# NEU ballot set to determine educators' response to pay rise proposal



Around 284,000 members of the National Education Union (NEU) working in maintained schools across England are set to participate in a preliminary ballot to express their views on a government pay recommendation. This ballot, which opens today, will ask educators to vote on whether to accept or reject the proposed 2.8% pay increase for the 2025/26 academic year and whether they are in favour of taking industrial action.

The NEU has raised significant concerns regarding the government's recommendation, arguing that the proposed pay rise is unfunded. The union has stated that schools would need to cover the cost of this increase by making further cuts to their existing budgets. Daniel Kebede, general secretary of the NEU, emphasised the inadequacy of the proposal by stating, “We all know that an unfunded 2.8% pay award is unacceptable. It will deepen the chronic recruitment and retention crisis in our schools, and means more cuts for already struggling schools.”

The NEU's announcement outlines that the current financial landscape for schools is dire, with a staggering 70% of institutions deemed underfunded. Kebede added that pay for teachers has decreased by around a fifth when adjusted for inflation since 2010, contributing to what he describes as the worst crisis in decades within the education sector. He pointed out that more schools are now in deficit than at any time since 2010, and class sizes have reached record levels. “Our members do not want to strike but ignoring the profession and backing educators into a corner means we will be left with no choice,” he noted.

The NEU's concerns echo broader grievances from education unions, which have been vocal about the impacts of 14 years of funding cuts under the previous Conservative government. Many within the profession are reportedly dissatisfied with the proposed pay rise, with 91% of teachers indicating their view that the unfunded pay increase is unfair.

A spokesperson from the Department for Education commented on the situation, stating, “In three years, teachers have had a combined pay increase of over 17%.” They expressed that recent developments and the ongoing issues within the education sector must be addressed for the benefit of students.

The preliminary ballot is set to close on April 11, allowing NEU members to voice their concerns regarding the proposed pay measures and the overall funding situation in schools. The outcome of the vote could have significant implications for the educational landscape and the working conditions of teachers across England.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://neu.org.uk/pay-campaign/fund-fair-pay-ballot-faq> - This URL provides information about the NEU's campaign regarding the proposed pay rise for teachers, including concerns about the unfunded nature of the increase.
* <https://neu.org.uk/advice/your-rights-work/pay-advice/pay-awards> - This page discusses pay awards for teachers and leaders in England, which can provide context for the NEU's stance on current pay proposals.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education> - The Department for Education's official website can provide statements or press releases related to teacher pay and education funding, supporting the government's perspective on the issue.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education> - BBC News often covers education-related topics, including teacher pay and funding issues, which can corroborate the NEU's concerns and the broader context of the education sector.
* <https://www.tes.com/news/teacher-pay> - TES (Times Educational Supplement) frequently reports on teacher pay and education funding, offering insights into the views of educators and unions like the NEU.