



INCREASE FUNDING FOR SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

RaisetheRate.org.uk
#raisetherate

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the rate?

The rate is the main component of education funding for sixth form students. The rate (or [national funding rate](#) to use its official title) is currently set at £4,188 per year for 16 and 17 year olds and £3,455 for 18 year olds.

Why does the rate need to be raised?

Because sixth form funding was cut twice after 2010 and the rate was frozen at £4,000 in 2013 (it was reduced to £3,300 for 18 year olds the following year). In September 2019, the government [announced](#) that it would raise the rate to **£4,188** per year for 16 and 17 year olds, and in September 2020 it committed to maintaining this rate in real terms. This is a welcome first step, but it is essential that the rate is raised to at least **£4,760** per year for 16, 17 and 18 year olds in the 2021 spending review.

This is the minimum level of additional funding required by schools and colleges, as running costs have increased sharply since 2010 and the government has imposed a range of new requirements on institutions. This has left much less money for schools and colleges to spend on the front line education of students at a time when the needs of young people have become increasingly complex (e.g. the rise in mental health problems).

What has been the impact of this funding rate freeze?

The [funding impact survey](#) carried out by Raise the Rate campaign showed that:

- **51%** of schools and colleges have dropped courses in modern foreign languages
- **38%** have dropped STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) courses
- **78%** have reduced student support services or extra-curricular activities – with significant cuts to mental health support, employability skills and careers advice
- **81%** are teaching students in larger class sizes

What should the rate be raised to?

[Research](#) from London Economics has shown that an increase in funding to at least **£4,760** per student is required to continue providing a high quality education to young people. We believe the rate should be raised to £4,760 per student (for 16, 17 and 18 year olds) in the 2020 spending review and then raised in line with inflation each year.

How would schools and colleges use the additional funding?

The rate rise we are campaigning for is the minimum required to:

- Increase student support services to the required level (e.g. improving the mental and physical health of students)
- Protect minority subjects that are at risk of being dropped (e.g. modern foreign languages)
- Increase non-qualification time (e.g. extra-curricular activities, work experience, university visits)

It is important that this rate rise is in addition to, rather than instead of, funding that may be required by schools and colleges to meet significant new costs such as increased employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

When should the rate be raised?

As soon as possible. The next opportunity will be the spending review planned for Autumn 2021, but even then, a rate rise would not take effect until the 2022/23 academic year.

How can we convince the government to Raise the Rate?

By generating lots of noise and turning that into political pressure. There is no shortage of evidence that funding for sixth form students needs to be increased - what is lacking is the political will to focus new investment on the funding rate. The aim of our campaign is to ensure the rate is raised to the required level and then increased in line with inflation each year.

How can I get involved?

There are lots of ways to get involved in the campaign. For example you can write to your local MP (and ideally arrange a meeting to discuss the campaign) and tweet your support using the campaign infographics and hashtag #raisetherate. Resources to help you get involved can be found on the campaign website RaisetheRate.org.uk

Who is behind the Raise the Rate campaign?

A group of 12 organisations that represent schools, colleges, students, leaders, governors, teachers, and support staff. Raising the rate is an urgent priority for everyone involved in the education of 16 to 18 year olds.

How does Raise the Rate link with other campaigns?

Raise the Rate complements the activities of other campaigns fighting for greater investment in education. For example, [WorthLess? School Cuts](#) and [Love Our Colleges](#) are focused on the broader funding challenges facing schools and colleges. Raise the Rate brings all groups together to focus on the specific issue of funding for 16 to 18 year old students.

Where can I find out more?

More information is available on the campaign website RaisetheRate.org.uk