

Additional Questions

Education - LEA block

Use of data from the January pupil count

1. The consultation paper on options to distribute Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), announced on the 21 July by the DfES, proposes to use pupil count data from their January 2006 count in the 2006/07 allocation and from their January 2007 count in the 2007/08 allocation. The data affected by this change would be pupils aged 11 and over in secondary schools, pupils aged 16 and over in sixth forms, pupils aged 11 to 15 in academies and pupils aged 16 and over in academies.
2. DfES have suggested that the LEA Central functions formula should take a similar approach albeit with a year's lag (as the data they plan to use would not be available to the ODPM in time for the ODPM's final settlement). This would mean that (in 2006/07 and 2007/08) instead of using data from the 2005 September pupil count (SPC), we would use pupil data from the January 2005 count (PLASC). This change would mean that all pupils were counted at the same time, greatly reducing the potential for double-counting and other errors as well as minimising the need for data representations since the data would have been finalised much earlier.
3. The alternative option would be to continue to use data from the 2005 September pupil count. However, DfES will be devoting fewer resources to the 2005 SPC and will focus their resources to the January PLASC, so that the September data may become less reliable.

Options

Option EDU4

Use pupil data (for all ages) from the January pupil count instead of the September pupil count

Question

4. We would like your views on:

Question 38: Do you agree that the January pupil count should be used instead of the September pupil count as the source for pupils aged 11 and over?