

EDUCATION WELFARE

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

An EMA is a weekly payment of £10, £20 or £30 a week depending on your household income. Your household income had to be under £30,810 in the 2006/7 tax year if you apply for an EMA for the 2007/8 academic year. It will not affect any other benefits your family might get. It's paid on top of any other support provided by the government or any earnings from the student's part-time job. It's paid to young people who stay on in education at school or college after their GCSEs. It's available during term time for any academic or vocational course (up to level 3) which involves at least 12 hours of guided learning per week. You may be able to get an EMA for two to three years, depending on the length of your course. You could also get bonuses depending on your rate of progress.

To find out more, ring the EMA Helpline on 0808 10 16219.

www.dfes.gov.uk/financialhelp/ema

www.direct.gov.uk/ema

Education Welfare

For advice on the following, contact the Education Welfare Officer linked to your child's school (other than private schools) or ring ContactEssex on 0845 6037627

- Attendance problems
- Child employment
- Licences for children in entertainment

Education Welfare Services, Room A204, A Block, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LD
(01245) 436741

Email: ews@essexcc.gov.uk

Website: www.essexcc.gov.uk – click on “Learning” on the top of the page, then click on “Schools”, then click on “Education Welfare”.

Essex County Council's Student and Pupil Financial Support Service can help with the following:-

- Free school meals
- Funding if you want to stay on at school after 16
- Grant aid, in exceptional circumstances, for uniforms
- School or college transport
- Student loans and tuition fees

PO Box 5827, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LT

01245 245900 Fax: 01245 245939

0845 607 7577 ContactEssex

Email: student.support@essexcc.gov.uk

Website: www.essexcc.gov.uk/studentsupport

Grants for students

Harlow College's Learning Link team gives advice and information about government grants for students attending Harlow College.

Harlow College, Velizy Avenue, Town Centre, Harlow CM20 3LH
(01279) 868100

For advice on student grants for 6th Form and College students, see the entry for Education Maintenance Allowances.

For advice on grants and loans for people classed as Essex residents for Council Tax purposes who are intending to take a course leading to a degree or similar qualification, contact:

Student and Pupil Financial Support Service, PO Box 5287, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LT

01245 245900 Fax: 01245 245939

Email: studentsupport@essexcc.gov.uk

Website: www.essexcc.gov.uk/studentsupport

National Union of Students (NUS)

The NUS represents the interests of students in further and higher education throughout the UK. The User Help sections on the NUS website can provide online support and answer general queries (including NUS cards, discount information and membership). The web pages are unable to provide advice on specific queries relating to education, welfare or finance. Contact your local students' union for these or NUS Head Office.

NUS, 2nd Floor, Centro 3, Mandela Street, London NW1 0DU

0871 221 8221 020 7561 6577 Textphone

Email: nusuk@nus.org.uk

Website: www.nusonline.co.uk