

Fighting for fairer funding for our schools



The way the government funds schools is a mess. As a result, schools around the country that are similar can get very different budgets and children with the same needs can receive very different levels of financial help depending on where they go to school. It's another postcode lottery!

A campaign group called f40 made up of low funded local authorities has been fighting for fairer funding for many years with some success. Both the coalition government and the Labour one before it accepted the problem and both promised to sort it out. Although the Coalition has found an extra £390m for lower funded schools for 2015-16 (for which we are very grateful), the underlying problem has not been sorted, while a static income per pupil, rising costs and 6th Form funding cuts mean some schools have lost out in recent years.

f40 suggests a new formula

f40 has worked hard to develop a proposal for how this can be sorted out by coming up with a fair and transparent formula to more fairly divide the cake and this has received a positive response from the Department for Education.

We just need politicians to bite the bullet and make it happen. The fact is that when money is tight, it is particularly tight in the lowest funded areas. It is only fair, therefore, that schools that have been better funded for decades should help those that have been historically underfunded to achieve a reasonable level of funding as quickly as possible. This would help them to meet the challenge of cost pressures, which affect all schools, but particularly those in the lowest funded areas.

How you can help

So if you want your children to continue to have a broad range of subjects to study, good resources to use, well maintained and fit for purpose buildings, reasonably sized classes and excellent pastoral support, please act now by demanding a commitment to a fair funding formula straight after the election. Here's what you can do:

- Contact the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP, at Sanctuary Buildings, London SW1P 3BT. Tweet [@NickyMorgan01](#) or email ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Contact the Minister of State for Schools, the Rt Hon David Laws MP (also based at Sanctuary Buildings) or email ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Contact the Shadow Secretary of State, Tristram Hunt MP, at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tweet [@TristramHuntMP](#) or email tristram.hunt.mp@parliament.uk
- Contact the candidates standing for election where you live and work and ask them what they are doing about fairer school funding. Tell them how important this is to you. Check local websites to get their names and contact details.
- Ask your children's schools, governors and your local councillors to do the same.

To find out more go to www.f40.org.uk

Please help now! Early in a new government is the time to act, and whichever party is in power, they need to know that this matters to us, for our children and the future prosperity of this country.