



# College Performance Indicators 17-18

## SFC Statistical Publication

## College Performance Indicators 2017-18 Executive Summary



Issue date:	29 January 2019
Reference:	SFC/ST/02/2019
Summary:	Overview of college performance indicators from 2008-09 to 2017-18
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*The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.*



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## Executive Summary

1. This report is an overview of college performance indicators from 2008-09 to 2017-18 and provides a broad coverage of college teaching activity and presents an analysis of student outcomes for those students enrolled on courses leading to recognised qualifications.
2. The sector exceeded its student number target for 2017-18 and in doing so delivered 118,684 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) SFC funded student places which is 2,415 FTE more than the 116,269 FTE target.
3. The key points from this report are:

The results for the 49,366 full-time **further education** (FE) students enrolled on recognised qualifications are as follows:

- 66.1% successfully completed their course which is 0.8 percentage points (PP) higher than 2016-17 and is the highest success rate over the 10 year period.
- In 2017-18, of the 26 colleges delivering full-time FE courses, 13 had improved success rates in comparison to the previous year, one college's success rate remained unchanged and 12 saw a decline in the proportion successfully completing their course.
- 4,678 additional full-time FE students successfully completed their course in 2017-18 in comparison to 2008-09.
- A further 8.8% completed their course in 2017-18. Although these students did not achieve the qualification they were aiming for by the end of the academic year, some may gain their award at a later time.
- The remaining 25.1% of full-time FE students withdrew from their course and are accounted for by 9.0% of students withdrawing before the funding qualifying date (colleges are not funded for these students) and a further 16.1% between this point and the end of the course.
- For larger colleges success rates ranged from 59.1% to 75.4% in 2017-18 and for smaller colleges the success rates ranged from 52.1% up to 77.8%. Changes in success rates from 2016-17 to 2017-18 for colleges ranged from -25 PP for one very small college and -8 PP to +9 PP for other colleges.
- SFC's national aspiration for full-time FE success is that by AY 2019-20 the percentage of enrolled (full-time) students successfully achieving a recognised qualification should increase to 73.2%. In 2017-18 four colleges from 26 exceeded the AY 2019-20 success rate target percentage of 73.2% and on comparison the sector is currently sitting 7.1 PP below this target.

The results for the 33,809 full-time **higher education** (HE) students enrolled on recognised qualifications are as follows:

- 71.3% of full-time students successfully completed their course which is a 0.3 PP reduction on the previous year.
- Of the 15 colleges delivering full-time HE courses in 2017-18 six had improved pass rates in comparison to the previous year and nine saw a decline in the proportion successfully completing their course.
- As a result of increases in student numbers and improving success rates 6,679 additional full-time HE students successfully completed their course in 2017-18 in comparison to 2008-09.
- A further 10.3% completed their course in 2017-18, these students did not achieve the qualification they were aiming for by the end of the academic year but some may gain their award at a later time.
- The remaining 18.4% of full-time HE students are accounted for by 5.0% of students withdrawing before the funding qualifying date (colleges are not funded for these students) and a further 13.3% between this point and the end of the course.
- Full-time HE success rates ranged from 66.1% to 76.2% in 2017-18. Changes in success rates from 2016-17 to 2017-18 for colleges ranged from -3 PP to +3 PP.
- SFC's national aspiration for full-time HE success is that by AY 2019-20 the percentage of enrolled (full-time) students successfully achieving a recognised qualification should increase to 74.4%. In 2017-18 two colleges from 15 exceeded the AY 2019-20 success rate target percentage of 74.4% and on comparison the sector is currently sitting 3.1 PP below this target.

#### **Courses over 160 hours:**

- Success rates for FE full and part-time subject areas range from 54.9% for science subjects to 82.5% for nautical courses.
  - For HE full and part-time courses success rates range from 64.5% for hospitality and tourism to 88.9% for nautical courses.
  - The success rate for under 18 has increased by 1.6 PP from 2016-17 whilst the success rate for those aged 41 and over has increased by 0.4 PP.
  - The withdrawal rates for male and female students on HE programmes are very similar at around 17%. However, for FE programmes females are 2.4% more likely to withdraw from their programme of study than male students.
4. Links to individual College PIs and a more detailed explanation on and examples of how we calculate PIs can be found in separate Technical Appendices to this document.