



Impact Indicator 8

Impact Indicator 8: Attainment gap at age 16 between free school meal pupils and the rest.

About the indicator

This indicator measures the attainment gap at age 16 between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers. The attainment gap is calculated from the percentage of all other pupils (those known not to be eligible for free school meals or with an unclassified status) achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs minus the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs.

Why we measure it

This indicator is a measure of the attainment gap associated with economic disadvantage. Disadvantage remains strongly associated with poorer performance, on average, at every key stage. It is a leading Government priority to narrow the attainment gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

The data

Impact indicator 8: Attainment gap¹ at age 16² between free school meal pupils and the rest³

Year: 2011/2012-2012/13 (revised)⁴

Coverage: England, state-funded schools (including academies and CTCs)

	2012/13		2011/12	
	Number of eligible pupils	Percentage of pupils achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs	Number of eligible pupils ⁴	Percentage of pupils achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs
Pupils eligible for free school meals	85,182	38.7	80,194	36.8
All other pupils ³	486,152	65.3	481,111	63.0
Attainment gap^{5,6}		26.5		26.2

Source (National Pupil Database)

1. Comparisons are made using the percentage of pupils achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs.
2. Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in each academic year.
3. Includes pupils for whom free school meal eligibility could not be determined.
4. Figures for 2011/12 are based on final data, 2012/13 figures are based on revised data.
5. Figures are calculated using unrounded data.
6. The attainment gap is calculated from the percentage all other pupils (those known not to be eligible for free school meals or with an unclassified status) achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs minus the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals achieving an A*-C grade in English and mathematics GCSEs.

Further information

Visit the following resources for more details.

Further information on this indicator and associated data can be found within our statistical first release:

[GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics](#)

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