



Department  
for Education

## Statistical First Release

### Qualification success rates for school sixth forms: 2012 to 2013

These are experimental statistics.

Reference	SFR27/2014
Date	31 July 2014
Coverage	England
Theme	Children, Education and Skills
Issued by	Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT
Press office	020 7925 6789
Public enquiries	0370 000 2288
Statistician	Amanda Frewin
Phone	02073407447
Email	QSR.REPORT@education.gsi.gov.uk
Internet	<a href="#">Qualification success rates for school sixth forms: 2012/13: July 2014</a>

**84% of all aims were completed and passed**

The majority of learning aims were level 3 academic aims with a qualification success rate of 85% based on 1.2 million aims.

**Qualification success rates (QSRs) are classified as experimental statistics**

The data contained within this publication and the accompanying table are classified as "Experimental Statistics" and do not display the National Statistics logo. The data are still being evaluated and remain subject to further testing to determine their reliability and ability to meet customer needs. **The figures should therefore be treated with caution.**

## 1. Background and context

---

QSRs are a measure of completion and success	Qualification success rates (QSRs) measure the proportion of learning aims that are started, finished and completed successfully at state funded school and academy sixth forms in England. The learning aims included relate to pupils aged 16-19 years old.
QSRs for FE colleges are published separately	For the QSRs for FE colleges, go to: <a href="http://gov.uk/SFA%20success%20rates%202012%2F13">gov.uk SFA success rates: 2012/13</a>
QSRs methodology has changed for the 2012/13 QSRs...	The 2012/13 QSRs were based on two data sources: the autumn school census, collected in October 2013, which was matched to 2012/13 awarding body data to obtain final achievement information. In contrast, the 2011/12 QSRs were based solely on information recorded by schools in the autumn census which, for one year only, included achievement data collected directly from schools. However the amount of manual intervention required for schools to return achievement data placed a much greater burden on schools than was originally envisaged and so it was agreed to return to the pre 2011/12 methodology for deriving the 2012/13 QSRs.
...and so comparisons should not be made to the 2011/12 QSRs	As a consequence of the methodological changes above, it is not possible for direct comparisons to be made between the 2011/12 and 2012/13 QSRs. However, it can be seen that the level 3 academic success rate was in line with this year: 84% in 2011/12 and 85% in 2012/13.
National QSRs are available for level 1, 2 and 3 learning aims	The table which accompanies this document shows the national QSRs for level 1, 2 and 3 learning aims. Learning aims at level 3 are broken down based on whether they were academic or vocational subjects. Examples of level 3 academic aims include AS and A levels. The number of learning aims taken at level 4 or higher was small and those which were reported did not match to the awarding body data. A level 4 QSR figure has therefore not been published.
It is important to note that the learning aims included in the national QSRs are only those with an outcome found in the awarding body data	Approximately 7% of learning aims did not match to awarding body data where a match was expected, and these learning aims were therefore excluded from the national QSR calculations. Included in the QSR table is a 'coverage rate' indicating the percentage of learning aims which <b>did</b> match to awarding body data and were included in the QSR for each level.
School level data are not available for 2012/13	This year school level data have not been published on gov.uk. This is because the percentage of aims not matched to awarding body data differed greatly between schools; the data were therefore not sufficiently robust to enable comparisons to be made.

---

## 2. Summary table: qualification success rates by level

2012/13 academic year	Aims <sup>1</sup>	Success rate	Coverage rate
Level 1	7,200	85%	71%
Level 2	63,900	78%	79%
Level 3 academic	1,229,500	85%	96%
Level 3 vocational	93,000	82%	73%
Level 3 total	1,322,400	84%	94%
<b>All aims</b>	<b>1,393,600</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>93%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Aims are rounded to the nearest 100.

Overall, 84% of the 1.4 million learning aims were completed and passed successfully. The highest coverage rate was for level 3 academic aims at 96%. Of the 1.2 million aims included, 85% were successfully completed and passed. Coverage rates were lower for level 3 vocational aims and aims at other levels.

## 3. Technical notes

Most state-funded school and academy sixth forms were included in the national QSRs	The data, used to calculate the 2012/13 national QSRs, came from 1,960 state-funded school and academy sixth forms in England. Schools were excluded if they did not have any learning aims recorded in the school census with planned end dates which were in-scope.
QSRs were not based on students, but on learning aims	QSRs are calculated at aims level rather than student level. A learning aim is the particular course or qualification that a student studies. For example, a student taking AS levels in Mathematics, History and Economics will have had three learning aims recorded in the success rates dataset.
Learning aims with planned end dates in the 2012/13 academic year were included in QSRs....	The 2012/13 QSRs included learning aims with a planned end date within the academic year 2012/13 (1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013). Learning aims with a planned end date outside the 2012/13 academic year were excluded from the QSRs.
...providing the aims were not key skills, functional skills, or learning aims studied by students at institutions other than their 'main' one	Key skills are not included in 2012/13 QSRs because they have been discontinued. Functional skills have not been included because they are still relatively new qualifications. In addition, aims for students who were registered as 'subsidiary' at an institution were not included in the QSRs for that institution and instead counted at their 'main' institution. Furthermore, where students transferred from one learning aim to another, the original learning aim was not included.
Remember, aims were excluded from the national QSRs if they did not match to the awarding body data	Learning aims were excluded where there was not a match between the school census and awarding body data, where a match was expected.

---

Learning aims in the census may not have matched to the awarding body data due to input errors such as the use of incorrect Qualification Numbers or duplicate records

There are a number of reasons for learning aims in the school census not matching to aims in the awarding body data. These include:

- Schools reporting non-regulated, incorrect or outdated Qualification Numbers. Only codes representing qualifications which are currently regulated by Ofqual can be matched to awarding body data
  - Learning aims in the school census were duplicated. This meant that aims were reported more than once in a number of cases. Where there was a duplicate, the awarding body data could only match to one of the two aims.
- 

## 4. Further information

---

In the future, QSRs will be replaced by a new retention measure

A new retention measure will replace QSRs from 2016 and will show the proportion of students who are retained by a provider and complete the 'core aim' of their study programme. Options for an interim measure covering future years are being reviewed. An update on plans will be published at the end of 2014 following further consultation with schools and key users on the best approach. This update will be published on gov.uk [16 to 19 education: accountability - Detailed guidance](#)

---

## 5. Do you have a query? Would you like to give feedback?

If from the media

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. 020 7925 6789

If non-media

Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT. 02073407447  
QSR.REPORT@education.gsi.gov.uk



# Department for Education

© Crown copyright 2014

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [Open Government Licence](#) or e-mail: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [QSR.REPORT@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:QSR.REPORT@education.gsi.gov.uk)

This document is also available from our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-a-as-levels-key-stage-5>