# Was your college among best or worst success rates performers?

**FEWEEK.CO.UK** 

Sixth Form College

590,000,13%

Schools

1,230,0%

**Private Sector** 

556.250 . 13%

Public Funded.

Other Public Funded,

**Continued** 

from front...

Sixth Form College

6,850, 2%

**16-18 ALL LEVEL FUNCTIONAL SKILLS** 

**SUCCESS RATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE** 

347,440,8%

310,0%

**Private Sector** 

Public Funded,

36,970, 10%

Other Public

Funded. 6.070.2%

The Skills Funding Agency's national success rates were published this month — and for the first time ever were divided into classroom qualifications and apprenticeships.

This week, FE Week reporter Rebecca Cooney takes a look at the results for classroom qualifications.

lackpool and the Fylde College (B&FC) and Farnborough College of Technology are celebrating after topping this vear's general FE and tertiary college nonapprenticeship success rates tables

The principals of both colleges have said they were "delighted" by the results for 2013/4, which placed B&FC as number one in the country for all age and all level qualifications, and Farnborough in the top spot for all level courses for 16 to 18-vear-olds

Bev Robinson, principal of B&FC, which achieved a success rate of 92.9 per cent (meaning 22.157 learners out of 23.850 completed their learning aims) in the tables published this month, said: "We work in partnership with employers to ensure that the provision which we offer meets the needs of industry and delivers sustainable employment opportunities for our students.

"This combined with a highly committed and passionate staff team clearly focussed on learning, teaching and assessment motivates students to achieve the best possible

outcomes."

Farnborough's success rate was 93 per cent. with 3.794 of 4.080 enrolments completing their learning aims

Principal Christine Slaymaker CBE said: "I'm proud to say our success is down to our inspirational and professional staff delivering the highest standards of education alongside the dedication and hard work of

At the other end of the table, the ill-fated K College had the lowest success rates in the country for all age and all level courses, scoring just 66.1 per cent—more than five percentage points below the next college on the list, with 9.195 enrolments of 13.910 succeeding

K College, formed by a merger between West Kent College and South Kent College in 2010, was dismantled at the end of the last academic year after running up a £15m debt with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

Its provision was divided between Hadlow College and East Kent College. Graham Razev, principal of East Kent College which took over K College's Dover and Folkestone provision, said: "These figures show the scale of the challenge that the team faces in terms of transforming the provision.

"By working closely with the business community, local partners, and the SFA we have a clear skills strategy that now closely matches the needs of our local young people

TOP THREE ALL AGE ALL LEVEL GFE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES OVERALL SUCCESS RATE % RETENTION RATE % OVERALL LEAVERS BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE 23.850 92.9 97.7 STEPHENSON COLLEGE 6,650 96.2 95.5 **GATESHEAD COLLEGE** 

BOTTOM THREE ALL AGE ALL LEVEL GFE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES				
SOUTH AND WEST KENT COLLEGE	13,910	66.1	88.3	74.8
GREENWICH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	6,660	71.2	90.0	79.1
HERTFORD REGIONAL COLLEGE	7,210	71.6	89.0	80.5

TOP THREE IG-18 ALL LEVEL GFE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES				
FARNBOROUGH COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	4,080	93.0	97.3	95.5
RUNSHAW COLLEGE	11,690	92.5	95.5	96.8
SOUTH DEVON COLLEGE	8,830	91.1	95.8	95.1

BOTTOM THREE 16-18 ALL LEVEL GFE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES				
GREENWICH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	1,910	60.7	85.5	71.0
DONCASTER COLLEGE	5,790	62.6	84.2	74.3
BARNFIELD COLLEGE	3,750	63.4	81.8	77.5

Source: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sfa-national-success-rates-tables-2013-to-2014-open-data-csv-files

TOP THREE 16-18 TOTAL LEAVERS, ALL LEAVERS GFE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES					
NCG	26,110	69.2	78.9	87.8	
SOUTH ESSEX COLLEGE OF FE & HE	16,670	78.9	91.5	86.2	
BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN COLLEGE	16,640	79.0	92.6	85.3	

# Combination of provision paints unfair picture

Success rate figures for 2013/14 have painted an unfair picture of NCG (formerly Newcastle College Group), it has been claimed.

While it was 11th from bottom for all level non-apprenticeship qualifications for 16 to 18-year-olds, the scale of the organisation meant its impact was greatest after 8,042 of its 26,110 enrolments in the age group were shown to have failed to

However, NCG said this did not paint a fair picture as the figures included all branches of the organisation but compared them only to other colleges.

It consists of three FE colleges — Newcastle, West Lancashire and Kidderminster (which joined the group after 2013/14) — training provider Intraining, youth charity and training provider Rathbone and Newcastle Sixth Form College (SFC). However, it is listed as a general FE college in the Skills Funding Agency data

Chris Payne, NCG group director of planning and performance, said its mix of different providers made direct comparison with other FE colleges "impossible"

He pointed to the combined success rate for three colleges which were

part of NCG at the time (Newcastle, West Lancashire and Newcastle SFC), which NCG calculated was at 80.8 per cent, saying this was "in line with the performance of the rest of the college sector"

He said NCG's results had been pulled down by Rathbone, which

works specifically with disengaged learners and has a success

Rathbone caters for 5,875 of NCG's 26,110 learners, who Mr Pavne said, were "on short courses with the main aim of progressing into a job, an apprenticeship or further training to give them skills for work"

"We achieve that with two thirds of our Rathbone learners. which is how we measure our success," he said.

"Because these learners come to get a job or learn a trade — rather than a specific qualification like most college students — some leave as soon as that opportunity comes up rather than completing the course, which reduces the success

"So when you look at the achievement rates - the passes of those who staved on the course — we reach 83 per cent, which matches the pass levels of similar independent learning providers.



Commissioner Dr David Collins had praised its progress in integrating provision after a follow-up visit relating to his past inspection

Hadlow College vice principal Lynda Brown, said: "The college has made significant improvements in teaching An East Kent College spokesperson said FE and learning this academic year. This has resulted in a substantial improvement in student retention, their experience and their

At the bottom of the 16 to 18 all levels table was another troubled college — Greenwich Community College, with 60.7 per cent or 1.159 of 1.910 enrolments succeeding.

The college, under new leadership since the

period the success rates relate to, is currently in administered status following a visit by Dr Collins, which took place in January after a grade four Ofsted result — and just days after current interim principal Lindsey Noble took

She said the college had "been making good progress" since the last academic year and was implementing a post inspection improvement plan.

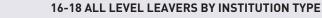
"A new interim senior team is in place and working hard to change the culture of the college," she said.

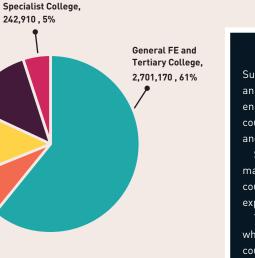
"The new management team are completely committed to turning the college around and improving outcomes for students. Clearly, the pace of change must be sustained so that this vear's completing students are as successful as they can be for their progression in the

### 16-18 ALL LEVEL SUCCESS RATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE ALL AGE ALL LEVEL SUCCESS RATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE OVERALL SUCCESS RATE % OVERALL LEAVERS **GENERAL FE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE** 2,701,170 OTHER PUBLIC FUNDED 347.440 PRIVATE SECTOR PUBLIC FUNDED 556.250 86.5 SIXTH FORM COLLEGE 86.7 590.000 SPECIALIST COLLEGE 242.910 89.2 ALL INSTITUTION TYPE

NUMBER OF ALL AGE ALL LEVEL LEAVERS BY INSTITUTION TYPE

### OVERALL LEAVERS **OVERALL SUCCESS RATE %** INSTITUTION TYPE **GENERAL FE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE** 1,271,100 80.1 OTHER PUBLIC FUNDED 23,140 PRIVATE SECTOR PUBLIC FUNDED 92.450 62.7 SCHOOLS 890 64.6 SIXTH FORM COLLEGE 567,210 86.9 SPECIALIST COLLEGE 51.670 80.4 **ALL INSTITUTION TYPE** 2.006.460 81.2





uccess rates show how providers perform in an academic year, based on how many funded could enrol on more than one course) are completed and achieved Success rates are calculated by working out how many students achieved their learning aims on a course, out of the number that started. The result is

WHAT ARE SUCCESS RATES?

**EDITION 134** 

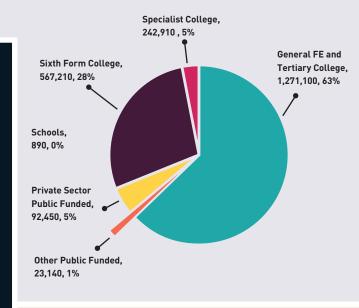
There are two types of success rate — overall. which shows how many learners completed the course altogether, and timely, which shows how man learners completed the course on, before or within

The Skills Funding Agency data also gives figures for providers' retention rate and achievement rates

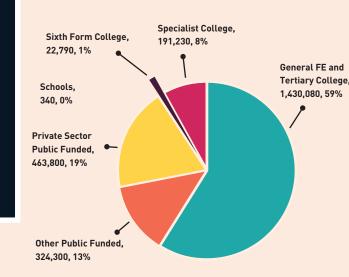
The retention rate shows how many of the learners starting a course stay until the end, while the achievement rate shows how many learners achieved their learning aims out of those who finished the

So in a class of 10 learners, if two left before the end of the course the retention rate would be 80 per cent. If six people achieved their learning aims, the success rate would be 60 per cent and the achievement rate would be 75 per cent.

The methodology for calculating success rates has changed considerably from 2012/13, with, for example. Functional Skills and QCF units included in the data. This means the data for 2013/14 cannot neaningfully be compared to previous years' data.



### 19+ ALL LEVEL LEAVERS BY INSTITUTION TYPE



1	19+ ALL LEVEL SUCCESS RATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE					
	INSTITUTION TYPE	OVERALL LEAVERS	OVERALL SUCCESS RATE %			
	GENERAL FE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE	1,430,080	86.7			
	OTHER PUBLIC FUNDED	324,300	84.4			
	PRIVATE SECTOR PUBLIC FUNDED	463,800	91.2			
	SCHOOLS	340	74.9			
	SIXTH FORM COLLEGE	22,790	81.7			
	SPECIALIST COLLEGE	191,230	91.6			
	ALL INSTITUTION TYPE	2,432,540	87.6			

## 16-18 ALL LEVEL FUNCTIONAL SKILLS SUCCESS RATES BY INSTITUTION TYPE

Specialist College

14,140,4%

INSTITUTION TYPE	OVERALL LEAVERS	OVERALL SUCCESS RATE %
GENERAL FE AND TERTIARY COLLEGE	286,350	64.3
OTHER PUBLIC FUNDED	6,070	59.7
PRIVATE SECTOR PUBLIC FUNDED	36,970	52.9
SCHOOLS	310	54.1
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE	6,850	63.7
SPECIALIST COLLEGE	14,140	64.7
ALL INSTITUTION TYPE	350,680	63.1

General FE and

Tertiary College

286.350, 82%

Find out who the top apprenticeship success rates

performers are in the next edition of FE Week