



Department
for Education

Phonics Impact Indicator 27b

Impact Indicator 27b: The proportion of Year 1 children meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check, by free school meal eligibility.

About the indicator

This indicator looks at the proportion of year 1 children meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check whom were eligible for free school meals compared with all other pupils (those known not to be eligible for free school meals or with an unclassified status). The phonics screening check comprises a list of 40 words and in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 the threshold for meeting the expected standard was a mark of 32.

Why we measure it

This indicator is associated with economic disadvantage which 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 27b: Proportion of Year 1 children meeting the expected standard¹ in the phonics screening check, by free school meal eligibility.

Year: 2011/2012-2013/14 (provisional)²

Coverage: England, state-funded schools (including Academies)³

	2013/14		2012/13		2011/12	
	Number of eligible pupils ⁴	% meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding ¹	Number of eligible pupils ⁴	% meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding ¹	Number of eligible pupils ⁴	% meeting the expected standard of phonic decoding ¹
Pupils eligible for free school meals	116,132	61.3	119,651	55.7	118,652	44.4
All other pupils ⁵	523,280	77.0	493,868	72.3	474,847	61.3

Source (National Pupil Database)

1. The phonic mark can be between 0 and 40. If a pupil's mark is at or above the threshold mark they are considered to have reached the expected standard. In 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 the threshold mark was 32.

2. Figures for 2011/12 and 2012/13 are based on final data, 2013/14 figures are based on provisional data.

3. Includes all schools with pupils eligible for the phonics assessment. Independent schools and non-maintained special schools do not participate in the phonics assessment and reporting arrangements. Pupils in pupil referral units are not required to take the phonics check, however, a small number of pupils have taken the check and these pupils are included in the published figures.

4. Includes all pupils who participated in the phonics screening check, who were disapplied due to being considered as working below the level, who were absent from school for the entire period of which the check could be administered, or pupils with a maladministration. Pupils with missing, or invalid results are not included in the calculations.

5. Includes pupils not eligible for free school meals and for whom free school meal eligibility was unclassified or could not be determined.

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:

[Phonics screening check and key stage 1 assessments in England 2014](#)

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