

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour



18 November 2011

RTL B Cluster Year 11-13 funding during the transition period – a more consistent approach nationally

We have received a number of queries around the process for allocating the RTL B Cluster Year 11-13 funding. The purpose of RTL B Cluster Year 11-13 funding is to support schools with students in years 11-13 who have learning or behaviour difficulties. The funding must be used equitably and should be allocated based on need, not pro rata. Currently in many locations the funding is allocated on a formula/pro rata basis (e.g. student numbers), rather than based on the needs of students.

In the transformed service we have an opportunity to achieve greater consistency in our approach across clusters. We need some time to achieve that level of consistency and build on what have been the most effective approaches in the past. It is imperative that support is maintained during the transition period for those students who need it. We do not want to withhold funding from secondary schools while we arrive at the 'needs based' allocation process.

We also need to ensure a focus on fairly and transparently managing the allocation in a way that is not too bureaucratic. We need to ensure that the funding continues to achieve good outcomes for students.

Please follow these steps, based on recent feedback from secondary principals:

1. If you are allocating Year 11-13 funding only allocate it to the end of Term One next year, while we work through the transition process.
2. If you have developed a process within your cluster, please indicate that the process used will be an interim approach for Term One next year while we work to develop a consistent approach across clusters.
3. If you have not developed a new 'needs based allocation' process for Year 11-13 funding, the fall back option is that for Term One the Year 11-13 funding will be allocated in the way that has traditionally been used in the cluster, even if that approach has been a formula/pro rata based allocation. Again please emphasise that this approach is to ensure that funding is not withheld for Term One, but that from Term Two a 'needs based' allocation method will be agreed.
4. Ideally the allocation of this fund should be based on secondary schools' charters. If the charter identifies a priority goal related to special education then Year 11-13 funding could be one of the options for supporting the school in achieving that goal (along with a range of other sector based options).

Some examples of processes that clusters are currently using are:

- Allocation on a formula basis taking account of roll size and average decile of the schools.
 - Setting up a process for allocating funds in response to a referral from schools for individual students.
 - A combination of formula allocation and also retaining a percentage of the fund for contestable Special Education projects in a school.
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