



Learners Support Fund

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats where appropriate by contacting 0161 770 6666 for further information please see our detailed fact sheet Information for all.

The Student Support Section carries out eligibility and financial assessments for student loans, tuition fees, grants and the learners support fund.

Who is the service for?

The Learner Support Fund is to assist students in school sixth forms whose ability to access or complete their course is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers.

Who is it for?

Sixth formers who receive the Education Maintenance Allowance or whose family is on benefits or low income, or who can demonstrate exceptional financial hardship.

Applicants must be:

- an Oldham resident
- attending a school sixth form
- aged 16 – 19
- facing financial difficulties at school

What does it cover?

There are two parts to the Fund:

Additional expenses

You may get up to £250 per term for exceptional course-related expenses, such as exceptional travel costs, books and equipment, field trips, university interviews and audition costs. (Family income up to £30,000 per year).

Individual hardship grant

You may get up to £250.00 per term for emergencies or exceptional hardship. You may qualify for help under the above, even if you also receive an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). You will not generally receive help under more than one category. However, if you are in severe hardship and if funds are available you may be considered for assistance under more than one category.

How do I apply?

If you attend a sixth form in Oldham you can get an application form from your school. If you attend a school outside Oldham you can get a form from the Student Support Team at Oldham Local Authority (LA). You and your parents should complete the first part of the form and then ask the school to complete the rest. The form, with proof of income and expenditure as appropriate, should be returned to the Student Support Team.

Is there a closing date?

Additional expenses: end of each term as below:

Autumn term: 08 December 06

Spring term: 06 April 07

Summer term: 29 June 07

Individual hardship grants and loans: any time – subject to funds being available.

* Late applications may be considered subject to the availability of funds.

Please remember:

There is no automatic entitlement to help from the Learner Support Fund. Each application will be judged according to need and funds available. Any award you receive will depend on your needs and your/your family's income.

Where do I find out more?

Full details about the Learner Support Fund are available in school from the Head of Sixth Form – Crompton House School, North Chadderton School, Blue Coat schools and Our Lady's school or you can contact Oldham LA.

Where do I return the application form?

Student Support

PO Box 40
Civic Centre
West St
Oldham OL1 1XJ

Where can I find more information?

You can contact the Student Support Section by visiting our reception based in ContactOldham, by Telephone, Minicom, Fax or Email.

More information can be found by visiting our website at <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/learning.htm>

Address:

Student Support Section,
PO Box 40,
Civic Centre,
West Street,
Oldham,
OL1 1XJ.

Telephone: 0161 770 3352

Minicom: 0161 222 6901

Fax: 0161 770 4277

Email: studentsupport@oldham.gov.uk

Web site: <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/learning.htm>

Reception: ContactOldham

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 09:00 – 17:00

Wednesday 10:00 – 17:00

We want to provide good quality services for people in Oldham and as we are a public service you have a say in what we do. We want you to be completely satisfied with our services but to ensure this we need to know what you think. What we do best? Where could we improve things? Do you have any ideas or suggestions? Only by listening to you can we give you the service you deserve.

If you wish to make a comment about our services you can email us on customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk or you can phone us on 0161 770 4191

or you can write to: Complaints Officer
Chief Executives Department
PO Box 160
Civic Centre
Oldham
OL1 1UG

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