

London Chief Executives

Date: 16 July 2024

Dear Katherine,

Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) programme: Grant Allocations 2024-2025

I wanted to write to thank you for the work that you and your teams have put in to deliver the Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) programme this year. It is testament to you and your colleagues that an extra 287,000 primary school children had access to 43.5 million of free school meals this year.

I am delighted that free school meals will now be made permanent for all state primary school pupils in London. I hope the programme continues to make a meaningful difference to your communities.

I am writing to confirm the grant allocations your borough will receive for the 2024-2025 Mayor's UFSM programme.

I am extremely pleased to confirm your funding allocation for 2024-25, which is **£6,253,470.00**.

How funding is calculated

For the 2024-25 academic year, the Mayor's scheme will provide funding based on a cost of £3.00 per meal. This is a 13 per cent increase from funding in the first year of the scheme.

Funding is allocated with an assumed uptake of 90 per cent and further provision will be made for schools with a higher uptake of meals. As in Year 1, an uplift of 85p will be included in the borough allocations for state-funded Jewish primary schools, as well as an assumed uptake of 100 per cent to cover the additional costs associated with Kosher food. We will also continue to offer additional support to state-funded special primary schools experiencing exceptional costs as a result of the scheme.

Pupil numbers are taken from the most recent Department for Education (DfE) census data (final funding allocations for UFSM are based on the number of pupils at key stage 2 (KS2) on census day in January 2024 (minus the number who are eligible for the national government FSM offer)).

Grant agreement

We will be issuing your grant agreement shortly. The terms and conditions of this remain largely unchanged from Year 1, however please note the additional grant condition where London boroughs are asked to adopt, or otherwise develop, approaches to auto-enrolment or other ways to proactively register eligible children

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to improve the uptake of FSM. The GLA will provide opt-out grant funding to support this work. This is aimed at mitigating any potential impact on pupil premium income for schools.

Accessing the funding

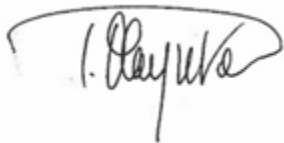
Details of the information we need from your borough in order to release funding have been sent to your Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). Mindful of the tight timelines, my team's immediate priority is to ensure that you can draw down your first payment as soon as possible after this letter is received.

In order to access the funds promptly we would ask for your support to ensure that the grant agreement is signed and returned to us through Docusign as quickly as possible. Your SRO has received information about using the GLA OPS system; this is how grant payments will be managed throughout the year.

I would like to thank you again for your leadership in support of the delivery of UFSM programme. Your time, efforts and feedback have been integral to the successful delivery of the first year of the programme. I look forward to continuing this success into Year 2 of the scheme.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do contact us at ufsmteam@london.gov.uk and the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Tunde Olayinka
Executive Director, Community and Skills