

## **Write to Your MP 16-19 Funding Formula Review**

We would like as many people as possible to write to their MPs about the current consultation on changes to the 16-19 Funding Formula Review. The point of writing to your MP is to try to raise awareness amongst MPs and government ministers of key issues in relation to school funding and high achievers. If the proposals in the consultation are allowed to proceed unchallenged, it is possible that high achieving schools with Sixth Forms could see a decrease to their Sixth Form Funding of 30% on top of the 10% that has already been announced.

To find out who your MP is go to <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk>. These are the kinds of points that you could make in your letter:

The move to simplify post 16 funding and to make it more transparent is one that is welcome.

It is essential that the impact of post 16 funding formula changes are considered together with the changes for pre 16 funding changes and some modelling is done of the impact of all changes 11-18 schools. There is a danger that if this doesn't happen some high performing 11-18 schools could be so financially compromised that they are unable to maintain their outstanding standards because the funding necessary for them to do so will not be there.

The consultation proposes a significant change to the way the volume of learning is determined and funded. Under Option 1 Funding all full time learners at the same rate, institutions would be given the same level of funding whether a student studied for two A levels or five. As the pot of money to fund courses would not increase, this would effectively reduce funding to those institutions in which students traditionally take a larger number of A levels or larger courses. Option 2 Uplift to recognise larger programmes and Option 3 Funding to recognise different programme sizes are insufficiently flexible to meet the needs of able learners. The proposals will penalise institutions with able learners who can cope with four but not five full A Levels. This is a particular issue for students wishing to study Further Mathematics who often need to take four A levels to get the breadth of learning that universities are looking for. Why can't funding continue to be by students and by volume of course? Schools already provide the YPLA with this data.

The government wants to increase the number of students achieving the highest grades at A Level: the proposals being consulted on suggest removing the success factor from the funding formula on the grounds that it discourages institutions from entering students for challenging courses. This will have the effect of penalising the institutions which currently perform well at A Level. Class sizes will rise, choice will be reduced and standards will be compromised. A better solution to the problem of some students being entered for courses that do not challenge them would be to build in a KS4-5 progress measure based on prior attainment. If students didn't make the expected progress, then the institution wouldn't receive the funding for that student for that course.