



Draft Apprenticeship Funding Rules 2024 to 2025 – significant changes

Learning support

Learning support reviews, i.e. reviews of their delivery and whether there is need for it to continue, are now required every 3 months. Applies to all apprentices from 1 August 2024, irrespective of start date. However, there must still be evidence of delivery of reasonable adjustments for every month that learning support is claimed.

Functional skills

For apprentices who do not already hold the required maths/English qualifications, once they have secured level 1 maths/English, they must work towards level 2 where there is time to make reasonable progress. That no longer means at least 3 months. From 1 August there must be an evidenced justification. Flexibility to determine not to deliver it if more than 3 months remaining.

The pilot for exceptions to the regular English and maths minimum requirements, where some providers were able to conduct their own thorough and evidence-based assessment in place of an EHCP/LDA/SEN and determine the apprentice may only achieve entry 3 Functional Skills, is extended to all providers.

Initial assessment

As this year, there must be evidence that the employer agrees the information in the overall initial assessment for the programme. (not maths/English initial assessment) There is clarification that this can be included in the training plan to reduce the paperwork the employer has to sign.

Progress reviews

There is a clarification that reviews should be completed at least every 3 months. 2023/24 funding rules stated 4 times a year/every 12 weeks. This aligns with the new learning support review frequency.

As this year, a summary of the review discussion must be recorded and shared with all parties. The rules state we no longer require a signature. In the summary of changes document this is clarified as not requiring the employer's signature.

Subcontracting

A provider can use a subcontractor that is not on the published APAR but who will deliver less than £30,000 of apprenticeship training and on-programme assessment under contract across all main providers and employer-providers between 1 April and 31 March each year.

Ineligible costs

The cost of assessing overseas qualifications such as UK ENIC is an ineligible cost.

Apprenticeships funded by transfers of levy funds

Providers can now deliver training to apprentices they are funding through a transfer.

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements have been extended to family members.

Active learning - To follow

Not included yet, but in April the ESFA will seek provider views on changes to active learning requirements.