

Further Education Qualification Success Rate reporting for the academic year 2007/08

Guidance Notes

What are Qualification Success Rate Reports?

The Qualification Success Rate (QSR) report for a further education provider shows the number of learning aims successfully achieved expressed as a percentage of the number of learning aims that were started and expected to be achieved in the given academic year. These percentages or success rates are then broken down by:

- Length of aim
- Level of qualification
- Age of learner
- Categorisation of subject
- Gender and age
- Ethnicity and age
- Learning difficulty or disability

What is the purpose of Qualification Success Rates?

Success rates help a further education provider to assess the quality of the courses they provide. They are also used as part of the calculation for the following year's allocation of funding from the Learning and Skills Council. The data feeds into the Minimum Level of Performance (MLP) report which is used for identifying and managing underperformance and will be reviewed by OfSTED in their inspection reports.

Who are they used by?

Success rates are available for each provider who received FE funding from the Learning and Skills Council. The information is published through the online data collections portal and the provider gateway. The data is also used by OfSTED in inspection reports and the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills for reviewing the performance of further education.

How are they calculated?

They are calculated using the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data supplied by the provider in the final (F05) collection for the current and 4 previous academic years. There is a detailed set of guidelines produced by the LSC for calculating success rates, for more information on this please refer to the FE Success Rates Methodology document. Below is a quick reference guide to the key principles:

- Key Skills qualifications are excluded from the main calculations and tables within the report but are shown in a separate table. They are also excluded from MLP calculations and reports
- The methodology specifically excludes learning aims withdrawn before 1 November (Census Date) in the first year of the qualification
- Qualifications classified as unitised qualifications (such as Unitisation Level 2, Preparation for Life and Work) and additional units are excluded
- Programmes that do not have an accredited learning aim as their outcome are excluded e.g. diagnostic tests, tutorial support.
- The data includes non LSC funded learning aims (where there are funded learners doing the same aim)
- University for Industry qualifications are excluded
- Offender learners in custody qualifications are excluded

How often are they produced?

Qualification success rate reports are produced following the F05 return date for that year, 1 November 2008 for 2007/08. A provider should be able to download them within 48 hours from when they submit their F05 ILR data.

Enquiries

If you would like any more information about Success Rates please contact our Service Desk on 0870 2670001 or email servicedesk@thedata-service.org.uk