

FUNDING CHANGES IN ENGLAND AND LEVEL 3 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS 2012

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published the [list of qualifications](#) where funding is being withdrawn in England. This includes 24 of our non-examined assessment Level 3 2012 Cambridge Technicals that overlap with our 2016 suite. A full list of the OCR qualifications affected can be found [here](#).

There are no indications at this stage that Level 2 funding will be removed before September 2023. All 2016 Cambridge Technicals qualifications are unaffected.

FAQs

Can my school or college continue to offer Level 3 Cambridge Technicals 2012?

We have no plans at present to withdraw any of our 2012 Cambridge Technicals qualifications since they are used across the UK. Centres in England do need to be aware that for the 2012 qualifications where funding is to be removed; only those students who begin their study before August 2020 will be funded until completion.

If a student starts in September 2019 on a smaller version of a 2012 Level 3 Cambridge Technical, can they ‘top up’ to a larger version in the following year?

[ESFA guidance](#) is now available on how ‘nested’ qualifications will be handled when funding is withdrawn:

- Students will not be able to progress to the larger qualification in the following year, once they have achieved the smaller qualification
- Students **can** start on the larger qualification in their first year and transfer to the smaller qualification

Transferring a student to the smaller qualification will not affect your qualification achievement rates (QAR), or the ESFA audit of your organization if the ‘transfer’ is complete by **22 October 2020**. Therefore it is recommended that the larger qualification is recorded as the initial learning aim and you move down in the second year if the student decides not to continue.

OCR will still offer the option to top-up and move-down for qualifications where funding is being withdrawn in England, but centres should be aware that they will not be funded for topping-up if the smaller qualification was the initial learning aim.

What support is OCR going to provide for schools and colleges moving to the 2016 suite?

We’re keen to support all our schools and colleges to make the move as easily as possible. We will be contacting all centres on a subject level basis to inform them about their options and the availability of free training and resources.

I understand these changes come before a wider review of funding of post 16 qualifications in England. Does this mean we can expect even more changes in the future?

The government has announced a wide-ranging review of post 16 vocational qualifications in England with a view to reducing the number of qualifications it currently funds. The next stage of the two-stage consultation process by the DfE will close at the end of 2019. We expect the review process itself to begin later in 2020 and we will continue to keep centres updated on its progress. The DfE has stated that any major outcomes of the review won’t be implemented until 2023.

More information about this significant review and its timeline is available [here](#).