

Guidance:

Destination Measures Data Sharing

July 2023

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Introduction

This document is designed to help schools and colleges use the website to view and understand their destination measures data.

What are the key stage 4 and 16 to 18 destination measures?

1. Destination measures show the percentage of students with [sustained participation](#) in apprenticeships; in education destinations including schools, further education or sixth-form colleges and higher education; the percentage who went into employment or training; and those who did not have sustained participation in education, employment or training. **The data that we are sharing with you now does not include any employment data. This will be published on the Compare School Performance website in October 2023.**

What information are we sharing?

2. We are sharing with you the destinations of your pupils who were at the end of key stage 4 or who reached the end of 16 to 18 study in 2020/21. We have used several administrative data sources to determine their destinations in the first two terms after they left your institution.

3. We are only including education and apprenticeship destinations in the data share. This lets you know whether pupils/students both went into **and stayed in** education for **at least two terms** the following year in settings such as school sixth forms, FE colleges and higher education institutions, or into apprenticeships for at least six months.

Why are we sharing this information?

4. We provide this information to help you know which of your former students progressed into a sustained education or apprenticeship destination. You should use this information to assess whether the qualifications you offer your students give them the best possible progression opportunities and to review the guidance and support you provide.

Publication

5. The KS4 and 16 to 18 destination measures will be published on the [performance tables website](#) in October 2023 (key stage 4 and 16 to 18 provisional) and January 2024 (key stage 4 and 16 to 18 revised).

6. At key stage 4, we publish data for state-funded mainstream schools and for maintained and non-maintained special schools. For 16 to 18 study, we publish data for state-funded mainstream schools and colleges.

7. The headline measure shows the percentage of students staying in education, training, or employment for at least two terms the following academic year. The same education breakdowns as are included in the data share are given as additional breakdowns.

8. Further information at national and local authority level is provided in our [statistical publication](#). This shows the measure broken down by the characteristics of students, including gender, ethnicity, those eligible for free school meals, those identified as disadvantaged and those with special educational needs (or learning difficulties and disabilities for 16 to 18 students in colleges).

9. Comparable data will be [published](#) on gov.uk in October and January. Aggregated key stage 4 data will also be made available to schools and other bodies through the Analyse school performance website.

Who is this data for?

This data is meant to assist your institution in assessing the effectiveness of the support and guidance it provides to pupils/students at the end of their key stage 4 or 16 to 18 study. You should give secure access to this data to the staff members charged with those responsibilities (for example Careers Coordinator, CEIAG Lead etc.).

The data provided in this exercise is individual level data obtained from a number of sensitive sources for which schools and colleges have been granted privileged access.

This data is provided for the purposes of evaluating an institution's own performance and assessing the outcomes of students.

This data is only for the use of staff members charged with those responsibilities and must not be shared more widely with local authority staff, academy management or other colleagues or bodies not directly involved with those responsibilities. Unauthorised sharing of this data may be a criminal offence.

Cohort

10. The cohort consists of young people who reached the end of study in the 2020/21 academic year and identifies their destinations the following academic year.

Key stage 4 - Young people are identified as being at the end of key stage 4. In the majority of schools, these pupils were in year 11 in 2020/21.

16 to 18 - Young people were reported as having reached the end of 16 to 18 study in 2020/21 by means of satisfying one of two criteria:

- i) they entered at least 2 qualifications, each of which is at the size of an A level, or they have entered at least 1 qualification the size of at least 2 A levels, in that year
- ii) they were 18 at the start of the year and have not previously been reported

The so-called 'trigger' rules for deciding when this happens changed in 2020/21. Previously there was a third way a student could be triggered for reporting, which was to attend (and so be 'allocated') to the same school or college for the last two years.

This two-year rule has been removed from 2020/21 to reduce the number of students being triggered too early. This was considered a burden on schools and colleges to tell the Department about those students through a 'checking exercise'.

11. The students who are in the 16 to 18 cohort for the 2020/21 academic year may have left your institution in 2018/19, 2019/20 or 2020/21. The student's destination is determined based on their activity in the year following their departure. We are reporting their destination activity for the year following their departure from your institution.

12. For example, a student that was last on roll at an institution in 2019/20 but did not complete qualifications equivalent in size to two A levels might be deemed to be at the end of 16 to 18 study in 2020/21 (when they reach the age of 18). This student will now be included in the 2020/21 cohort. Most of the cohort have their destination activity recorded in 2021/22, however, this student will have their activity during 2020/21 considered for their destination.

13. Converter academies and schools which have formed from a merger since the 2020/21 academic year will receive information on pupils who attended the predecessor school that shared a Department for Education number (LA/Establishment number).

14. Students in the 16-18 cohort will only have their destination reported against a single qualification type even if they studied a mixture of qualifications. If any approved qualifications were taken, then their destination will be reported against this. Students' destinations will then be reported against the most frequent qualification type. The higher qualification level was chosen in the event of a tie.

Data sources

Used in the data share

18. Data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) is used to calculate the destinations measure. The NPD is a longitudinal database linking pupil/student characteristics (for example age, gender, and ethnicity) to school and college learning aims and attainment information for children in schools in England. Five administrative data sources used in compiling the NPD have been used to determine the education destinations, namely:

- Individualised Learner Record (ILR) covering English colleges, FE providers, and Specialist post-16 institutions (SPIs)
- School census covering English schools. This includes state-funded and non-maintained special schools and pupil referral units (PRU).
- Awarding body data for independent schools.
- Alternative Provision (AP) census.
- Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data covering United Kingdom higher education institutions and higher education alternative providers in England.

19. Apprenticeship participation is drawn from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

20. The matching of these databases is undertaken at individual level using personal characteristics such as name, date of birth and postcode. A pupil matching reference (PMR) is attached to allow anonymised linking of the data. The destinations are derived from linking together the data sources to the relevant cohort using the PMR.

Used in the published measures

21. The following additional data sources will be used to compile the employment and additional 'not sustained' destinations when the measures are published, but have not been incorporated into the data sharing exercise:

- His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) labour market data
- National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS) – key stage 4 only
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) out of work benefits data

Definition of 'sustained' participation

22. To be included in the standard measure, young people must be recorded in sustained participation. This encourages schools and colleges to support and prepare their students to progress to a destination which offers sustained engagement.
23. For the standard destination measure, sustained participation in an education destination is defined to be between October and March of the academic year immediately following a student's last attendance at an institution. This addresses change at the start of the academic year, where young people may switch courses or start later. It is also the measurement period that is closest to the point at which the young person left their former school or college and so is the period over which the institution has most influence.
24. Sustained participation in an apprenticeship is defined to be 6 consecutive months at any point within the destination year. This differs from education destinations as apprenticeships have more variable start dates.
25. Students who have completed the required attendance over the six months but with different providers (for example, two months in a school sixth form followed by four months in a FE college or four months in an apprenticeship followed by two months in a FE college) will be included in the measure, reported in the 'other education destinations' line.
26. Sustained participation was calculated using recorded start and end dates for their participation within each of the relevant datasets.

Destination categories reported

Key stage 4 destinations

Number of pupils

27. The 'number of pupils' line reports the total number of young people calculated to be in the 2020/21 cohort, using the criteria in the [cohort](#) section, and is used to create the denominator for the measure.

Pupils staying in education for at least two terms after key stage 4

28. This line reports the young people in the cohort that have gone to any form of sustained education from October to March of the destination year.

29. Pupils included in education are also included in one of the four breakdowns provided: further education provider, school sixth form, sixth-form college or other.

Further education college and other further education provider

30. Any provider completing the ILR and not identified as a sixth-form college or further education college is designated as an 'other FE provider' and reported under 'Further education college and other further education provider'.

31. Young people identified within the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data as being registered for study aims only at level 3 or below, for example they were undertaking FE study within a higher education institution (HEI) are included under 'Further education college and other further education provider'.

School sixth form - state funded

32. School sixth forms are identified from the school census data.

Sixth-form college - state funded

33. Sixth-form colleges are identified from ILR data. This category includes 16-19 academies.

Other Education Destinations

34. This category includes those young people who were studying at a higher education institution, independent school, special post-16 institution, alternative provision institution (including pupil referral units), special schools or a combination of different types of provider.

Pupils staying in apprenticeships for at least six months

35. Young people are counted as being on an apprenticeship if they participated in relevant learning for at least six consecutive months at any point in the destination year.

36. Apprenticeships are identified within the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) by means of the variables learning aim and programme type.

Pupils in apprenticeships or education which were not sustained for two terms

37. This line includes young people who were captured in the destination source data but were not counted in the measure because they did not meet the sustained participation criteria; it covers young people who had participated in an apprenticeship or education at some point during the academic year but did not complete the required six months participation.

38. Some students in this category may have additional employment participation. If they meet the six months criteria, they will be reported in employment in the published data.

Pupils not captured in apprenticeships or education (destination unknown or in employment)

39. This category includes young people not found in any apprenticeship or education data source. If they were in sustained employment this will be reported separately in published data. Other reasons could be that the young person was 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET); living, working, or studying overseas (for example, on a gap year); or was attending a Scottish, Welsh, or Northern Irish college or school.

16 to 18 destinations

Number of students

40. This line reports the total number of young people calculated to be in the 2020/21 cohort, using the criteria outlined in the [cohort](#) section, and is used to create the denominator for the measure. Students are grouped by the level of qualification they studied at 16 to 18 phase.

Students staying in education for at least two terms after 16 to 18 study

41. This line reports the young people in the cohort that have gone to any form of sustained education from October to March of the destination year.

42. Pupils included in education are also included in one of the three secondary breakdowns provided: further education, higher education or 'other'.

Further education college or other further education provider

43. Any provider completing the ILR not identified as a sixth-form college or FE college is designated as an 'other FE provider' and reported under 'Further education college and other further education provider'.

44. Young people identified within the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data as being registered for study aims only at level 3 or below, for example they were undertaking FE study within a higher education institution (HEI) are reported under 'Further education college and other further education provider'.

Higher education

45. This category includes students who went to UK universities and other higher education institutions. Includes students studying higher education aims (level 4 and above) at further education colleges in England.

Other Education Destinations

46. This category includes those young people who were studying at a school sixth form, sixth-form college, independent school, special post-16 institution, special schools or a combination or different types of provider.

Students staying in apprenticeships for at least six months

47. Young people were counted as being on an apprenticeship if they participated in relevant learning for at least six consecutive months at any point in the destination year.

48. Apprenticeships are identified within the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) by means of the variables learning aim and programme type.

Students in apprenticeships or education which was not sustained for two terms

49. This line includes young people who were captured in the apprenticeship or education destination source data but were not counted in the measure because they did not meet the sustained participation criteria; it covers young people who had participated at an apprenticeship or education destination during the academic year but did not complete the required six months participation.

50. Some students in this category may have additional employment participation. If they meet the six months criteria, they will be reported in employment in the published data.

Students not captured in apprenticeships or education (destination unknown or in employment)

51. This category includes young people not found in any apprenticeship or education data source. If they were in sustained employment this will be reported separately in published data. Other reasons could be that the young person was 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET); living, working, or studying overseas (for example, on a gap year); or was attending a Scottish, Welsh, or Northern Irish college or school.

52. Due to legal restrictions, we are not able to share data with colleges based on information outside of the October to April period. As a result, some students with education or apprenticeship activity only in September, or from May onwards, are included here in the data share but will move to the 'destination not sustained category in published data.

Consortia

53. In some areas, to pool resources and offer a wider range of post-16 courses to students, schools and colleges co-operate together in a group known as a sixth-form centre or consortium.

54. If a school is part of a consortium, the consortium's aggregated destination measures are shown on the institution summary page. All student level data provided to consortia feeder institutions in the data share is for that institution only and does not include students from other feeder institutions.

55. Data provided to feeder institutions should not be shared with other feeders in the consortium.

How do we deal with students who have more than one destination?

56. A number of pupils have participation in more than one destination (i.e., more than one dataset) simultaneously. A series of rules ensure that a young person is reported in **only one destination category**.

Apprenticeships

57. Apprentices may have learning aims for qualifications that form part of their apprenticeship programme, or additional learning aims, undertaken at the same time. Given the nature and size of an apprenticeship programme, this is assumed to be their main activity and if it is sustained for six months they will be reported as being in an apprenticeship (even if they also meet the education criteria).

Education providers

58. Young people may be enrolled in different types of study or at different provider types at the same time. There are processes to ensure that they are reported at their 'main' place of study wherever possible. These processes are:

- 58.1. Students are allocated to HE if they have any study aims at level 4 or above which continue for the full six months, even if they also took part in FE study.
- 58.2. An exception is made for HE course aims offered only for credits (which may be offered through outreach schemes, for example to provide higher education modules in schools). These are excluded if students have participation at another provider type.
- 58.3. Unfunded students in the ILR (who are not funded by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)) are removed if they also have primary participation in other datasets.
- 58.4. Students who are recorded as having an enrolment status of 'subsidiary' or 'not known' in the school census (i.e. they carry out some learning there but have a main registration in another institution) are removed if they also have primary participation in other datasets.
- 58.5. Students recorded in more than one type of institution simultaneously (for example, a sixth form college and an FE college) were allocated to the provider at which they had the largest volume of aims recorded; or, if this was equal, to the institution where they carried out a core learning aim.
- 58.6. In a very small number of cases students with more than one equally valid destination were allocated to an FE destination.

Data Quality and coverage

NPD matching

59. As outlined under '[Data sources](#)' above, the destinations data are independently matched to the national pupil database (NPD). Linking between education datasets is believed to be very high quality, particularly for pupils formerly in state-funded schools, however, it is accepted that a small proportion of incorrect matches may have been made and that some genuine matches will have been missed.

Feedback and general enquiries

For enquiries regarding login please contact the **Schools Helpline** using the 'contact us' functionality on the Tables Checking website or by telephone on **0845 3077867**.

Questions, feedback, and comments on the destination measures can be sent to destination.measures@education.gov.uk

Please **do not** send pupils' personal details in the body of the email. If you need to identify a student please send a **password protected Excel, ods or csv file** with the student's Unique Personal Identifier (UPN) or Unique Learner Number (ULN) and **send the password separately**.

Please also add the **DfE number (LAESTAB)** of your school in the subject header of any emails.