

School Success Rates for 2008/09

Data definitions

Date of issue: 12 November 2010

This document aims to help School Sixth Forms to analyse their Success Rate Data for the 2008/09 academic year.

The first thing to consider is your success rate, as shown on your business case template. Is this success rate broadly what you expected? If so, you need to take no further action.

If the success rate is significantly different from what you expected then you should take the following initial steps. You should check:

- Volume of Learning Aims
- Amount of Unknowns
- Amount of Withdrawals.

How do I find my Unknowns?

Schools should look in the column named "UNKNOWN"; all learning aims recorded as "1" are unknown, "0" is known.

How do I find my Withdrawals?

Schools should look in the column named "UNKNOWN", select all known records (ie those recorded as "0"); then in the column named "ACHIEVE" select all records recorded as "0".

How do I find my Achievements?

In the column named "ACHIEVE" select all records recorded as "1".

Learning Aims

1. Do you have the right number of aims?
2. Are the aims you have distributed as you would expect amongst the subject areas taught in your school?
3. If you have a significant number of duplicate Learning Aims you should report this on the Business Case.

Unknowns

Unknowns occur where codes recorded in a school's census return do not match a school's exam entry codes. Schools should look in the column named "UNKNOWN"; all learning aims recorded as "1" are unknown, "0" is known.

Unknowns can also be identified within Field "Matchstatus" and are those recorded as "0" or "200". These records have not been used to calculate success rates.

Some reasons that Unknowns might occur:

- The wrong codes have been entered onto SIMS (the census return)
- QAN codes are updated regularly. The school may have used an out of date code
- The school syllabus has changed, but the codes haven't been updated
- A student has swapped courses but SIMS (the census return) has not been updated.

Matchstatus	
Match_Status	Mach_d
0	not matched to AAT
1	Matched, same LAESTAB
2	Matched, different LAESTAB
200	Unmatched AAT data

If you believe that you have a significant number of Learning Aims that have been categorised as Unknown, that should have been recorded as a Start which ended in an achievement, then you should report this in your business case.

Withdrawn

Withdrawn shows where a learner has been withdrawn from their Learning Aim. Schools should look in the column named "UNKNOWN", select all known records (ie those recorded as "0"); then in the column named "ACHIEVE" select all records

recorded as “0”. These can also be identified in the Field “A34” which shows the completion status of your “Starts”, which are used to calculate your Success Rate. Schools should that it is usual to have some withdrawals, these are legitimate, and record where student has left a course.

If a learner is shown as Withdrawn in error, some reasons include:

- Under normal circumstances if an estimated aim completion date occurs before the actual aim completion date
- Schools should also note that for a minority there was an error in particular version of SIMS in 2008/09 which caused learning aims to be recorded as withdrawn also where actual aim completion date occurred before the estimated completion date. In these minority of cases school would have need to record the same day for estimated and actual completion dates.
- Where the withdrawn aim has a grade recorded in the “Pass_But_W”[ithdrawn] field (column AI). This indicates that the learner has achieved their aim but has been withdrawn in error.

If you believe that you have a significant number of Learning Aims that have been categorised as Withdrawn in error, then you should report this in your business case.

Field “A34” will also show you which learning aims have been completed and transferred.

A34		
A34	A34_Completion_Desc	A34_Completion_Desc2
1	The Learner Is Continuing Or Intending To Continue The Learning Activities Leading To The Learning Aim	Continuing
-1	Missing (Not Applicable/ Not Known)	Not App/ Known
2	The Learner Has Completed The Learning Activities Leading To The Learning Aim	Completed
3	The Learner Has Withdrawn From The Learning Activities Leading To The Learning Aim	Withdrawn
4	The Learner Has Transferred To A New Learning Aim. That Is, The Learner Has Withdrawn From This Learning Aim And As A Direct Result Has At The Same Time Started Studying For Another Learning Aim Within The Same Provider	Transfer to New Aim
5	Changes In Learning Within The Same Programme Type And Sector Subject Area/ Funding Category And Remaining With The Existing Provider	Changes in Learning
6	Learner Has Temporarily Withdrawn From The Aim Due To An Agreed Break In Learning	Break in Learning
x	Delete	Delete

Outcomes of Completed Learning Aims

Field "A35" shows the outcome of a completed learning aim.

A35 A35_OUTC_A

- 1 Missing (Not Applicable/ Not Known)
- 1 Achieved
- 2 Partial Achievement
- 3 No Achievement
- 4 Exam Taken/ Assessment Completed But Result Not Yet Known
- 5 Learning Activities Are Complete But The Exam Has Not Yet Been Taken And There Is An Intention To Take The Exam
- 9 Study Continuing

Other Key Fields

The fields listed below can be found in the learning aim data spreadsheet provided to schools.

Field Name	Description
A27	Start date
A28	Expected end date
A31	Actual end date
A36	Exam grade
A32	GLH: Number of hours that are expected to be spent on the aim within the academic year E.g. AS is 150 glh Double AS 300 glh.

Grade matc

Where an aim can be matched, this field shows what it has been matched to:

Grade_matc Grade_ma_a

- 0** No Match
match on QAN and Disc_code (from current year)
- 1** Match on QAN only (from current year)
- 2** Matched on Disc_code only from current year
- 3** Definition Not listed
- 4** Definition Not listed
- 5** Definition Not listed
- 6** Definition Not listed
- 101** match on QAN and Disc_code (from previous year)

- year)
- 102** Match on QAN only (from previous year)
 - 103** Matched on Disc_code only (from previous year)
 - 104** Definition Not listed
 - 105** Definition Not listed
 - 200** Unmatched AAT data

A_ATYPE_AI

Aim type descriptions.

A_ATYPE_AI	A_ATYPE_B
-1	Not App/ Known
1	GCE A/AS/A2 level
2	GCSE
3	GNVQ precursor
4	GNVQ/AVCE
5	NVQ
6	Access to HE
7	HNC/HND
8	OCN
9	Additional NVQ/GNVQ
10	Other
11	Mixed