

**EDUCATION DIRECTORATE**  
**Head of Service (Education): Andrew McClelland**  
**Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE**  
**Tel: 01294 310000**  
**[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**



**North Ayrshire Council**  
**Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath**

Your Ref: Our Ref: AMcCED25/26001

If contacting please email: [ema@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ema@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**June 2025**

FAO Students and their Parents/Carers

### **Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs), Academic Session 2025/2026**

I am writing to provide some information to those young people who may be eligible to apply for an EMA award in Academic Session 2025/2026.

EMAs are Scottish Government grants of £30 per week to encourage young people to remain in full-time education.

If a young person's date of birth falls between 1 March 2006 and 28 February 2010 and they are intending to remain in full-time education at a North Ayrshire Council school from August 2025, they may be eligible for financial assistance.

To qualify, the income thresholds are £24,421 for households with one dependent child and £26,884 for households with more than one dependent child.

Young people must also normally have been resident in Scotland for a period of 3 years at the start date of the academic session, although exceptions may apply.

In addition, young people must also have an acceptable EMA Learning Agreement in place, and satisfy the terms of this agreement in order to receive any EMA award they may be entitled to. For our North Ayrshire Schools the timetable held on the school records will be the Learning Agreement equivalent, and the young person must be completing at least 21 hours of guided learning per week (some exceptions may apply).

Further information and details of how to apply will be available online from **2 June 2025** by visiting [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) and searching for Education Maintenance Allowance. Some documentation must also be submitted, and further information on this is detailed online as part of the application process. Please note that a fresh application must be completed for each academic year.

The online application is quick and easy to complete. You will, however, require a MyNAC account before you can apply (see information below).

Where young people are intending to move to full-time education at college, they may still be eligible to receive an EMA award and should contact that establishment directly for an application for financial assistance.

I hope that you find this information helpful, however, if you require further information, please contact the EMA team by email: [ema@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ema@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



Andrew McClelland  
**Head of Service (Education)**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION - MyNAC**

We have launched MyNAC, which is our new customer account. This uses the national MyAccount to create your account and to sign in. You can use this account to automatically fill in your details on forms, view your history of service requests and view the status on current requests.

You will need to create a MyNAC account to submit your Education Maintenance Allowance application. To create a MyNAC account you need to have a MyAccount. If you already have a MyAccount that you created to access another service like National Entitlement Card you can sign in with that and then opt into the MyNAC account.

If you do not have a MyAccount you can select 'Create an account' on the MyNAC sign in page. To create a MyAccount you need to provide your name, gender, date of birth, email address and home address. You can also optionally provide your telephone number. These details are then passed to the Council when you consent to create your MyNAC account.