

KS5 Cohort Eligibility - DfE Correspondence

1. In order for schools to find out if any students who are now academic age 18 (and who are not still on roll) will be included in their figures this summer can they simply check their shadow data for last year?

i.e. if any students left at the end of Y12 in 2013/14 or finished Y13 in 2014/15 but weren't included in the school's 2014/15 shadow data for any reason, does this mean they will definitely be counted in this year's figures due to being academic 18 (and is this the only check they need to perform)?

This seems reasonable to assume, but I would recommend the school checks their data in the September checking exercise.

2. Equally, if a student was at the same school in 2013/14 and 2014/15 but for whatever reason carried on their 16-19 study this year, in a "normal" year the school would likely have deferred the student during the checking exercise. They obviously had no opportunity to do this though, so the student will (presumably) have been included in the shadow data as they'd been on roll for 2 years.

Does this mean that they won't be included in this year's official tables as they've already been reported, or will they count in both sets of 2016-based figures?

A student included in the shadow data is not classed as being reported- the data is for information/illustrative purposes only. So this student should be reported in the (official) 2016 tables.

3. Are the examples used in part (a) specific to the actual qualification sizes required, or used to give examples of the total size needed (i.e. 2).

I'm just asking because some of our schools believed a student taking 4 AS qualifications in Y13 (who aren't deferred) would count as they'd have the required total size, but the guidance to me suggests otherwise.

These are the actual qualifications sizes required. Students must achieve a total size of qualifications of at least 2 A levels (or equivalent) and the each of the qualifications which make up this total must be at least the size of 1 A level. Therefore 4 AS levels would not meet this requirement and neither would 1 AS (size 0.5) and 1 combined AS/A level (size 1.5). A double applied A level (size 2) would meet this requirement, however, as would 2 A levels (and any equivalents of the same size). They may meet condition b of course and then they would be included.

4. In relation to deferring students, could you let me know how this is done (and the deadline for any deferrals)?

Can you also let me know if a student leaves school A at the end of Y12 and is then deferred at the end of Y13 by School B, will they automatically not be counted in School A's figures or would School A also need to apply for their Y12 figures to be deferred?

Deferrals should be made during the September checking exercise (26th September – 13th October). If a student leaves school A at the end of Y12 and is then deferred at the end of Y13 by School B they will automatically be counted in School A's figures when reported in performance tables. School A will be informed during the checking exercise that the student has been deferred. School A need take no action in this case.

5. The guidance says "in the reporting year" – can you confirm if this means the year in which the student is reported to the DfE, and not the year the student was at a previous school (i.e. the year relating to the figures for that school)?

If this is the case then if a student leaves School A at the end of Y12 and moves to School B, will School A need to contact School B to find out if they've entered 2 full A2s (or been deferred) to discover whether or not the student's Y12 grades will be included in School A's reporting figures?

(N.B. I realise this will be done automatically in the Shadow data, but in terms of looking ahead to the summer's results and for reporting to the LA/parents/press on results day it's something they'll need to know beforehand.)

'In the reporting year' means the year of the performance tables, ie for 2016 performance tables the reporting year is the 2015-16 academic year. In this example, if the student entered 2 full A2s in school B (in 2015/16), they will be published against school A and school B in that year. If the student has not entered sufficient qualifications in 2015/16 or is deferred by school B, then the student will be published against both schools in 2016/17. This does mean that school A can't be sure in which year some of their students who left after year 12 will be included. School A will be able to find this out in the checking exercise, and if the student is deferred at this point by school B, they will be informed so they know not to include them in their figures for that year.

6. Part (c) says that if the student is 18 they will be included in the figures. Can I just confirm that this means "academic age 18"?

Yes. Age refers to the age of the student at the start of the academic year, ie 31 August. So, if a student is aged 18 in the 2015/16 academic year we are saying that they were 18 on 31/08/2015.

7. If a student leaves School A at the end of Year 12, and at School B only enters 1 qualification equivalent in size to a full A2 in Y13 (and isn't subsequently deferred), they don't appear to have satisfied any of the criteria for inclusion. Does this mean that they are not reported against any providers and so slip through the cracks?

In this case they would be covered by c from inclusion criteria above. Their results would be allocated to schools A and B in the following year (even if they are not allocated to any institution in the reporting year).

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8. From looking into the shadow data it seems the bulk of 'add-backs' are actually coming from the Year 12 2012-13 year group. It appears that these students should have been Year 13 in 2013-14 but dropped out of KS5 study, and then due to rule (c) they have been added back into the 2014-15 shadow data.

Does this therefore mean that schools should expect any students who left them in 2013-14 and didn't complete their 16-18 study in 2014-15 to be added back into their 2015-16 figures?

Yes, this is correct. Any students who did not meet either criteria a or b will be picked up using criterion c so no students 'slip through the cracks'.

9. An X grade wouldn't count as an entry in the performance tables, so if a student is entered for 2 full A2s (or equivalent) but gets an X in one of them, would they have only entered for 1 full A2 and therefore not be eligible for inclusion?

X grades are not counted in performance tables measures as they indicate we have no information about how much of the course a student completed. So the X grade is not counted. However, if this student met either criteria b or c above they would be eligible for inclusion in the tables.

10. Another specific case that's come out of the shadow data is schools who had students leave Year 11 in 2012-13 but came into school to resit either their L2 English or Maths in November 2012. Despite not being on their roll in sixth form, they are counting towards their English and Maths level 2 resit figures. Can you confirm that this is the case and that this will continue to happen in the 2015-16 figures?

We are aware of this issue and we are currently looking at a way to resolve it.

Thanks for reading.

Feel free to pop onto Live Chat if you have any queries.