



Schools Funding Forum 15th January 2026

ITEM 6

Subject Heading:

**Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)
2026-27**

Report Author:

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Finance Officer**

Eligibility to vote:

All school and academy members

SUMMARY

This report is to inform the Schools Funding Forum of the final allocation received for the Dedicated Schools Block Central Schools Services Grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the final allocation of CSSB for 2026-27
- (ii) considers the revised funding retention for central statutory services

REPORT DETAIL

1. Background

As part of the introduction of a Schools and High Needs National Funding Formula in 2018-19 the DfE also introduced a fourth funding block, the CSSB, which brought together funding for services previously funded through the Schools Block

and through an Education Services Grant. The initial locally projected allocation for 2026-27, which was presented in the 27th November 2025 meeting is shown below.

2. Initial Projected CSSB allocation 2026-27

Final funding for 2026-27 through the DSG Central Service Block was delayed, and in line with DfE advice, the LA had to estimate the projected CSSB allocations for 2026-27, in order to ensure that the budget setting timetable is not adversely affected.

The indicative allocations that the LA projected included the rolling-in of the NICs and SBSG grants by redistribution through the basic per-pupil and deprivation factors. In addition, the DfE advised that there was to be included transitional protection for the 2026-27 CSSB NFF with LAs protected for losses up to 2.5% in comparison to the previous year baseline, and capped to 2.13% gain against the previous year baseline.

The table presented based on the local projected allocation, with comparable data from 2025-26 was as follows:

	Ongoing responsibilities			Historical commitments	Total CSSB
	Pupil nos.	Per pupil £	£		
2026-27 projected	39,883.0	55.31	2,205,987	60,292	2,266,279
2025-26 final	39,883.0	46.05	1,836,613	75,365	1,911,978
Difference	0	9.26	369,374	-15,073	354,301

Because Havering's adjusted 2025-26 baseline was higher than the NFF calculation (after NICs/SBSG roll-in), Havering becomes a loss-protection authority. This means:

- Havering does not receive the full annualised amount of the rolled-in grants (£425,939)
- Funding instead rises only up to the maximum permitted gain/loss limit applied nationally

3. Final Allocations 2026-27

Funding for 2026-27 through the DSG CSSB is as follows:

Year	Ongoing responsibilities			Historical commitments	Total CSSB
	Pupil nos.	Per pupil £	£	£	£
2026-27 final	39,740.0	55.31	2,198,020	60,292	2,258,312
2026-27 projected	39,883.0	55.31	2,205,987	60,292	2,266,279
2025-26	39,883.0	46.05	1,836,613	75,365	1,911,978

Difference 2025-26 to 2026-27	-143.0	9.26	361,407	-15,073	346,334
Difference 2026-27 indicative to 2026-27	-143.0	0.00	-7,967	0	-7,967

The services that the LA can fund from the CSSB are set out in the Operational Guidance on DSG allocations issued by the DfE. The Schools Funding Forum gave approval to the use of the ongoing responsibilities and historical commitments funding, based on the indicative allocations, at the meeting held on 23rd October 2025 and 27th November 2025. Details are shown below of the original indicative proposal and the final proposal for consideration by Forum members.

Ongoing responsibilities	Projected 2026-27*	Proposed Final 2026-27*	Change
Copyright licences	288,400	288,400	0
Admissions	615,870	615,870	0
Schools Forum	50,560	50,560	0
LA responsibilities to all schools	1,253,157	1,245,190	-7,967
Total	2,205,987	2,198,020	-7,967

Historical commitments	Projected 2025-26	Proposed Final 2025-26	Change £
Schools Partnerships/Schools Causing Concern	60,292	60,292	0
Total	2,266,279	2,258,312	-7,967

The copyright licence fees for local authorities are normally announced alongside the schools funding settlement in December. This has been delayed by the DfE as negotiations are still ongoing with some of the copyright management organisations for new agreements and will stretch into the new year. This means the DfE will announce the applicable charges for the copyright licence at a later date.

Therefore, the LA proposed that the additional funding that was received to be allocated as per the table above, to cover the salary costs of the support that is

increasing by more than by 3.0%. The actual increase in cost is likely to be aligned or more than what has been projected.

The services that LAs can fund from the CSSB are set out in the extract from the Operational Guidance. The DfE Operational Guidance requires Schools Forum approval for the central retention of this funding.

Schools Funding Forum approved the use of the CSSB at the October 2025 meeting, and **the LA is seeking the approval for the revision for £7,967 for the central expenditure for in-going responsibilities.**

On-going responsibility element

The copyright licence costs tend to increase each year but LAs are not notified of the increase until later in the year. An estimated sum of £288,400 has been included.

Schools Funding Forum approved the use of the CSSB at the October 2025 meeting.

Historic Commitments element

Continuing the financial year arrangements for this element of the grant, the LA is proposing that for 2026-27 that this continues to be used for items that are accessible to a large number of schools. This includes the coaching bursary, Havering Academy of Leadership and support commissioned on behalf of all schools.

Schools Funding Forum approved the use of the CSSB at the October 2025 meeting.