



Department
for Education

Key stage 4 and 5 destination measures

**Advice for schools, colleges, local
authorities, parents and other users of
destination measures data**

June 2014

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Introduction

The most recent key stage 4 (KS4) and key stage 5 (KS5) destination measures were published on 26 June 2014.

The measures provide data on the destinations of students who left KS4 or took A level or other level 3 qualifications in academic year 2010 to 2011 and show their destinations in academic year 2011 to 2012.

- The KS4 measure is based on activity in the year after the young person left compulsory schooling (i.e. academic age 16).
- The KS5 measure is based on activity in the year after the young person took A level or other level 3 qualifications.

The key stage 4 and key stage 5 destination measures

The key stage 4 and key stage 5 destination measures show the percentage of students continuing their education in a school, sixth-form or further education college, or higher education institution, including through an apprenticeship; the percentage who went into employment or training; and those who were not in education, employment or training (NEET).

This year, **for the first time**, the measures also show destinations to independent schools, special schools, specialist post-16 institutions, pupil referral units (PRUs) and other alternative provision.

Where students have a confirmed, deferred offer of a place at university, and do not have any other destination recorded, the KS5 measure also reports the percentage of students with a UCAS acceptance for deferred entry to higher education.

The measures are based on sustained participation in all of the first two terms (defined as October to March) of the year after the young person left KS4 or took A level or other level 3 qualifications.

The measures are based on the data we already receive and there is no additional data collection required.

What data have been published

The following data have been published as a [statistical first release](#) (experimental statistics) on the GOV.UK website:

- Education and employment destinations for both KS4 and KS5 students

- Data based on the characteristics of students, broken down by gender, ethnicity, those claiming free school meals and those with special educational needs (and learning difficulties and disabilities for KS5 students).

The KS4 measure is produced for all state-funded, mainstream schools with a KS4 cohort, including academies. The KS5 measure includes state-funded, mainstream school sixth forms, sixth-form colleges and FE colleges.

For the first time this year the statistical first release (experimental data) also includes:

- KS4 destinations **from** PRUs and other alternative provision;
- KS4 and KS5 destinations **from** independent schools;
- KS4 and KS5 destinations **from** maintained and non-maintained special schools;
- Destinations **to** independent schools, special schools, specialist post-16 institutions, PRUs and other alternative provision.

The data were published at national, local authority and institutional level.

The headline data at national level (England) for both KS4 and KS5 are included at annexes 1a and 1b. Annex 2 includes headline data from the characteristics breakdowns.

KS4 education destinations for state-funded mainstream schools and maintained and non-maintained special schools have also been published on the [performance tables](#) website.

Evaluation of the destination measures

The destination measures published in the statistical first release in June 2014 have been published as **experimental statistics** as they remain subject to further testing, development and evaluation. This enables us to gather feedback on the data and publication and make improvements to the measures in the future. Feedback and comments on the destination measures and their development can be sent to us at Destination.measures@education.gsi.gov.uk

Why we publish destination measures

We have made it clear that we want to put more information into the public domain so that parents and young people can make informed judgements about the performance of schools and colleges in their area. The destination measures provide clear and comparable information on the success of schools and colleges in helping all of their pupils/students take qualifications that offer them the best opportunity to continue in education or training.

Destination measures are increasingly being seen as a key tool in assessing how well schools and colleges prepare their pupils to make a successful transition into the next stage of education or training, or into employment.

The government has recently published accountability reforms for secondary schools and 16-19 providers. Destination measures will form one of the new headline performance indicators for schools and colleges when the data are robust enough. Ofsted are giving careers guidance a higher priority in school inspections, examining how well leaders ensure that the curriculum provides timely independent information, advice and guidance to assist pupils on their next steps in training, education or employment when assessing the leadership and management of the school. Ofsted have also included destination measures in their FE data dashboard.

Further information and feedback

Now the measures have been in place since 2012, we are interested to hear about how the measures are being used by institutions, other organisations, researchers, students and parents. If you are using the data to assess how well schools and colleges prepare their pupils to make a successful transition into the next stage of education or training, or into employment, for planning provision and services for young people, for research purposes, or in any other way, please tell us about it.

Questions, feedback (including about your use of the data) and comments on the destination measures and their development can be sent to us at Destination.measures@education.gsi.gov.uk



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at www.education.gov.uk/contactus.

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