



Department
for Education

Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 4 July 2014
Your comments must reach us by that date

**Accountability: publishing headline
performance measures on school and
college websites**

If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

This consultation seeks views on our proposals that all publicly funded schools (primary, secondary, including academies, free schools, UTCs and studio schools) and colleges should publish specified headline performance measures on the front page of their websites in a standard format. This includes plans to develop a data application (or widget) that will contain the specified information in the required format which schools and colleges will be required to download.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for confidentiality:	

Name: Laura Janowski/Deepa Jethwa	
Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation.	X
Name of Organisation (if applicable): Sixth Form Colleges' Association (SFCA)	
Address Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ	

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the GOV.UK ['Contact Us'](#) page.

Please place a 'x' in the box below that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Primary school	<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary school	<input type="checkbox"/> Academy
<input type="checkbox"/> Free school	<input type="checkbox"/> University technical college	<input type="checkbox"/> School sixth form
<input type="checkbox"/> Sixth form college	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-19 academy	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-19 free school
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent school	<input type="checkbox"/> Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Please Specify:

Presentation of headline measures

1 Do you agree that the headline measures should be presented in a standard way?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

The headline measures should be presented in a standard way. It is important these same measures should be used in other sources (such as Ofsted's data dashboard) to ensure consistency and avoid confusion.

The focus on qualifications is correct, although it is important that institutions that offer mixed academic and vocational programmes of study are not disadvantaged in the way the data is presented.

2 Do you agree that there should be a visual presentation of the data to aid understanding?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

Yes, visual presentation is very important to aid understanding for students and parents.

3 Do you have any different suggestions for how the data might be presented visually?

Comments:

Bar charts could be used comparing an institution's data to national averages which will clearly identify to users if an institution is performing above or below average.

4 Will the examples given above improve understanding and meet the aims set out at the beginning of this document?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:

The five headline measures proposed are appropriate; however, it is important to ensure the data behind them is up to date and accurate. All significant data issues must be resolved before institutions are required to present this information on their websites. For example, there are a large number of students whose destinations are not known and the data for 2011/12 has only been released this month.

It must also be possible to make comparisons using more granular data if required. For example, using the proposed attainment measure, 80% of Sixth Form Colleges would have an average grade per academic entry of a C+, C, or C-. Consideration should be given to a link to more detailed data sources.

5 Where should these measures be available?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School and college websites	<input type="checkbox"/>	BBC website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GOV.UK
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other				

Comments:

The measures should be available on college websites and the Gov.uk website.

Data Application (widget)

6 Do parents experience problems finding school or college performance information and using it to compare one provider to another?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Sure
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Comments:

Parents do experience problems with finding college performance information and using it to make comparisons with other providers. Currently a wide variety of measures are used to highlight performance and parents are not always clear on which measure accurately reflect the institution's performance. It will be helpful for parents to have a common set of performance indicators to use, but again, the data behind the measures must be robust.

7 Do you agree that a data application should be developed and installed locally to allow schools and colleges to comply with the requirement to publish headline measures in a standard format on their website?

Agree Disagree Not sure

Comments:

Yes, however it is important that this does bring with it undue bureaucracy or create a burden on staff.

8 Do you agree that the requirements for the application set out at [Annex A](#) are the right ones?

Agree Disagree Not sure

Comments:

Yes, on the whole the requirements specified are appropriate. However a few points that need to be considered:

- G4 - if it will not be possible to change the data once it has been downloaded it is vital to ensure the data is robust and accurate
- G6 - data must be robust and accurate to ensure credibility

9 Are there any technical issues for your website that you think we should be aware of?

Comments: n/a

10 Does your school or college have the capability to install a data application (“widget”) on its website?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Comments: n/a

11 If you are a school or college, would you be willing to pilot the data application before it is rolled out nationally?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:
n/a

Ensuring compliance

12 Do you think the availability of a data application ("widget"), together with changes to the School Information Regulations and funding agreements, encourage compliance with the requirement to publish headline measures on school and college websites?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
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Comments:
Making this a condition of funding for Sixth Form Colleges will obviously encourage compliance.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E-mail address for acknowledgement: info@sixthformcolleges.org	

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, please confirm below if you would be willing to be contacted again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office [Principles on Consultation](#)

The key Consultation Principles are:

- departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
- departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and use real discussion with affected parties and experts as well as the expertise of civil service learning to make well informed decisions
- departments should explain what responses they have received and how these have been used in formulating policy
- consultation should be 'digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy
- the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

If you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Aileen Shaw, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: aileen.shaw@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by 4 July 2014

Send by post to: Andrew Taylor, Inspections and Accountability Unit, Level 2, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Send by e-mail to: Widget.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk