

School Funding

Education

How money reaches a school, and the choices hidden in the formula.

Almost all systems fund per pupil, then adjust. The adjustments are the policy.

Typical formula parts

A basic per-pupil amount

Weighting for deprivation

Weighting for additional needs

Sparsity or rural adjustment

Fixed lump sum per school

Things to check

Real terms or cash terms

Does it include capital spending?

Per pupil, or total, or per school?

Which year is the comparison base?

Are pensions and pay rises funded?

Educational reference. Funding effects on attainment are real but modest and depend heavily on how additional money is spent.