



Basic need scorecards: guidance

Education Funding Agency publishes basic need scorecards to enable everyone to see:

- the challenges local authorities face in making good school places available
- funding given to local authorities
- local authorities' progress in providing school places

How to use basic need scorecards

You can look at the school place situation for any local authority in England using the basic need scorecards. To do this, use the drop-down option at the top of the scorecard to select your chosen local authority. The list is arranged in alphabetical order.

When a different local authority is selected the figures and charts in the scorecard will automatically update to reflect the chosen local authority. This means that you can compare the position in your own local authority with other local authorities.

Quantity

You can see how much progress your local authority is making in providing sufficient school places by looking at the quantity measure.

The solid blue bar shows school places already added, the striped blue bar shows places planned, and the red bar shows the places still to find. Local authorities with relatively small red bars are making the best progress.

It is important to take care when making comparisons using the quantity measure. Some local authorities have had long-standing place pressure, whereas for others it has emerged more recently. Those experiencing long standing place pressure will have had the more chance to demonstrate that they can add large volumes of places.

Quality

You can check the quality measure to see where your local authority is choosing to add school places, and whether this tends to be in good and outstanding schools or not.

The quality measure bars show the number of new places added in your local authority according to the OfSTED rating of the school in which they have been added. The typical position is for around 80% of places to be added in good or outstanding schools.

You can also change the measure to look at key stage 2 performance instead of OfSTED ratings.

It is important to take care when making comparisons using the quality measure. The reason for this is that:

- the starting position for local authorities is different and some have more good or outstanding schools to add places to - which is why we also provide the overall distribution of school places by OfSTED rating in the local authority chosen, and for England
- when deciding upon which schools to expand, some good or outstanding schools may be on sites that are not suitable for expansion
- we have used the most recent OfSTED rating available and places may have been added before or after that rating was given

Cost

You can use the scorecard to see whether the average amount spent on each school place is relatively high or low compared with other local authorities.

The types of projects have been split into expanded schools (permanent buildings), expanded schools (temporary buildings) and new schools. They have been separated so that you can compare more similar groups of projects between local authorities.

It is important to take care when making comparisons. Some local authorities have small numbers of projects to add places, so cost comparisons become very dependent upon the nature of individual projects.

More detailed information

If you want to know more detail on how the figures are constructed, please go to the 'information' and 'technical annex' tabs of the scorecard document.

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