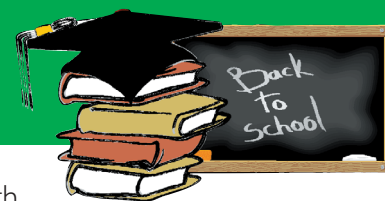


# Education

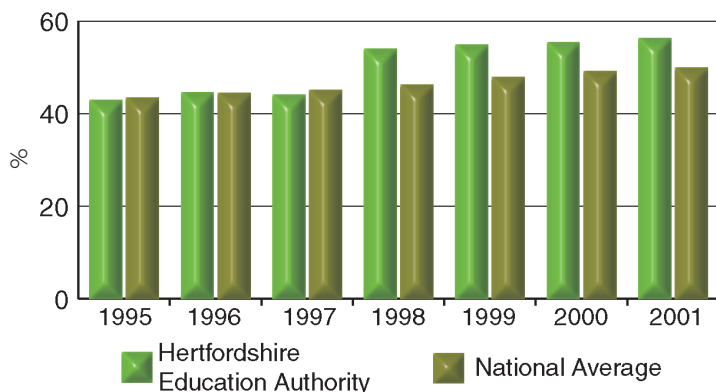


Education is a major contributor to quality of life, promoting active contribution to and integration with society, increasing confidence and self-esteem and ensuring an able workforce for the future benefit of the economy. Education is an ongoing process and access to basic skills education and training for adults is an important part of this. However, for the purposes of this report, we focus on education in schools and use local GCSE performance compared with national figures as an indicator.

The Children, Schools and Families Service (CSF) was launched by Hertfordshire County Council in April 2001. By joining Education with the children's element of Social Services, the new service aims to give integrated and better support to Hertfordshire's children. As part of an aim to give more of a voice to parents, there are four elected parent governor representatives who are members of the new Children, Schools and Families Committee at Hertfordshire County Council.

## INDICATOR EDI - GCSE Performance

### Average % of Schools Achieving Five or More Grade A\* - C GCSE Passes



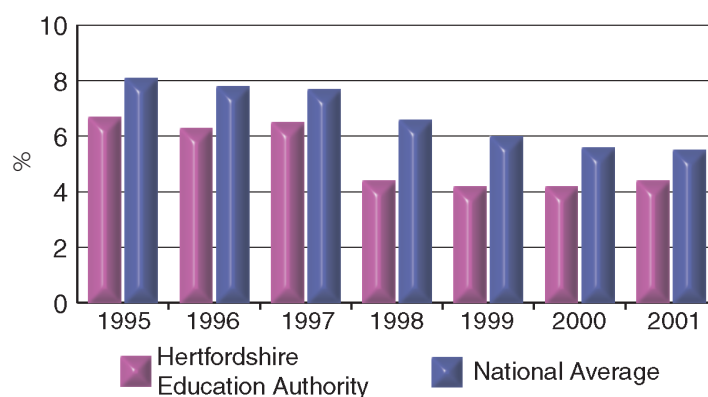
It can be seen from the above graph that, particularly in recent years, Hertfordshire schools have achieved higher levels of passes than the national average and the rate of improvement has kept pace with schools across the country. It has been recognised in the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) Report (January 2000) that Hertfordshire benefits from good standards of education and performs well against the national average. Over half of all children achieve five or more GCSE grades A\* -C. The proportion of adults with higher education qualifications is also higher in Hertfordshire than is found nationally.

The achievement of pupils on entry to primary schools is above average and they continue to attain standards which are higher than those achieved nationally from Key Stage 1 to GCSE. Attainment at GCE Advanced

level, however, is in line with national norms. Standards are rising in Hertfordshire schools faster than the national rates, but schools with similar characteristics have differing levels of achievement.

Hertfordshire is one of just fourteen LEA/Health partnerships in the country to be accredited to the national healthy school standards, and has four of the country's Beacon status schools.

### Average % of Pupils with no GCSE Passes



In line with the figures for GCSE passes, Hertfordshire schools perform well in terms of pupils who do not achieve any passes at this level. The average for our schools is consistently below the national average.

The last OFSTED report did identify some areas which need attention. Although the quality of teaching in primary schools is in line with national figures, that in secondary schools is lower than national comparisons in Key Stages 3 and 4. However, the number of Hertfordshire schools in need of substantial improvement is below the national average. One secondary and six primary schools are currently designated as requiring special measures and nineteen schools with serious weaknesses. Attendance is higher than the national average, and exclusion from school is lower.

The recruitment and retention of teachers is a national problem, and Hertfordshire is no exception to the general trend. This is an issue which is being addressed at a national level and we should see some improvement in line with the training incentives and reforms to teaching which have been recently introduced.

**Further information sources:**  
 Contact: Lucy Furlong, Hertfordshire County Council  
 Tel: 01992 556293  
[www.hertsdirect.org.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk)