

Swinney must ensure everyone who needs it gets access to attainment fund

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A cash injection aimed at cutting the country's attainment gap should not miss out children in smaller schools who need it, the Scottish Conservatives have said.

Shadow education secretary Liz Smith welcomed news that £120 million was to be released to schools across Scotland as part of Pupil Equity Funding.

However, she emphasised that some schools weren't getting any money, and sought reassurances as to why.

It was announced today that 114 schools in Scotland won't receive any cash, out of 2500.

But under a similar scheme in England, 133 schools out of 21,500 miss out, proportionately a far lower number.

Instead, she added, the Pupil Premium approach used by the UK Government might be more effective.

Scottish Conservative shadow education secretary Liz Smith said:

"This is a welcome move and will hopefully go some way to closing Scotland's stubborn attainment gap.

"However, it's essential no pupils who need it miss out on this cash.

"There does appear to be a higher number of schools in Scotland being left out than in England.

"Now the Scottish Government needs to provide assurances that this is because the money there is not needed, rather than a fault in methodology."

For more on the announcement, visit:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-38816114>

In England there are 133 schools who do not receive any pupil premium at all, that's out of around 21,500. Here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2016-to-2017>

In Scotland, there are 114 schools who don't receive any Pupil Equity Funding and that's out of around 2,500. Here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund/Schoolallocations>