

AELP Mini Commission #1

Information Session



Agenda

1. Introduction and recap on the current position on maths and English policy, recent changes and progress over previous years.
2. AELP's Manifesto Asks
3. New Labour Government
4. Academic research on functional skills policy, delivery and qualifications
5. Awarding organisation pass rates for FSQs
6. Mini commission on functional skills
 - Purpose
 - Timeline
 - How to get involved
7. Question and answer session

Iterative policy changes in relation to Functional Skills

1. Reformed FSQ Qualifications launched in September 2019, also changes around invigilation requirements.
2. Covid-19 Pandemic from March 2020 – introduction of TAGs and CAGs
3. Level 2 Apprentices with the lowest starting points are no longer required to attempt Level 2 assessments if they complete Level 1 within 3 months of the gateway.
4. Functional Skills Qualification Funding Rates – 55% increase in new funding aims brought forward to January 2024
5. LLDD/SEND Apprenticeship Pilot for alternative Maths and English Qualifications – Entry Level 3



Flexibilities in English and maths requirements from August 2024

- DfE is extending English and Maths flexibilities for apprentices who have learning difficulties or disabilities but no EHC plan, to study a more suitable level of English and maths.
- Providers will be able to use alternative entry-level 3 qualifications if they undertake a “robust and evidence-based assessment” delivered by a professionally competent person e.g. “Head of SEN”
- DfE is also removing the requirement for the judgement of the apprentice’s current English and maths ability to be conducted within eight weeks of them beginning their apprenticeship.
- The new flexibilities above apply to new starts from 1 August and existing learners.
- Further changes were in the pipeline on maths and English for apprentices, but DfE were unable to progress these due to the pre-election period...



AELP'S GENERAL ELECTION ASKS



- 1.** A national strategy for a national skills system that supports economic growth in every region of the country.
.....
- 2.** An apprenticeship system that delivers for businesses of all sizes by supporting learners of all ages and at all levels.
.....
- 3.** More vocational and technical learning opportunities for young people to help home grown talent to fill job vacancies in key sectors.
.....
- 4.** A lifelong learning guarantee to enable people to gain new skills throughout their working life.
.....
- 5.** A root and branch review of how English and maths is delivered and assessed throughout the education system.
.....
- 6.** A skills system that prioritises learners and employers, not the institution they study at.

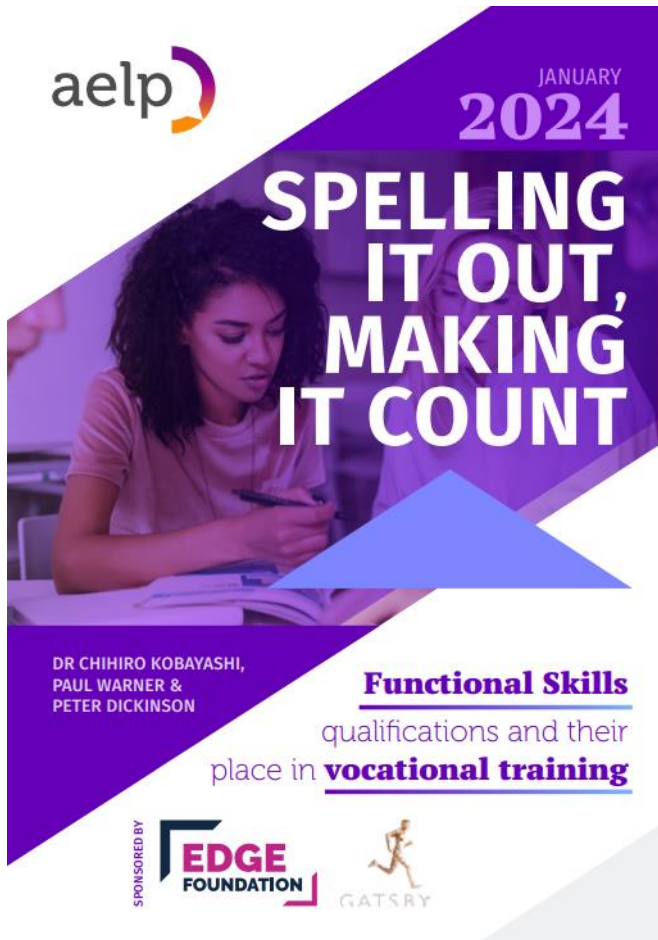


Labour Ambition

- Skills England
- Post-16 Skills Strategy
- Moving to a Skills and Growth levy
- Flexibilities: Traineeships for young people and a modular approach to upskilling adults
- “Local Growth Plans”
- Youth Guarantee: 18-21 Year Olds
- Ofsted report card and end of single judgments
- “Pause and review” on defunding level 3 ... but also no manifesto commitment on this.
- Technical Excellence Colleges
- Further devolution of adult skills
- **Review of maths and English curriculum and assessment**



Recent Related AELP Research – January 2024



Our recommendations:

1. Ensure the differentiated purpose of functional skills is maintained in practice
2. Increased exam question contextualisation
3. Review the structure and spread of Level 2 functional skills maths questions
4. Promote diverse assessment methods and improve recognition of partial success
5. Incorporate English and maths components of apprenticeships into the off-the-job apprenticeship training definition
6. Consideration should be given as to the role functional skills qualifications should play in the award of apprenticeships
7. Uprate funding for functional skills qualifications by at least 10%

[spelling-it-out-final.pdf \(aelp.org.uk\)](https://aelp.org.uk/spelling-it-out-final.pdf)

Note: New research, carried out with Edge and Gatsby, building on this research is coming later this year

Related AELP Research

The 'Raising the Standard' research was conducted in November 2022, through:

- Literature review, focusing on the factors associated with apprentices' early withdrawal (England)
- Interviews with training providers (15) and employers from eight sectors
- Series of Roundtable discussions with three AELP Sector Forum Groups (Logistics and Transport, Digital and IT, Land-based Industries)
- English and maths requirements were one of six major cross-sectoral themes driving apprenticeship withdrawals

AELP recommendations 9 & 10 (related to Functional Skills):

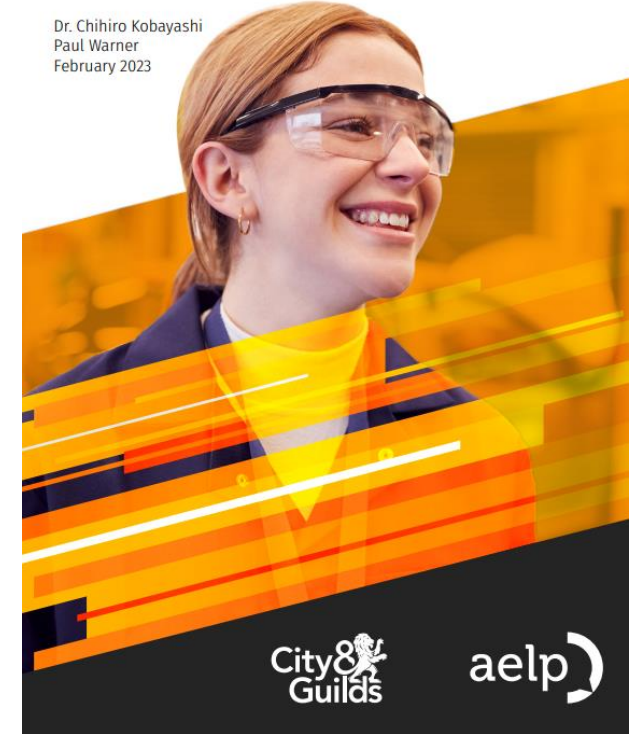
9 Ensure the content of Functional Skills qualifications is applied rather than theoretical in nature, and delivery is contextualised within job roles.

10 Study towards (rather than attainment of) English and maths qualifications should be the default condition of apprenticeship funding, in line with T Levels and other 16-19 study programmes

RAISING THE STANDARD

Sectoral approaches to raising apprenticeship achievement rates

Dr. Chihiro Kobayashi
Paul Warner
February 2023



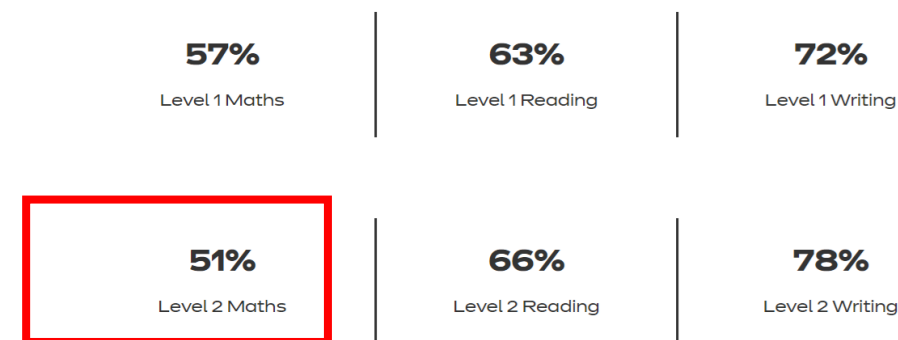
<https://www.aelp.org.uk/media/v1npyfvg/aelp-cg-raisingthestandard.pdf>

Sample Awarding Organisations Functional skills pass rates in FY22/23

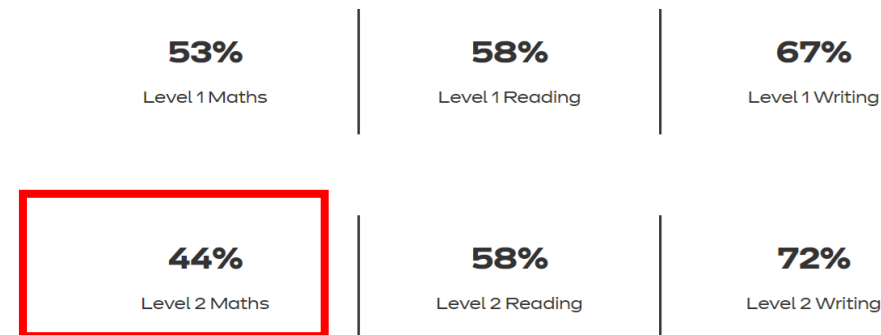
Assessment	1st Time Pass Rate	Overall
Maths Level 1	47%	38%
Maths Level 2	42%	37%
Reading Level 1	83%	77%
Reading Level 2	70%	63%
Writing Level 1	71%	64%
Writing Level 2	65%	56%

Subject	Level	All provider % First time	FE % First time	ITP % First time	ACL % First time
Reading	L1	81%	75%	82%	82%
Writing	L1	78%	69%	79%	79%
Reading	L2	76%	75%	74%	81%
Writing	L2	86%	83%	87%	87%
Maths	L1	54%	42%	57%	67%
Maths	L2	48%	46%	46%	56%

First time pass rates



Overall pass rates




New for 2024!


AELP Mini Commissions

Tackling the Big Issues...


One by One!




 Launching 8 July 2024


Call for change 


 Robust provider evidence

 Information/
discussion sessions

Collective voice 

Dedicated webpage 

 Quantifying impact

 Get involved!

Summary &
recommendations 



shifting the dial

Mini commissions will help AELP to:

- Provide more data to show the impact of high-level policy decisions;
- Provide evidence of the unintended and damaging consequences of existing policy/decisions;
- Prove how outcomes could be better with changed thinking and action;
- Support officials in a new data-focused policy-making landscape;
- Shift the dial on policy decisions moving forward.



Mini commission # 1 – July 2024

“To assess the impact and unintended damaging consequences of current Functional Skills policy within apprenticeships, and the argument for a change of approach”



Call for evidence.....

We need your evidence to show provider impact evidence of Functional Skills Qualifications (FSQs) on:

- Current picture of apprentices who are currently live on programme, and how FSQs impact on those on programme learners i.e. Past Planned End Date
- Apprentices who have withdrawn from their full apprenticeship as a result of not being able to complete their FSQs (specific dates only)
- The impact of employer and provider behaviour around artificial restrictions for apprentices with lower-level skills
- The mental health impact of FSQ on both apprentices and delivery staff
- Any different approaches to functional skills delivery you have implemented to improve retention/achievement rates

Note: Any anonymised examples/percentages would be beneficial to allow us to quantify the data.



Timelines.....

Month	Activity
w/c 08 & 15 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Mini commission launch➤ Information sessions with members/regional networks
July/August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Gathering of provider data
August/September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Assimilation of data and initial feedback to members/regional networks
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Draft conclusion and recommendations report➤ Party conferences
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sharing of evidence base/final report
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ AELP Autumn Conference (07 November, in Manchester)



AELP Webpage



For further information about mini commissions, visit our dedicated [AELP mini commissions webpage!](#)

Complete the first survey now by clicking: [Mini Commission # 1 Survey \(Functional Skills\) \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

Policy and Research topics | AELP

aelp.org.uk/policy-and-research-topics/?Resource+Type=Mini%20Commissions

Topics

Resource Type
Mini Commissions

01/07/2024

AELP Mini Commissions

Welcome to our new Mini Commissions webpage! Mini commissions will test and explore a new way of working with our members, and utilise our close links with Regional Provider Networks, to ensure a collective voice on some of the big issues currently being faced by the skills sector.

Maths and English

Mini Commissions

1 of 1

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Type here to search

15°C Rain showers

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09/07/2024



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