



Eich cyf/Your ref: WQ96007

Heledd Fychan  
Welsh Parliament  
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28 March 2025

Dear Heledd,

Thank you for your Written Question tabled on 13 March 2025 seeking confirmation regarding the expenditure of the *Tackling Barriers to Attainment* budget for 2025-26.

The Welsh Government's *Tackling Barriers to Attainment* budget for 2025-26 totals £13.891m, with £12.458m of that allocated to support our [School Essentials Grant \(SEG\)](#), enabling us to continue funding the grant at the level of £125/£200 per learner as in 2024-25.

The remainder of the budget supports a variety of initiatives aimed at further supporting and creating an equitable education system where all learners in Wales are supported to achieve their full potential. For example, a pilot Poverty Proofing project is directly supporting schools to address educational disparities and stigma and promote social inclusion.

Additionally, our Attainment Champions pilot facilitates the sharing of best practice among school leaders through peer-to-peer mentoring and will help evaluate strategies aimed at tackling the impact of poverty on educational attainment to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to succeed. This includes associated internal programme running costs.

Yours sincerely,

**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.