

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

19th March 2025

Proposition No. P.2025/

Committee for Education, Sport & Culture

BLANCHELANDE COLLEGE, ELIZABETH COLLEGE & THE LADIES' COLLEGE:
FUTURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy P Roffey
Seconded by: Deputy Y Burford

To delete propositions 1 and 2 and substitute therefor:

“1. To agree the following in its entirety:

- to reduce the financial support paid by the States of Guernsey to Blanchelande College, Elizabeth College and The Ladies' College (“the Colleges”) over the seven academic years from 2026/2027 to 2032/2033 inclusive by 4% annually, whilst adjusting for RPIX, as set out in the table in the explanatory note, such that in 2032/33 the total amount payable will be equivalent to 75.1% of the grant at the end of the current agreement in real terms; and
- that the grant shall be based on the number of pupils multiplied by the per pupil funding figure in the table in the explanatory note, with a maximum funding equivalent in any given academic year of 1,256 pupils; and
- that the resultant financial support to the Colleges is distributed to the Colleges in each such academic year based either on the number of qualifying students in Years 7 to 13 in each College (as described in paragraph 17.3 of the Policy Letter) or on such basis as is otherwise unanimously agreed by the Colleges and reported in advance of the payment period to the Committee for Education, Sport & Culture, for the purpose of delivering education for students in Years 7 to 13; and
- to reinvest in the fully States-maintained education system one half of the resultant revenue savings subject to a case being made to the Policy &

Resources Committee by the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, with the remaining revenue savings contributing to Reducing the Cost of Public Services, in accordance with Resolution 28 of the States of Deliberation in respect of the States of Guernsey Annual Budget for 2025¹; and

- to direct the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture to return to the States with proposals for a new funding arrangement for the academic years 2033/34 onwards, within five years of the commencement of the arrangements described above. Such proposals should have particular regard to progress with the suggested partnership arrangement between the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture and the Colleges, so that the value of cooperation and joint working can be properly recognised and financially rewarded.”

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The propositions contribute to the delivery of the States strategic plans as set out in the Policy Letter.
- b) In preparing the propositions, consultation has taken place with the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, and representatives of the Grant-Aided Colleges.
- c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty’s Procurer for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) The proposition in this amendment results in a transitional period of seven rather than five years as set out in Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture’s original policy letter and proposition 1. The impact of this on the financial position of the States is an aggregate reduction in financial cost to the States of £2.9m in 2026 terms over the full seven year agreement when compared to the current 2025/26 level over the same period as proposed by the Colleges. (Total expenditure in 2026 terms and existing pupil numbers being £17m vs £19.9m if the current rate was maintained.)
- e) Drafting advice has been sought from the States’ Greffier, and from the Officers of the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture.

¹ [Billet d’État No XIX dated 23rd October 2024 - Resolutions made on 8th November 2024](#)

Explanatory note

The effect of this amendment is to reduce the level of the grant paid to the Colleges by 4% per annum over a seven year period, so that by the end of the seven year period the grant will stand at 75.1% of the current level, as set out in the table below.

Grant profile: 2026/2027 to 2032/2033						
ACADEMIC YEAR	Brought forward estimated grant	Inflationary increase at 2.5% estimate (as per policy letter)	Estimated grant (including inflation of 2.5%)	Reduction by 4% per annum	Estimated grant reduced by 4%, (including inflation at 2.5%) assuming stable pupil numbers (1,256)	Per pupil funding applicable
2025/26	£2,844,940					£2,265
2026/27	£2,844,940	£71,124	£2,916,064	£116,642	£2,799,422	£2,228
2027/28	£2,799,422	£69,986	£2,869,408	£114,776	£2,754,632	£2,193
2028/29	£2,754,632	£68,866	£2,823,498	£112,940	£2,710,558	£2,158
2029/30	£2,710,558	£67,764	£2,778,322	111,133	£2,667,189	£2,123
2030/31	£2,667,189	£66,680	£2,733,869	109,355	£2,624,514	£2,089
2031/32	£2,624,514	£65,613	£2,690,127	107,605	£2,582,522	£2,055
2032/33	£2,582,522	£64,563	£2,647,085	105,883	£2,541,202	£2,023
For modelling purposes: The grant for 2025/2026 has been calculated based on the estimated starting grant for 2026/27 as per the CfESC's policy letter. Inflation (RPIX) has been assumed at 2.5% per annum from 2026 onwards. At the same time the grant has been reduced by 4% per annum over the seven year term.						

The propositions in the policy letter present a stark choice between two markedly different competing options for future College funding.

Proposition 1 proposes removing the grant altogether over a 5-year time span which some members may feel to be too extreme, bringing with it the potential risk of unwelcome consequences.

Proposition 2 proposes maintaining the value of the block grant, in real terms, for another 14 years, which is an extremely lengthy period that is likely to see many changes. It ignores the fact that the number of pupils overall forecast to be in years 7-13 by the end of the first period in 2033 will have declined significantly. Working on the assumption that the percentage of pupils attending the Colleges remains the same as today, the financial support for each pupil from the States would be very significantly higher, in real terms, than it is today. Given the well documented constraints on Guernsey's public finances this cannot be considered a financially responsible approach.

Therefore, this amendment seeks to propose a better-than-halfway house, which would see the value of College funding at the end of the seven years set at just over three quarters of what it is today in real terms. This would be achieved by a gradual reduction in the grant by

4% in real terms each year. This equates to a reduction of approximately £80 per pupil per year averaged over the seven year period. In other words, if the Colleges chose to pass on all of the grant reduction to parents, then it would equate to parents having to pay an additional £80 each year. Assuming fees of £15,000 that represents an annual fee increase for each student place of 0.6% in the first year, rising to 3.75% in the seventh year.

If proposition 2 were to carry, and pupil numbers fall pro rata to predicted demographic decline, then under the Colleges proposal the rate paid per pupil would in fact increase by 24%.

This amendment requires the Committee to return to the States with proposals for future grant agreement within five years of the new arrangements commencing, including progress on the partnership arrangements, bonds any future funding with the cooperation and collaboration necessary to support the local education system across both the independent and States maintained sectors. With dwindling pupil numbers projected such co-working and synergies between the two sectors are going to become increasingly important and should be fully recognised and financially rewarded.