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1. 16 to 18 minimum standards for 2018

This document describes how the Department for Education (DfE) is applying 16 to 18 minimum standards to the performance of schools and colleges in the 2017 to 2018 academic year. By establishing separate measures for performance in level 3 academic, Applied General and Tech Level qualifications, we can compare like with like to give a clear picture of how institutions are performing in different areas of their level 3 provision.

2. 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, 16-18 minimum standards will be based on progress where possible.

2.1 Coverage

The 16 to 18 minimum standards apply to all schools and colleges with 16 to 18 year-olds studying level 3 qualifications.

All state-funded mainstream providers of further education included in the 16-18 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 couple of exceptions:

1. Any provider with fewer than 11 students taking level 3 or Applied General qualifications will be excluded from the corresponding minimum standard.
2. Any provider with fewer than 11 students taking Tech Levels, or with fewer than 11 Tech Level study aims, will be excluded from the Tech Levels minimum standard.
3. Closed, independent and special schools will also be excluded from minimum standards.

3. Overview of the 2018 16 to 18 minimum standards

The main features of the 16 to 18 minimum standards for 2018 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 will work](#) section in this document for more information.
2. Use a combined completion/attainment based measure for level 3 tech levels. Refer to [How the Tech Levels minimum standard will work](#) section in this document for more information.
3. Show three 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 We do not publish lists of providers below the minimum standards.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 and in March for Tech Level cohorts.

4. How the academic and Applied General minimum standards will work

A provider will be seen as 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, i.e. both its upper and lower confidence intervals are below zero.

In the 2017 to 2018 academic year, the thresholds, i.e. the value added scores set by the Department for academic and applied general qualifications, are -0.56 and -0.58 respectively.

For academic qualifications, we expect that over 90% of eligible providers will score between minus 0.58 and plus 0.29 and for Applied General qualifications, over 90% of eligible providers are expected to score between minus 0.59 and plus 0.56.

5. How the Tech Levels minimum standard will work

In 2016, a provider was considered as under-performing if its completion and attainment score was below the threshold set by the Department. This changed from 2017 with the introduction of a more robust Tech Level minimum standard. Under-performing providers now additionally fall below a raw attainment threshold set by the Department.

In 2018, a provider will be seen as under-performing 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.

Further details of the Tech Level minimum standard is published in the [16 to 18 Technical Guide](#).

6. Examples for academic and Applied General minimum standards only

School or college	Cohort	Lower confidence interval	Value added score	Upper confidence interval	Under-performance
A	Academic	-0.76	-0.58	-0.30	Yes
A	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
E	Applied General	-1.00	-0.76	-0.70	Yes

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