

# Circular 00/24

## Data collection

### Secretary of State's Requirements for the Publication of Information

#### Summary

This circular is of interest to college principals and chief education officers. It describes the arrangements for the collection of data for the school and college performance tables for 2000, and the publication of information under section 50 of the *Further and Higher Education Act 1992*.

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Quinton Road  
Coventry CV1 2WT.

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# Secretary of State's Requirements for the Publication of Information

## Introduction

1 As part of the government's policy of raising standards and improving the information available to parents and students about the performance of their local secondary schools and colleges, the secretary of state requires colleges to publish information on the achievements of their students aged 16–18 each year. The arrangements for the collection and publication of this information in 2000 are set out in this circular.

## Background

2 The secretary of state's requirements relate to two information exercises. The first concerns the publication of national performance tables. Schools and colleges are required to provide information to the Department for Education and Employment's (DfEE's) contractor about the qualifications achieved by their students aged 16–18 relating to a college year. The information is subsequently published in November in the school and college performance tables.

3 The second requirement concerns the local provision of information on the achievements of college students aged 16–18 to careers services. The secretary of state requires colleges to provide careers services with comprehensive information about the achievements and career routes of their students in accordance with the regulations made under section 50 of the *Further and Higher Education Act 1992* (the Act). Information relating to the 1999-2000 college year should be provided by 1 March 2001 in accordance with the *Education (Further Education Institutions Information) (England) Regulations 1995*, as amended by the *Education (Further Education Institutions Information) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 1998*.

## 16–18 Performance Tables

4 The DfEE set out proposals for the 2000 performance tables in a consultation document issued in April 2000. In the light of comments received, the secretary of state has decided to make no change this year to the way in which GCE A levels, AS examinations, the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, advanced GNVQs, and other advanced and intermediate qualifications are published in the 16–18 performance tables. The secretary of state invited comments about how the tables might reflect *Qualifying for Success* reforms in 2001 and 2002, and the DfEE will consult on possible options for change early in 2001.

5 The information that colleges are required to provide this year is specified in a letter from Martyn Loft at the DfEE dated 25 July 2000 and entitled *2000 School and College (16–18) Performance Tables* (ref: FE/PT2000). Copies of the letter can be obtained from:

**Malcolm Harris**  
**Standards, Quality and Access Division**  
**DfEE**  
**Sanctuary Buildings**  
**Great Smith Street**  
**London SW1P 3BT**  
**Telephone: 020 7925 5271**

## Publication timetable

6 The secretary of state has appointed the same contractor as last year to prepare the performance tables for publication. At the request of the secretary of state and in accordance with sections 8(1)(a) and 54(1)(c) of the Act, the Council requests that, on being sent data on the qualification achievements of their 16–18 year-old students, each college should check the data and return information direct to the contractor. The timetable for this exercise will be as follows:

- early September 2000: colleges to be sent their contextual information and historical GCE A/AS results (to be used for the improvement measure)
- late September/early October 2000: colleges to be sent data on GCE A/AS

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level results, advanced GNVQ results, and IB diploma results

- within two weeks of receiving these, colleges are to check and return the data on examination results and provide the requested information on other specified vocational qualifications
- November 2000: publication of performance tables.

7 Secondary schools will be asked to distribute copies of the tables to the parents of all pupils in Year 11. Colleges will be required to make a copy available for inspection by parents and others on request. The DfEE will send copies to local libraries, training and enterprise councils, local careers services and the local and national media. The secretary of state hopes that schools, colleges and local authorities will set their admission timetables for young people beyond compulsory school age in such a way as to give those involved access to the fullest possible information before making their choices.

8 Enquiries concerning the performance tables should be addressed to:

**Martyn Loft**  
**Standards, Quality and Access Division**  
**DfEE**  
**Sanctuary Buildings**  
**Great Smith Street**  
**London SW1P 3BT**  
**Telephone: 020 7925 6316**

## **Local Information on Student Achievements and Destinations**

9 The secretary of state requires colleges to provide information locally on the achievements and career routes of their students aged 16–18 by virtue of regulations made under section 50 of the *Further and Higher Education Act 1992*.

10 The information that colleges are required to provide locally relating to the 1999-2000 college year is specified in DfEE circular 14/98 (revised), issued in November 1999. As careers services now have responsibility for making

section 50 and other post-16 options information available to young people, colleges should contact them to discuss the format of the information and publication arrangements. The regulations specify a minimum of information that colleges are required to send to careers services. However, some colleges and careers services may wish to negotiate locally about the provision of additional information to help young people with their choices.

11 Enquiries should be addressed to:

**Heather Buss or Madeleine Gadsby**  
**Youth Support Service**  
**Implementation Division**  
**DfEE**  
**W4b**  
**Moorfoot**  
**Sheffield S1 4PQ**  
**Telephone: 0114 259 4916/3897**



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