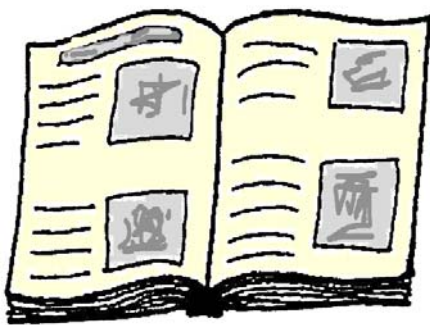


May 2008 Parliamentary Briefing: Education and Skills Bill Update

The Education and Skills Bill is a new law that Government wants to bring in making all young people between the ages of 16-18 do learning, training or working. If they do not without good reason then the young person or their parents can be fined, and have to pay the Government some money.



There has been a **new document** released from the House of Commons about the Education and Skills Bill and there are some issues that we would like to let you know about:

This Bill aims to:

1. Promote **excellence** in schools and **fair access** to good schools through taking strong action



This looks good, but there is not much information about how it will be carried out.

2. And making sure local authorities go into schools when things go wrong to make sure that all schools achieve at least **30% 5 GCSEs at A* – C grade**, including **English and Maths**;



It looks like it is very focused on grades and not on learning life skills

3. Improving behaviour and attendance and reform of **Pupil Referral Units** and other places outside mainstream schools.



A Pupil Referral Unit is where students would get sent to if they could not attend mainstream schools for reasons such as illness or if they are taken out of school for doing something wrong (this is sometimes called exclusion from school)

This part of the bill is not very positive. It doesn't appear to promote **inclusive** education as it supports Pupil Referral Units **outside of mainstream schools**.



4. Make the Local Authority responsible for giving 16-18 year olds education and training.

This means that if you want to **campaign about education** in your local authority then you must contact your **local MP**.



5. Find out what support children need from a very early age



This document doesn't say what action will be taken once an additional need is identified.

Will that mean staying in mainstream education with support or going to a special school?



6. Apprenticeships provided for all qualified students as well as good information provided at school.

An apprenticeship is training that you do on the job and at the end you are qualified in your trade e.g. a qualified plumber, hairdresser

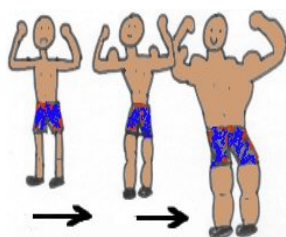
Are people in special schools offered the same apprenticeship opportunities as people in mainstream education?

7. Education to be based on what employers and learners need and want



This is good as education will be based on:
a) What people want to study and
b) What employees need from people in businesses.

However they must make sure that people with learning difficulties can have a say in what they study and that when it comes to employment there needs to be supported employment for people with learning difficulties.



8. Make workplace skills training important, allowing employees to ask their employer for time to do job training;



This means whilst working you can get qualifications and training

But it must be available to people with learning difficulties!

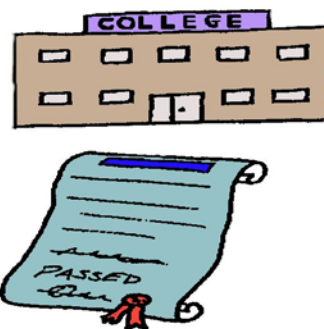


9. Make sure that those in juvenile custody, that means prison for young people under the age of 18 receive the same education and services as those in mainstream education, providing improved support for this vulnerable group of young people;



This is good for young people in prison as it means they can get good education. However the prison service is already overloaded, how will they meet their responsibilities?

We would like to see a commitment like this for people with learning difficulties so that we can be certain they are getting good quality education and support



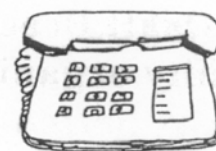
The Alliance for Inclusive Education is campaigning on this Education and Skills law. Contact Tara Flood



tara.flood@allfie.org.uk



Telephone Number
0207 735 5277



We have sent a postcard with this letter and would love for you to send us your comments about what we have written