
19 July 1999

CIRCULAR

**THE
FURTHER
EDUCATION
FUNDING
COUNCIL**

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

Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry CV1 2WT

To
_____ Principals of colleges
Chief education officers

Circular type
_____ Information

Summary
_____ Arrangements for the collection of
data for the school and college
performance tables for 1999, and
the publication of information
under section 50 of the *Further
and Higher Education Act 1992*

Supersedes
_____ Circular 98/24

Reference number: 99/31

Enquiries:
Funding and statistics
support desk
01203 863224
Website <http://www.fefc.ac.uk>

99/31

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 to 18 each year. The arrangements for the collection and publication of this information in 1999 are set out in this circular.

Background

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

3 The second concerns the local provision of information, on the achievements of students aged 16 to 18 in colleges, 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 1998-99 college year should be provided by 1 March 2000 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 1999 performance tables in a consultation document issued in April 1999. In the light of this consultation, the secretary of state has decided that

the 16-18 tables should report in 1999:

- the achievements of full-time students in advanced GNVQs and their precursors *at the end of two years of study*
- the achievements of full-time students in intermediate GNVQs and their precursors *at the end of one year of study*.

There will be no change to the presentation of contextual information or to the way in which results in GCE A/AS examinations and the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma are reported.

5 The information that colleges are required to provide this year is specified in a letter from Martyn Loft at the DfEE of 9 July 1999 entitled *1999 Schools and College Performance Tables* (ref: FE/PT99). Copies of the letter can be obtained from:

Malcolm Harris
Standards, Quality and Access Division
Department for Education and Employment
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 in 1998 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 1999: colleges to be sent their contextual information and historical GCE A/AS results (to be used for the improvement measure)
- late September/early October 1999: colleges to be sent data on GCE A/AS 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 1999: 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
Department for Education and
Employment
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT
Telephone: 020 7925 6316.

11 A number of minor amendments will be made to the regulations in autumn 1999, following the introduction of amended destination fields in the individualised student record (ISR) for the 1998-99 college year. An amendment to DfEE Circular 14/98 about these changes will be issued to colleges in October 1999. Enquiries should be addressed to:

Heather Buss
Careers and Information Division
Department for Education and
Employment
W4b
Moorfoot
Sheffield S1 4PQ
Telephone: 0114 259 3897.



Local Information on Student Achievements and Destinations

9 The secretary of state requires colleges to provide information locally on the achievements and careers routes of their students aged 16-18 by virtue of regulations made under section 50 of the Act.

10 The information that colleges are required to provide locally relating to the 1998-99 college year is specified in DfEE Circular 14/98 published in November 1998. As careers services now have responsibility for making section 50 and other post-16 options information available to young people, colleges should contact their local careers services 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.

