

Education for All Bill

“A Bill will be brought forward to lay foundations for educational excellence in all schools, giving every child the best start in life. There will also be a fairer balance between schools, through the National Funding Formula.”

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- Spread educational excellence everywhere, so that all children and young people, regardless of location, prior attainment or background get an excellent education.
- Move towards a system where all schools are academies, and all schools are funded fairly.
- Improve outcomes for pupils who are let down, by fundamental reforms to alternative provision for excluded pupils.
- Deliver the vision that will be set out in the forthcoming Skills Plan through ambitious reform to technical education. These changes will focus on closing the major productivity gap between our economy and other leading economies.

The main benefits of the Bill would be:

- Convert schools to academies in the worst performing local authorities and those that can no longer viably support their remaining schools, so that a new system led by good and outstanding schools can take their place.
- Setting the foundation for a system in which all schools are academies, putting our great school leaders in charge of running and improving schools to improve results.
- Embedding excellence for every pupil, through fundamental reforms to educating excluded children; and reforming technical education through a strong employer-led system with high quality qualifications which support clear line of sight to skilled employment.
- Meeting the manifesto commitment to make school funding fairer, with fundamental reform to ensure that schools with the same kinds of pupils get the same funding.

The main elements of the Bill are:

A school-led system

- Moving towards a system where every school is an academy through powers

to convert schools to academies in under-performing and unviable local authorities.

- Making the process of becoming an academy swifter and smoother for schools and local authorities.
- Setting out a new role for local authorities, by shifting responsibility for school improvement from the LA to great heads and others in the school system.

Fair funding

- Redressing historical unfairness in school funding through a National Funding Formula which would allocate funding fairly and efficiently.

Excellence for every pupil

- Making schools responsible for finding the right provider for their excluded pupils, and accountable for their education.

Devolution:

Education is a devolved matter. The vast majority of the substantive issues in the bill would apply to England only. We are in discussions with the devolved administrations regarding any reserved matters.

Key Facts:

- Over a quarter of all schools are now academies or free schools, 19% of primary schools and 66% of secondary schools. Over the last five years more than 3,600 schools have voluntarily chosen to become academies.
- Results in primary sponsored academies open two years have improved on average by ten percentage points since opening, double the rate of improvement in local authority maintained schools over the same period.
- Nearly 65% of children in secondary converter academies achieve five or more good GCSEs (including English and Maths), 7% above the national average.