

A guide to navigating 16 to 19 funding

And how to use it to support the attainment of students

Overview · Quick Wins · Top Tips 



Why funding clarity matters now

Schools are facing increased financial pressure across the board. Budgets are being stretched, teacher shortages are causing significant problems, and reduced tuition funding alongside ongoing accountability pressure from performance tables are creating a perfect storm.

Navigating the funding landscape as a CFO of a MAT, Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form or a Head of Subject can be bewildering and time consuming.



Up Learn, the leading online platform for GCSE and A Level success, has created this guide to provide an overview of the funding process, quick wins and top tips - to help you understand and manage your funding.



How does Up Learn support 16 to 19 education?

Up Learn is a smart learning platform for independent study that helps schools get better results; students using the platform achieve A/A*s at twice the national rate. Working with an extensive range of partner schools including: Ark Schools, The Harris Federation, NOVA and United Learning.

Up Learn's comprehensive courses cover A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Economics and Psychology, as well as GCSE Science.



Find out why schools love working with Up Learn with our [selection of case studies here](#).

“I would strongly recommend Up Learn to any sixth form students looking to consolidate content learned in class and revise for exams. One Y13 student has gone from averaging a C/D in Economics to consistently scoring solid A grades in tests, and they attribute this trajectory to Up Learn.

Rowan Pearson Vice Principal, Phoenix Academy



“Their pacing in exams is better. Their confidence in exams is better. They're able to pivot more quickly when they see questions they don't understand and balance. There was a student who got an A who was on an E, it was just this huge shift.”

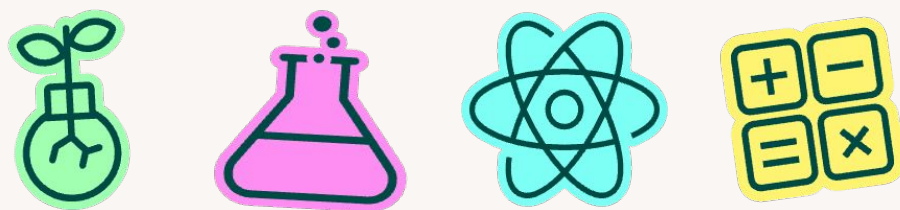
Stanton Wertjes KSS · Physics Lead at Oasis Academy



Why STEM subjects matter

The great news is that planning for success in STEM subjects can unlock new potential for your school. STEM success increases the funding available but also attracts higher calibre students, which increases attainment, which in turn increases your school's ability to attract further students.

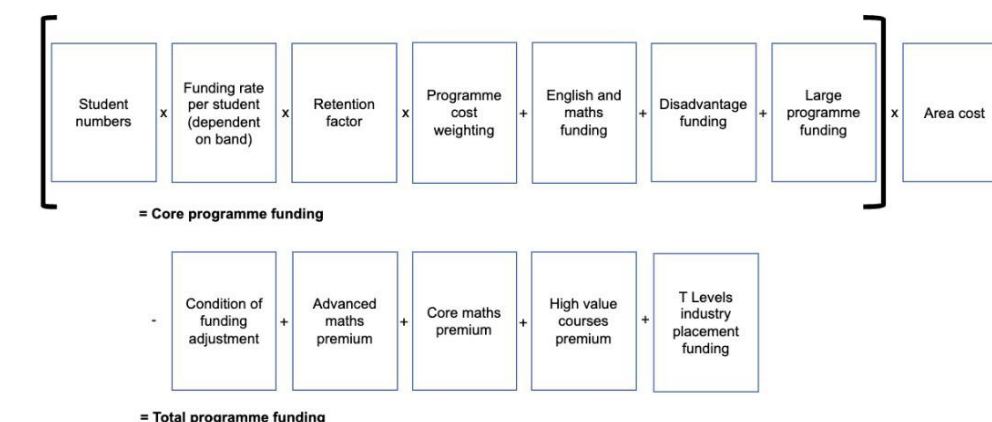
When schools and sixth forms are fully utilising all possible budgets, opportunities are also created to deliver additional funding to support subjects that aren't typically funded but are vital to create a vibrant educational establishment. A virtuous circle!



How is funding calculated for 16-19?

The 16 to 19 funding formula is used to calculate an allocation of funding to each institution, each academic year. Special schools and special academies are funded using place numbers only, not by the 16 to 19 funding formula.

Basic funding for institutions is calculated using funding rates, which depend on the size of their students' study programmes or T Levels. These rates are regardless of which type of institution they study at or what they study. Other elements of the funding formula are then applied. To attract funding, a student must meet the published eligibility criteria, such as age and residency requirements. These are set out in the funding regulations guide for the appropriate academic year.



Know the dates, maximise the funding

The funding cycle begins at the start of the academic year with the submission of the Autumn Census to the Department for Education.

There is a timeline for allocations published each year – the most important thing you can do to maximise your funding is to ensure that you are aware of the actions and deadlines. Typically the key months are as follows:

Usual Month. Please check	Activity
December	Individualised learning record deadline – R04.
December	Publication of dedicated schools grant schools block and high needs block allocations.
January	Publication of outcomes of the high needs place change process
February	ILR R06 deadline
February	Supporting guidance and allocation calculation toolkits containing funding factors issued to
March	Allocations begin to be issued to all institutions
April	Hard deadline for institutions to return any business cases in relation to a significant data error or exception circumstances.
May /June	Review and process of business cases. Outcomes communicated by end of June.





The Census – get it right!

Some institutions risk not getting the correct funding because of errors in the data and inaccurate data returns. This is the most essential part of the funding process. Make sure you are focussed on this throughout the year.

Please remember: The time between receiving your funding formula through to submitting your business case is very small. Be ready to check for accuracy and challenge it should there be errors.



Top Tips for Maximising Funding

Understand the funding cycle for this year's sixth form allocations to ensure the funding is maximised and accurate.

Share data internally, make sure your data team doesn't miss changes to your students that could impact your potential to gain further funding. Do your prep – understand the types of funding available, its uses and reporting required.



Check your census. Then check it again.

Make sure you share the census across your team to maximise your understanding of the pupils at your school and make sure you're not missing any opportunity. Ensure Post-16 staff are fully trained at understanding the implications of the census data to your 16 to 19 funding allocation, and data managers, exam officers and any staff responsible for preparing the Post 16 census have the most-up-date training on the processes required to prepare Post-16 data for the autumn school census.



Checking your Census data is accurate to maximise your funding.

According to data from the Department for Education (formerly ESFA) schools risk not getting the funding they should because of inaccurate data returns. Check your Allocation Calculation Toolkit for the data on funding factors, funding band proportions and student numbers the DfE will use in your final funding allocation. Check your pupil numbers in the funding formula – this is normally a quick win. Every pupil counts!



Check your final funding.

Put the funding dates in your diary – the window is tight to review and challenge any errors – don't miss it. Check your funding formula when you receive it. It will be the best few hours your team will spend. This is the first time your school data will be expressed in cash terms. You need to be ready to receive this and prepared to challenge it, should it prove inaccurate by submitting a business case.



Additional tools and resources available

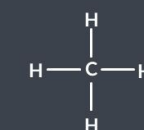
The Department for Education has created a really handy post-16 interactive census tool that will help you understand how your data is used to calculate your post-16 funding, as well as helping you understand common errors and how they impact on the funding they calculate. Business managers and staff responsible for preparing and submitting the autumn school census return should find this particularly useful. [Find further information about it here.](#)

This tool is designed to:

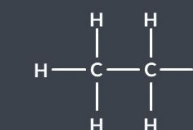
- ✓ support the return of accurate post-16 school census data
- ✓ help schools and academies understand how their school census data is used to calculate their post-16 funding
- ✓ explain common errors and how they impact on the level of funding

"Monkeys Eat Peanut Butter"

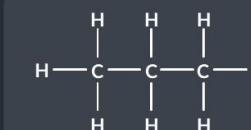
Methane



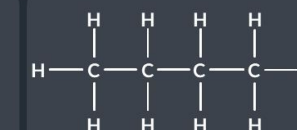
Ethane



Propane



Butane



The tool describes each element of the funding formula (student numbers, retention rate for example) and which parts of census data they use for each element. Each element is illustrated with example data.



The tool runs in your browser, no download or macros required.

There are services and training available from HFL Education to ensure you have all the knowledge and support to ensure you make the most of your funding and develop your curriculum. [You can find out more here.](#)



KS5 Disadvantage fund

Did you know that disadvantaged students can attract up to an extra £624 – £846 per student in funding?

According to the Department for Education, students are considered disadvantaged in Year 11 and attract pupil premium funding if they are eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years, have been looked after by the local authority, or have been adopted from care.

Disadvantage funding reflects the economic deprivation and low prior attainment of students, and institutions are free to choose the best ways to use this additional funding to attract, retain and support disadvantaged students and those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Institutions receive £624 per eligible student with low prior attainment (or £846 for T Level students), on top of core funding. Institutions are then free to choose the best ways to use this additional funding to attract, retain and support disadvantaged students and those with learning difficulties and disabilities. This is a great way to incorporate Up Learn into your curriculum.

Up Learn has proven experience in improving outcomes for:

- ✓ Low prior attainment in English and Maths.
- ✓ Economic deprivation (Free school meals and pupil premium).
- ✓ Learning difficulties and disabilities.



High Value Course Premium

The High Value Courses Premium (HVCP) is additional funding to encourage and support delivery of selected level 3 courses in subjects that lead to higher wage returns, to enable a more productive economy.

The high value courses are:



A Level Maths (Available on Up Learn)



A Level Physics (Available on Up Learn)



A Level Biology (Available on Up Learn)



A Level Chemistry (Available on Up Learn)

Further Maths, Design & technology, Statistics, Computer Science, Electronics

Which students are eligible for HVCP high value courses premium?

Students must take at least 2 of the above A Levels to qualify. An additional **£600** can be paid out to the school for every pupil who qualifies as HVCP.



Advanced Maths Premium

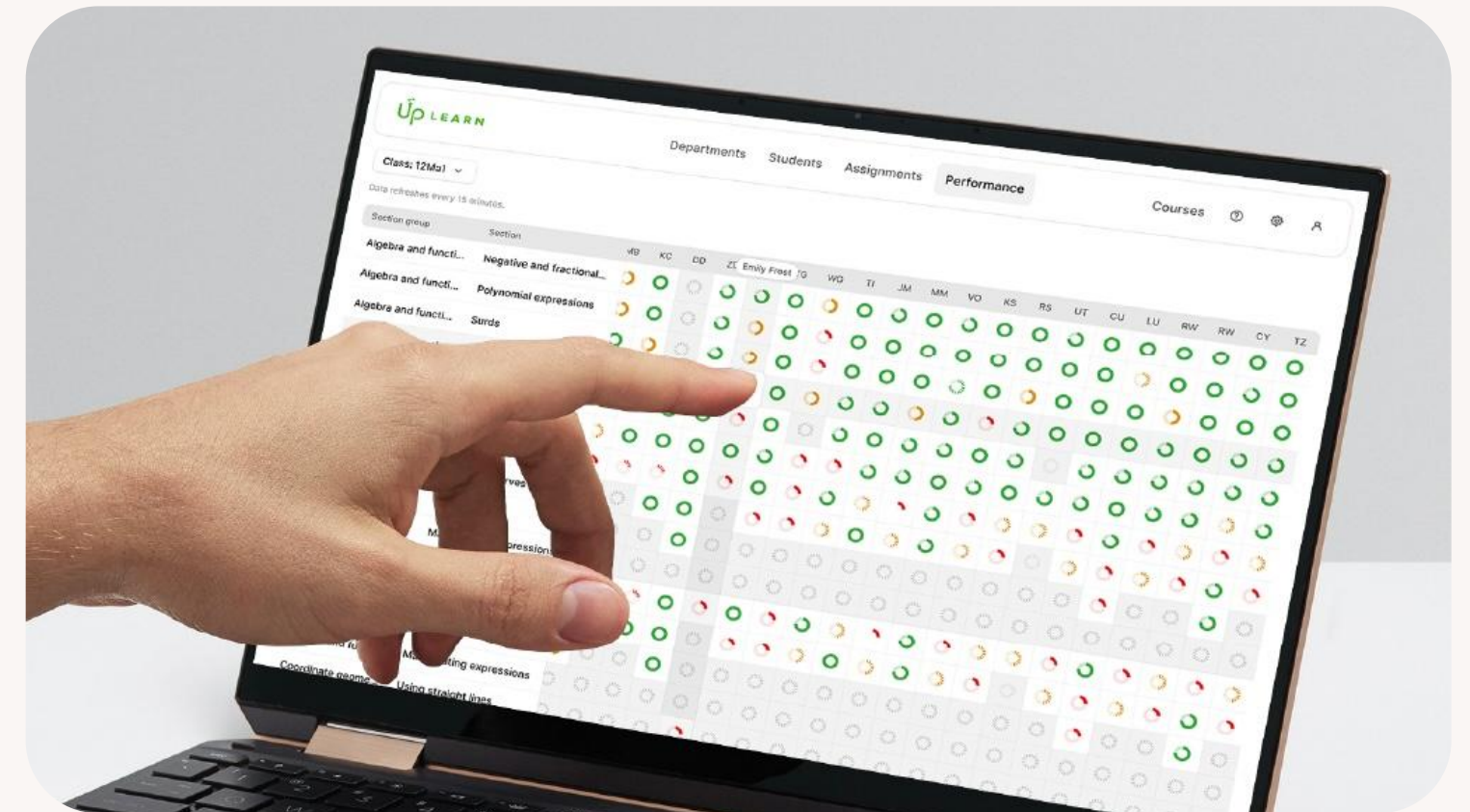
For students who take further maths – there is an additional **£900** available for qualifying students.

Who is eligible for this premium?

All full-time and part-time students eligible for DfE 16 to 19 funding can attract the premium provided they:

- ✓ Have prior attainment equivalent to GCSE grade 9 to 4 in maths.
- ✓ Pass a qualifying period of either 6 weeks for a qualification with a planned length of 24 weeks or more, or 2 weeks for a qualification with a planned length of less than 24 weeks.
- ✓ Are studying an eligible level 3 maths qualification.

The advanced maths premium operates in parallel to the high value courses premium.



Where does Up Learn fit in? Does it count?



The great news is that Up Learn can add value and prove a cost effective way of making the most of your funding and improving student outcomes.

Where Up Learn fits in

How can Up Learn add value?

Up Learn increases attainment, creates success and makes your sixth form more attractive

Better attainment leads to increased demand for places at your school. Make sure you have high demand from the next cohort, through continually improving your results and outcomes.



Up Learn helps fill gaps in teaching and knowledge

Whether your school uses Up Learn to fill gaps in teaching due to shortages of staff or to ensure that students have grasped tricky concepts - the high quality, cognitive science based learning approach and easy to use dashboard provides a full view of progress, understanding and attainment.



Up Learn saves resources and reduces costs

Up Learn gives schools the opportunity to support learning hours and enable teachers to be allocated where they can make the best intervention. If there is a teacher shortage or a situation where staff are free, but are not experts in the subject matter, Up Learn can be used to teach students in a supervised setting or check understanding and knowledge ahead of the next session with a teacher.



Up Learn Counts as Qualification Hours

Schools normally put into the census the qualification hours for each student. The DfE defines these as 'hours of teaching and learning that count towards externally certified qualifications that are approved for teaching to 16 to 19 year olds'. The great news is that if Up Learn is woven into a school's learning plan - either through supervised learning or structured independent study, it will count.



Proven Impact:

*Based on our evaluation of 2500 exam entries from 23 schools.

90%

of assignments completed correlates with an average increase of ~1 grade

70%

increase in likelihood of A/A* from 30+ Refresh Knowledge sessions

9 months

of additional progress from achieving Mastery (80%+) in 20% of sections

How can Up Learn add value?



Up Learn makes your STEM offer more attractive

The High Value Courses Premium means that students in science can bring in an extra **£600** per place. Whilst additional Maths students can bring in up to **£900** extra per year per student. More signed up students in these subjects can help increase funding opportunities for the school, and as mentioned above, the more successful schools are, the more attractive they become to prospective students.

Up Learn can be part of disadvantaged funding

Since Up Learn launched, there have been many case studies and testimonials as well as proof points for how Up Learn can be incorporated into disadvantaged funding. As mentioned above, Up Learn has been used successfully by students from all of these categories.

Low prior attainment:

Up Learn has some incredible examples of progress from students with low prior attainment. The approach the platform takes ensures that concepts are learnt from first principles and that all gaps in knowledge are addressed. Here are some of the testimonials from students who have made significant progress.



“Up Learn really helped me in terms of knowledge gaps, and helped me overall become more confident on the content which showed on the papers. Funny story on results day my Economics teacher came up to me and congratulated me and asked “how on earth did you manage that A grade” – for some context, I achieved an E grade in the previous mock as I neglected economics revision, as to prioritise physics at that time. This just shows how fast I improved using Up Learn.

Thank you.”

Tobey

“Got my economics from a C in my mock to an A.”

Archie

“Thank you so much for your help could not have done it without Up Learn went from a C to an A in physics leading me to my firm choice in university!”

Aaryan

“Thanks – saved my Bio grade was on a C/D before Up Learn”

Matilda

“Before using Up Learn I was constantly achieving Cs in A-Levels in Biology. However with the support of Up Learn and with consistent use I ended up getting an A in my A-level exam so I am very grateful for Up Learn”

Yusuf

How can Up Learn add value?

Economic disadvantage:

Over **3,000** students on Free School Meals used Up Learn in the last year, and from our recent Results Day survey, **55%** of those who shared their results got an A/A* compared to 27.8% of the national average.



SEND Student Support

Many of Up Learn's strongest advocates have learning needs:



"I have always struggled with school and learning, I just always felt like it wasn't for someone like me. As someone with Dyslexia and ADHD, my mind works differently so I struggle a lot. I saw the adverts online and thought I couldn't lose anything by trying the platform and it turned out to be the best decision ever. I was getting C's and D's before and towards the final mocks, I got 3 A's. It's all thanks to Up Learn. I only used the platform to revise and it was everything I needed."

Tom, AAA

"I'm self-teaching Maths and I think the videos are more helpful than anything I've ever used. As an autistic student, Maths is hard to understand but Up Learn does it better than any other teacher I've ever had. I got the course using a free school meals membership."

Loven, Maths Student

"Before Up Learn, I really struggled to maintain attention because of my ADHD. The benefits of Up Learn came about almost immediately, in my confidence and by having a fresh start with my revision."

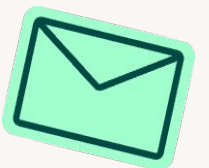
Niamh, A in Psychology

Conclusion

The good news is that there are many funding options to explore.

Whilst tuition funding has come to an end, there are still many options for schools to explore to ensure they receive maximum funding.

If you want to understand how Up Learn can add value to your existing provision and student learning and attainment as well as ensuring our teachers are supported and empowered, [get in touch here.](#)



For a deeper look at the Inclusive Mainstream Fund and how schools can make the most of it, [watch the webinar](#) hosted by Cath Bryant, Head of School Partnerships.



Welcome to The Future. Welcome to Up Learn.

50M+

learning minutes in the last 12 months

500k+

students enrolled

685+

schools raising attainment

We created Up Learn to deliver a world-class learning experience that brings out the best in any student. One that ensures that all students can learn effectively and master their subjects. We exist so that anyone who wants to learn anything, can.

Proud to work with hundreds of schools, trusts and MATs, including:









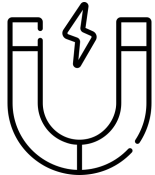








Why Does It Work?



Engaging



Efficient



Effective

As Seen In













UP LEARN

uplearn.co.uk

