

Appendix 1

The Adult Education Budget (AEB)

The majority of public funding for non-apprenticeship adult (19+) further education in England is provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) through AEB.

AEB is delivered through Colleges, Local Authorities, Independent Training providers and community groups.

Statutory Entitlements

The AEB supports a wide range of training and education provision. These include statutory entitlements to full funding for certain adult learners:

- English and maths, up to and including level 2, for individuals aged 19 and over, who have not previously attained a GCSE grade A* to C or grade 4, or higher, and/or
- first full qualification at level 2 for individuals aged 19 to 23, and/or
- first full qualification at level 3 for individuals aged 19 to 23.

The Government has additionally announced that an entitlement to free basic digital skills will begin from the 2020-21 academic year.

Local Flexibility

The AEB also supports delivery of flexible tailored provision for adults, including qualifications and components of these and/or non-regulated learning, up to level 2.

The ESFA call this 'local flexibility'. Local flexibility provision either is fully or co-funded, depending on the learner's prior attainment and circumstances. Whether adult learners can have their course fees paid from the AEB depends on several factors, including their age, their employment status, their past educational attainment and the course they are studying. Those who are eligible for funding either have all their course fees paid (fully-funded) or some of the fees and the learner or the college are responsible for paying the remainder (co-funding).