coalition government has recognised that there is a problem and it has promised to sort it out.

For 2015-16, the government is providing £390m of additional funding for the poorest funded authorities. This is a useful contribution, but is only a first step – a down payment – towards fairer funding.

f40 suggests a new formula

F40 has worked hard to develop a proposal for how this can be sorted out by coming up with a fair and transparent formula more fairly to divide the cake and this has received a positive response from the Department for Education. These proposals would:

- introduce a new national formula from 2016-17, phased in over three years, based on clear rationale and geared towards improving educational standards across the country.
- Include core entitlement at a pupil level, reflecting different needs and costs at various Key stages.
- Use factors to reflect pupil level needs beyond the core entitlement, including deprivation and Special Educational Needs, and to reflect the needs of small schools that are necessary in a local authority's structure.
- Continue to use DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant), with blocks for Mainstream Schools, High Needs and Early Years. Local authorities will be free to move funding between the blocks.

We just need politicians to bite the bullet and make it happen. The fact is that when money is tight, it is particularly tight in the lowest funded areas. It is only fair, therefore, that schools that have been better funded for decades should help those that have been historically underfunded to achieve a reasonable level of funding as quickly as possible. This would help them to meet the challenge of cost pressures, which affect all schools, but particularly those in the lowest funded areas.

How you can help

So if you want the children in our schools to continue to have a broad range of subjects to study, good resources to use, well maintained and fit for purpose buildings, reasonably sized classes and excellent pastoral support, please act now by demanding a commitment to a fair funding formula straight after the election.

- Contact the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP, at Sanctuary Buildings, London SW1P 3BT. Tweet [@NickyMorgan01](#) or email ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Contact the Minister of State for Schools, the Rt Hon David Laws MP (also based at Sanctuary Buildings) or email ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Contact the Shadow Secretary of State, Tristram Hunt MP, at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tweet [@TristramHuntMP](#) or email tristram.hunt.mp@parliament.uk
- Contact the candidates standing for election where you live and work and ask them what they are doing about fairer school funding. Tell them how important this is to you. Check local websites to get their names and contact details.
- Ask your colleagues, children's schools and your local councillors to do the same.

To find out more go to www.f40.org.uk

Please act now! Early in a new government is the time to act, and whoever it is they need to know that this matters to us, for our children and the future prosperity of this country.