

# Changes to Secondary School Performance Tables

Secondary school performance tables due to be published on Thursday 25 January\* **cannot be compared to the previous year** because of GCSE reforms and changes to performance measures.

The DfE, trust boards, governors, and inspectors must **avoid making judgements** on the basis of performance measures which are undergoing significant transition, and will continue to be turbulent in 2018.

## Attainment 8

Attainment 8 is based on scores for eight qualifications. The way these are calculated has changed:

Year	Calculation
2016	Based on A*-G grades with eight points for A* down to one point for G.
2017	English and maths are scored 9-1 in line with the new GCSE grading system for reformed qualifications.  A*-G is also scored differently, with an A* now worth 8.5 points.  Grades B-F are now worth half a point or a point less than in 2016.

**A school's Attainment 8 score may therefore vary significantly from 2016, even if its GCSE grades were broadly similar to the previous year.**

## Progress 8

Progress 8 compares the Attainment 8 scores of similar pupils and calculates their progress against the national average. Changes to Attainment 8 mean top grades (A\* and 9) score more than in the previous year, while grades B-F score less than in 2016, resulting in a wider range of Progress 8 scores.

This means fewer schools on or near average, and more at both ends of the performance scale.

As a result, Education Datalab calculates the number of schools falling below the floor standard of -0.5 will rise to 366 from 282 (in 2016).

This situation reflects a change to the system, not a deterioration of standards; it renders the floor standard largely meaningless, likewise the 'coasting' threshold of -0.25.

**A dip in a school's Progress 8 scores does not necessarily mean a dip in performance.**

## Achievement in English and maths

Previously, the headline measure was the percentage of pupils achieving Grade C and above, broadly equivalent to the new Grade 4 and above in English and maths. However, the government arbitrarily decided to make the headline measure the percentage of pupils achieving Grade 5 and above (equivalent to the previous top C grade and bottom B grade). There is no comparable performance measure in previous years.

## English Baccalaureate achievement

Similarly, this headline measure was previously the percentage of pupils achieving a Grade C or above in the EBacc subjects.

Now, English and maths elements must be at Grade 5 or above, meaning this year's figure cannot be compared to previous years.

## Any questions?

### ASCL member hotline

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### DfE

0370 000 2288

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure)

### Education Datalab

*Provisional KS4 data 2017: Has your Progress 8 score improved?* (12 October 2017)

<https://educationdatalab.org.uk/2017/10/provisional-ks4-data-2017-raising-the-floor/>

\*This factsheet will be updated after publication of secondary school performance tables, expected 25 January 2018.