



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Information about when young people will move onto the additional learning needs (ALN) system



Introduction

The Welsh Government is changing the way children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) are supported.

We are replacing the special educational needs (SEN) system and the learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) system with the additional learning needs (ALN) system. The ALN system began to be introduced gradually from 1 September 2021.

The rights young people have under the ALN system are provided for in the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (the ALN Act). These rights are explained in detail in [‘The Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021’](#) (the ALN Code).

For the purposes of the ALN system and this guide, a young person is someone aged between 16 and 25 (over compulsory school age but under 25).



When young people will move to the ALN system

Implementing the ALN system for young people will involve a 'flow-through' approach.

A 'flow-through' approach means children who are being moved to the ALN system by a school or local authority during the phased, three-year implementation period (from September 2021 to August 2024) will 'flow through' into further education with an individual development plan (IDP) already in place (where they require one).

From September 2022, young people who have SEN and are in Year 12 (or above) will remain on the existing SEN system until 1 September 2025.

From September 2022, for young people who are in Year 12 (or above) and are newly identified as having SEN the SEN system or the LDD system will apply until 1 September 2025.

Any young person not yet on the ALN system at the end of the 2024 to 2025 school year will move to the ALN system at that point.

Until the ALN Act applies to a young person, the Education Act 1996 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000 will continue to apply, and they will continue to benefit from the support available via the existing SEN and LDD systems as appropriate.



When young people will move to the ALN system

The table below shows which system a child or young person will be on and what type of plan they will have.

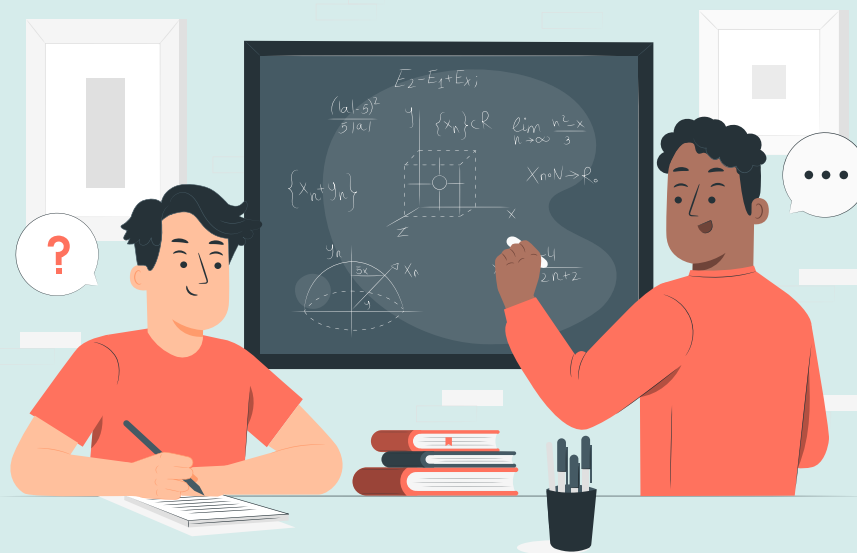
School year	Secondary school		School Year 12 (and above) and further education (college)		
	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 or Year 1 in college	Year 13 or Year 1 or 2 in college	Year 14 or Year 1, 2 or 3 in college
2021/22	School action/school action plus or IDP	School action/school action plus and statement	School action/school action plus, statement or learning support plan (LSP)	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP
2022/23	School action/school action plus, statement or IDP	School action/school action plus, statement or IDP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP
2023/24	School action/school action plus and statement or IDP	IDP	IDP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP
2024/25	IDP	IDP	IDP	IDP	School action/school action plus, statement or LSP
2025/26	All young people on the ALN system on 1 September 2025				

Specialist post-16 provision for young people

The Welsh Government is currently responsible for securing specialist post-16 provision for young people whose education and training needs cannot be met via mainstream provision, under the Learning and Skills Act 2000. As part of the ALN Act, this responsibility will transfer to local authorities. The transfer will take place gradually with local authorities becoming responsible for those who have been moved to the ALN Act.

The Welsh Government will continue to secure and fund specialist post-16 placements for those young people who have not yet been moved to the ALN system. Any funding for placements agreed by Welsh Ministers before the end of the 2024 to 2025 school year will remain available to young people until they complete their agreed programme of study.

Information regarding the process for securing funding for places at specialist further education colleges can be found on the [Welsh Government website](#).



Further information and advice

A lot of organisations can provide information and advice about ALN, including:

- your local authority
- Careers Wales
- SNAP Cymru
- National Deaf Children's Society
- National Autistic Society Cymru
- Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) Cymru
- Children's Commissioner for Wales

You can also email the Welsh Government at ALNpost16implementation@gov.wales

