Department for Education

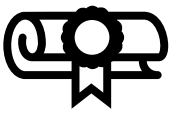
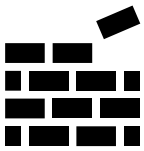
FURTHER EDUCATION INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION – REGULATORY CHANGES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 TO 2027

What you need to know and do

If you are an education provider in England planning to offer one or more courses of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for the Further Education (FE) sector, you will need to take action to meet new legal requirements for the academic year 2026 to 2027.

Courses that are in scope of the new requirements are called “specified courses” and are set out on a list published by DfE. Specified courses include qualifications offered by universities, colleges and awarding organisations, as well as certain teaching apprenticeships.

Your organisation MUST comply with the following four requirements if you are intending to deliver one or more specified courses:

	What?	When?	How?
	**Register** with DfE if you are planning to offer a specified course that starts on or after 1 September 2026	5 May – 3 July 2026	Consult the handbook and complete the online form within the registration window
	Have regard to **statutory guidance** on curriculum content for FE ITE courses	From 1 September 2026, for courses starting on or after that date	Consult the guidance published here
	Have regard to **statutory guidance** on delivery standards for FE ITE courses	From 1 September 2026, for courses starting on or after that date	Consult the guidance published here
	Provide **data and information** on your FE ITE courses and trainees to DfE	Spring 2027 – further detail to be confirmed	Consult the handbook and follow the process set out on gov.uk once published

If you have any general queries, you can contact the policy team at DfE by email at FE.ITE@education.gov.uk. The relevant user guides for the processes set out above also include additional email addresses that you can contact if you are experiencing problems with a particular part of the process.

April 2026