

SCHOOLS FORUM REGULATIONS

1. The main changes to these regulations relate to the membership and proceedings of Schools Forums. The regulations will come into force on 1 October 2012, and Schools Forums will need to be reconstituted for this date.

Membership

2. The requirement that schools and Academies should have broadly proportionate representation according to pupil numbers in each category is maintained (**regulation 4(6)**). There is concern that the composition of Schools Forums has not changed quickly enough to reflect the pace of academy conversions. Local authorities are required to ensure their Schools Forum is compliant with this requirement based on the pupil numbers in each category as of September 2012 and that this is updated as more conversions take place.
3. There is no longer a requirement to have a minimum of 15 people on Schools Forum. Smaller authorities in particular may therefore wish to review the total size of their Schools Forum.
4. Where there is at least one maintained secondary school in an authority, at least one schools member must be a representative of a secondary school (**regulation 4(7)**). This is consistent with the arrangements for Academies, maintained nursery schools, maintained special schools and maintained Pupil Referral Units. Many authorities now have very few maintained secondary schools, so this will provide minimum representation as with other minority types of school.
5. In order to reflect their status of having a delegated budget from April 2013, where the authority maintains one or more Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) they are required to have a representative on the Schools Forum, who counts as a schools member (**regulations 4(10) and 5(2)(e)**).
6. Among the members representing maintained schools, at least one must be a representative of governing bodies and at least one must be a representative of headteachers (**regulation 4(5)**). This is a requirement of the primary legislation but has not previously been made explicit in the regulations.

Proceedings

7. There will be a restriction on local authority members and officers who are not members of the Schools Forum taking part in its meetings (**regulation 8(4)**). Participation will be limited to a Lead Member for education, children's services or resources, Director of Children's Services (or their representative), Chief Finance Officer (or their representative) or officers who are providing specific financial or technical advice to Schools Forum. Other officers will be able to participate where they are presenting a report, but their participation must be limited to their specific agenda item.

8. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has been granted observer status at Schools Forum meetings (**regulation 8(4)(f)**). This will provide support to the local process and provide a national perspective if members think it helpful.
9. With regards to voting, the key change is with regard to the funding formulae. Only schools members (which includes mainstream schools, Academies, special schools and PRUs) and representatives of the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector will be able to vote on the funding formulae (**regulation 8(10)**).
10. Additional requirements for the transparency of Schools Forum include holding all Schools Forum meetings in public and publishing Schools Forum papers, minutes and decisions in public areas of the local authority website (**regulations 8(2) and 8(13)**).
11. In order to reflect the complete delegation of funding for some services, the requirement to consult Schools Forums annually about arrangements for free school meals and insurance has been removed.

For further information on these regulations, please contact the Funding Reform Team at reformteam.funding@education.gsi.gov.uk .