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Education & Skills
Funding Agency

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1. New 16 to 18 minimum standards

The [16 to 19 accountability headline measures: technical guide](#) sets out changes in the school and college accountability system describing how from 2017, 16 to 18 minimum standards are based on progress where possible.

1.1 Coverage

The 16 to 18 minimum standards apply to all schools and colleges with 16 to 18 year-olds studying level 3 qualifications. This means, there is no technical certificate minimum standard in 2017. However, this will be reviewed for future years.

All state-funded mainstream providers of further education included in the 16 to 18 performance tables are in scope for these standards. That includes local authority maintained school sixth-forms, academy school sixth-forms, 16 to 19 academies, university technology colleges, studio schools, sixth-form colleges and general further education colleges. However, there are a few exceptions:

- Any provider with fewer than 11 students taking level 3 academic or applied general qualifications is excluded from the corresponding minimum standard.
- Any provider with fewer than 11 students taking tech levels, or with fewer than 11 tech level study aims,

is excluded from the tech level minimum standard.

3. Closed, independent and special schools are also excluded from minimum standards.

2. Overview of the 2017 16 to 18 minimum standards

The main features of the 16-18 minimum standards for 2017 are that they:

1. Use a progress-based measure for level 3 academic and applied general qualifications. Refer to [How the academic and applied general minimum standards work](#) section in this document for more information.
2. Use a combined completion/attainment based measure for tech levels. Refer to [How the tech level minimum standard works](#) section in this document for more information.
3. Show 3 separate cohorts: level 3 academic, applied general and tech level qualifications.
4. We do not publish lists of providers below the minimum standards. However, providers' progress scores are published in performance tables in January for academic and applied general cohorts, whereas providers' completion and attainment scores are published in performance tables in March for the tech level cohort.

3. How the academic and applied general minimum standards work

A provider is considered to be underperforming if:

1. Its academic or applied general value added score is below the threshold set by the Department; and
2. Its value added score is statistically significantly below the national average, for example both its upper and lower confidence intervals are below zero.

In the 2016 to 2017 academic year, the thresholds, for example, value added scores set by the Department for academic and applied general qualifications, are minus 0.52 and minus 0.65 respectively.

For academic qualifications, we expect that over 90% of eligible providers will score between minus 0.54 and 0.30, and for applied general qualifications, over 90% of eligible providers are expected to score between minus 0.70 and 0.85.

4. How the tech level minimum standard works

In 2016, a provider was considered to be underperforming if its completion and attainment score was below the threshold set by the Department. This has changed from 2017 with the introduction of a more robust tech level minimum standard. Underperforming providers are now additionally fall below a raw attainment threshold set by the Department.

In 2017, a provider is considered to be underperforming if:

1. Its completion and attainment score is below the threshold set by the Department; and
2. It does not meet the threshold set by the Department in terms of the percentage of students reaching a minimum level of attainment.

In the 2016 to 2017 academic year, completion and attainment score set by the Department for tech levels is minus 0.50. Additionally, to be above the floor, the provider also need to have no fewer than 70% of students achieving an average points score per entry of 25 points.

4.1 Examples for academic and applied general minimum standards

School or College	Cohort	Lower confidence interval	Value added score	Upper confidence interval	Underperformance
A	Academic	-0.76	-0.53	-0.30	Yes
	Applied general	-0.85	-0.80	-0.75	Yes
B	Academic	-2.13	-0.91	0.31	No
C	Applied general	-0.47	-0.38	-0.30	No
D	Academic	0.02	0.15	0.28	No
E	Academic	-0.04	0.11	0.26	No
	Applied general	-1.00	-0.76	-0.70	Yes

4.2 Examples for tech level minimum standard

School or College	Cohort	Completion and attainment score	Percentage of students achieving average point score per entry of 25 points	Underperformance
H	Tech Level	0.35	75	No
I	Tech Level	-0.50	70	No
J	Tech Level	-0.55	70	No
K	Tech Level	-0.45	65	No
L	Tech Level	-0.60	60	Yes

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