

Save the Education Maintenance Allowance

National Day of action 13 December 2010

The government intends to axe the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for college students in England. This will have a massive impact on those families in our communities who most need support to undertake education.

- The EMA is a means-tested weekly allowance of between £10 and £30, paid to 16-18 year-olds who stay on in education.
- In 2009/10, 635,000 learners received an EMA payment, and around 80 per cent of those the full £30.
- The EMA helped support a huge increase in the number of young people from less well off backgrounds going on to college. Students in areas where people are more likely to have no qualifications are most dependent on the weekly financial support. In some areas of Birmingham, Leicester and the North West as many as four-fifths of students receive the EMA.
- Research conducted by the Institute of Fiscal Studies revealed that the EMA increased the proportion of males staying on in full-time education by 7.4 per cent and females by 5.9 per cent.
- Thousands of students could now be forced to drop out of college which will, in turn, also put even more college jobs at risk.
- This is a punitive, cruel and unfair cut targeted on the most vulnerable and those in the greatest need.

It's time to take a stand!

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Seven unions, including NUS, UCU, UNISON, NUT, Unite, GMB and ATL have united to form a joint campaign to save the EMA.

We are holding a nationwide day of lunchtime protests at colleges on 13 December. We are calling on all members to support these peaceful lunchtime protests at their local college.

Get organised for 13 December 2010

What YOU can do:

- Contact your union to find out what's happening on your campus.
 - Sign the joint unions EMA petition <http://emacampaign.org.uk>
 - Contact your local MP to ask them to sign the petition, attend and/or publicly support the day and the campaign
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