

Schools Data Team

Additional Notes – Learner Support Codes

For: Middle-deemed secondary, secondary, all-through, special and PRU/AP schools

Learner Support Codes

The learner support code indicates the type of financial support awarded to pupils beyond compulsory school leaving age at any point in the academic year of the school census. You only need to send this data in the spring and summer census.

Types of 16-19 bursary fund support

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursary fund support:

- a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the designated vulnerable groups (code '55')
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment (code '56')

The learner support code is collected for all pupils who have been awarded bursary funding in the current academic year. This may include pupils who have left the school since the start of the academic year. For dual registered pupils, the school holding the main registration for the pupil is responsible for awarding the bursary fund and return the required data.

The 16 to 19 bursary fund is administered locally by providers and local authorities who receive their funding allocation directly from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Whilst schools may be able to record in their systems other types of financial support awarded to these pupils, the school census only collects codes 55 and 56.

During the academic year the circumstances of a student awarded the discretionary element may change and they could become part of a designated vulnerable group. In such circumstances the individual would also qualify for the award of the vulnerable payment (on a pro-rata basis for the academic year).

For example, a student may be awarded the discretionary element in September and then the vulnerable group bursary in the following February. In such a situation, code 56 would be returned in the spring school census and both code '56' and code '55' in the summer school census.

Information about whether a student is actually in receipt of funding is not required for the school census. The purpose of the collection is to establish how many students been awarded support from the bursary fund in the academic year.

Each new academic year requires a new application for funding by students.

Find a [learner support code](#).