

**25 August 2015**

**Colleges Scotland's statement on the Scottish Government's announcement regarding changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

"Whilst the college sector will welcome the additional funding aimed at assisting young people from low income families to stay on in education, we are still concerned that there is a gap in student support funding that cover bursary, travel and childcare costs for students attending colleges. Colleges Scotland will continue to hold talks with the Scottish Government with the aim of securing the investment necessary, in order to ensure that colleges can continue to support students gain the appropriate skills to contribute to the Scottish economy and society".

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editor:**

On 24 August 2015, the Scottish Government made an announcement that from January 2016, there would be amendments to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). The changes being implemented involve raising the eligibility threshold and extending the programme to part time college students. As a result, additional funding of £16m is to be provided for the EMA programme, which covers both schools and colleges. The Scottish Government estimates an additional 12,000 college students will now be eligible for an EMA.