

Top School SEN Funding Myths

This information sheet is designed to dispel some of the myths associated with school funding for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). This is in light of the school SEN funding changes that came into force in April 2013. Below are the top reasons we hear which are **NOT TRUE**.

- 1. Myth: ‘We have less money now to pay for SEN’** – Schools are now given more funding for SEN as part of their school budget. If this is not enough to meet the needs of all the pupils with SEN in a school, the school can ask the local authority for “top up” funding. The school or parent can also request a statutory assessment for individual pupils with a high level of need who may require a statement of special educational needs.
- 2. Myth: ‘We have to cut the support written into your child’s statement’** – The local authority is under a legal duty to make sure the provision in a statement is made for your child. This duty is not changed by the school funding changes.
- 3. Myth: ‘My local authority wants to change the provision in my child’s statement because of the funding changes’** – If the local authority wants to change a statement, they must send an amended statement to the parents. If the parents do not agree with the changes, they have a right of appeal.
- 4. Myth: ‘We’re going to remove support from children on School Action and School Action Plus’** – Support being provided at School Action or School Action Plus can be changed for a number of reasons but not because of the funding changes.

Key points to take away:

- The school funding arrangements changed in April 2013.
- Support for your child with SEN should not change because of the funding changes.
- School and local authority responsibilities for SEN have not changed.

Where can I find out more?

The Council for Disabled Children and IPSEA have written guides for parents on the school funding changes.

- Council for Disabled Children’s: <http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news/january-june-2013/school-funding-changes-and-children-with-sen-in-mainstream-schools-a-briefing-for-parents>
- IPSEA: <http://www.ipsea.org.uk/AssetLibrary/News/SEN%20FUNDING%20AFTER%20APRIL%202013%20Public%20briefing.pdf>

Parent Partnership Services offer free, confidential information and advice to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs. You can find your local service here: www.parentpartnership.org.uk or call 020 7843 6058.

Contact a Family have a Helpline for parents of children and young people with SEN - helpline 0808 808 3555 / email helpline@cafamily.org.uk.

