

Appendix 5:

An analysis on the types of finalist and winning schools competing in cross country and track and field school cup competitions

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Prepared by the TOP Foundation for Ofsted

1.0 Introduction

This paper presents the analysis on the types of schools involved in 2 school team competitions in the sport of athletics over the last 8 years.

2.0 Method

The results of the winning schools and the schools who made it to the national school finals were provided by the National Governing Body (NGB) of athletics (England Athletics) as part of a wider investigation into competitive school sport.

The competitions were organised by the English Schools' Athletic Association and are called the ESAA National Schools' Cross Country Cup and the ESAA National Track & Field Cup. The data available for the study is summarised in the table below.

	Years	Age	Number of teams in finals
ESAA National Schools' Cross Country Cup	2006-2013	U13 & U15	On average 24
ESAA National Track & Field Cup	2007-2013	U13 & U15	On average 12

The age limits for competitors in the ESAA Schools' Cup competitions are defined as:

- **Junior** (U13) - 12 years and under 14 years of age on 31st August at the end of the current school year.
- **Intermediate** (U15) - 14 years and under 16 years of age on 31st August at the end of the current school year.

The National Schools' Cross Country Cup¹ is held over 3 rounds during October and November. In detail:

- Preliminary rounds are held between school teams within each county - there may be a number of competitions held within each county depending on the number of teams entered.
- At least 2 school teams in each first round competition progress to 1 of 8 Regional Finals.
- At least 2 school teams from each Regional Final then progress to the Cup Final.

Each school team can nominate 6 athletes to run, of which the first 4 finishing count towards team scores.

The National Track & Field Cup¹ is held over 3 rounds during May, June and July. In detail:

- Preliminary rounds are held between school teams within each county - there may be a number of competitions held within each county depending on the number of teams entered.
- The highest scoring school teams in the first round competition progress to one of 7 Regional A Finals, and all other qualifiers progress to Regional B Finals.
- The leading team from each Regional A Final then progresses to the Cup Final, together with the 5 highest scoring teams from across the country.

¹ See the ESSA website - www.esaa.net

The teams comprise of 12 female athletes and 14 male athletes. Each athlete may do no more than 2 events. The competitions are scored on a points basis where better performances gain more points.

For both competitions each school is only allowed to enter 1 boys team and 1 girls team per age group.

In the analysis the 'finalist' teams refers to all the school teams that made the national finals, the 'winning' teams are only the teams that win their specific event.

It is important to note that the track and field and cross country data have been compared to the national average for the total number of independent schools in England for all ages, which is 10%², to allow a representative comparison to be made.

² National average sourced from: Department for Education (2013) Schools, Statistical First Release: Pupils and their Characteristics, London. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>.

3.0 Analysis

3.1 ESAA National Schools Cross Country Cup (2006-2013)

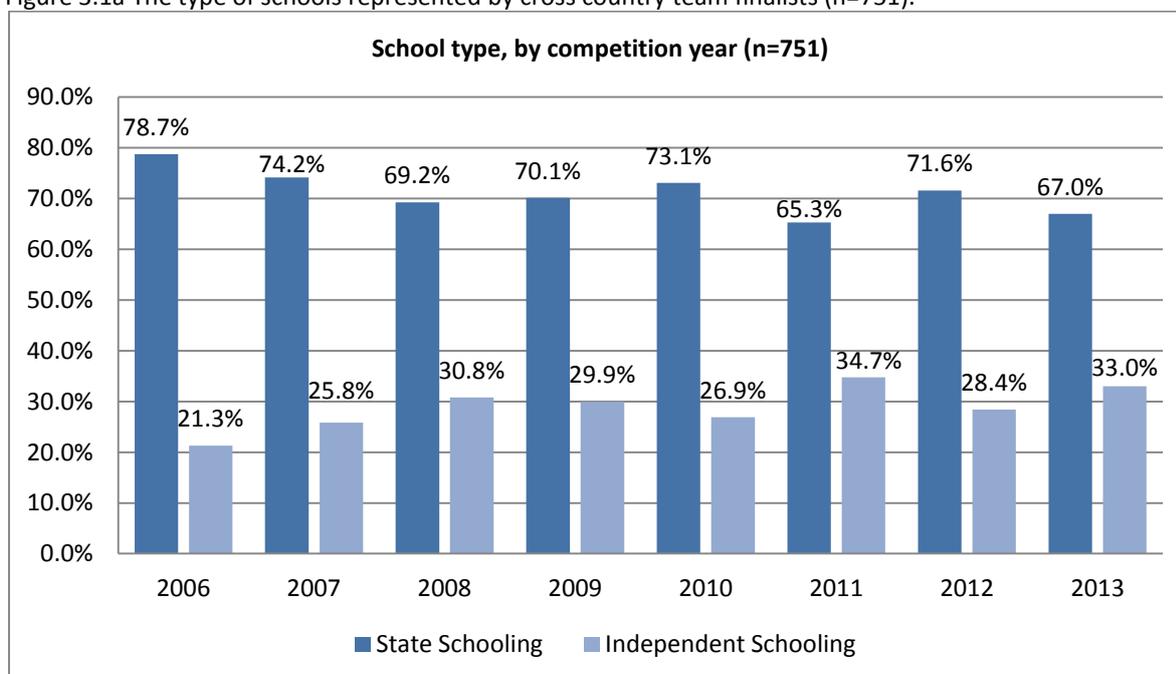
The cohort for this data is the male and female teams who represented their school in the U13s and U15s age group categories. Annual data was available from years 2006-2013.

The results of the analysis below concern only the school type data which was available. Of the 764 finalists (the whole cohort), the type of school for 13 of the teams was unknown. Therefore, the analysis was conducted on 751 school teams.

School types across the cohort over time

The average percentage of state school teams for all 8 years collectively was 71%, whilst for independent school teams this was 29%. Over time there is very slight trend of an increasing number of independent schools making the finals. This difference is marginal and would need more longitudinal data to confirm.

Figure 3.1a The type of schools represented by cross country team finalists (n=751).



This data can be further broken down by gender (figure 3.1.b). On average, the male cohort was comprised of 23.5% more state schools than the female cohort (82.9% and 59.4% respectively). This difference of 23.5% between the genders is the same for the independent schools.

Figure 3.1.b The type of finalist school teams, by gender.

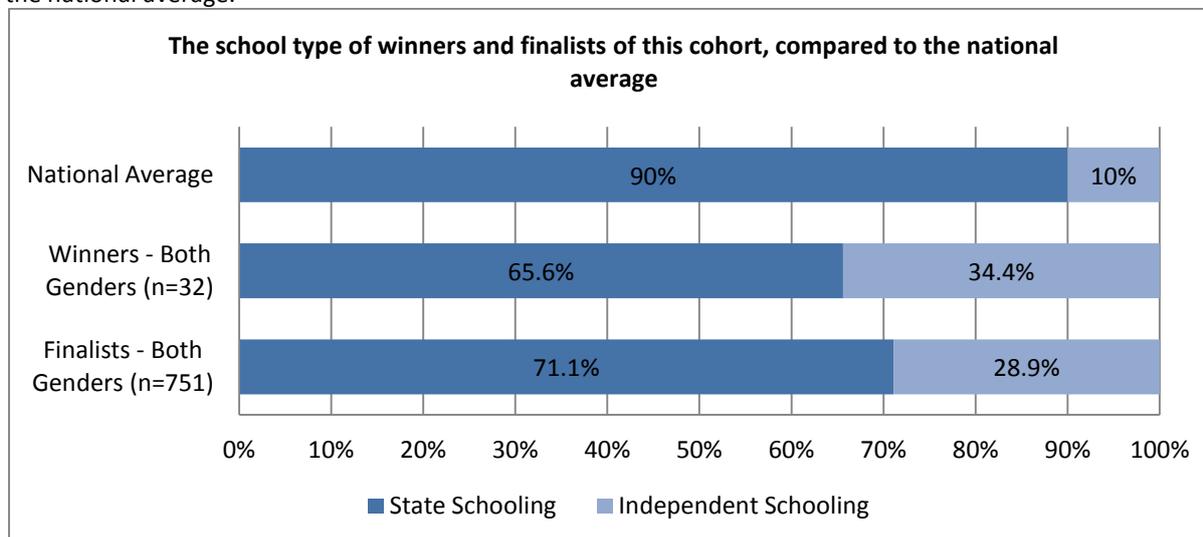
n=751	State school teams - boys	State school teams - girls	Independent school teams - boys	Independent school teams - girls
2006	89.6%	67.4%	10.4%	32.6%
2007	91.1%	56.8%	8.9%	43.2%
2008	90.7%	50.0%	9.3%	50.0%
2009	81.6%	58.3%	18.4%	41.7%
2010	79.2%	66.7%	20.8%	33.3%
2011	79.2%	51.1%	20.8%	48.9%
2012	78.7%	64.6%	21.3%	35.4%
2013	73.5%	60.4%	26.5%	39.6%
Mean % =	82.9%	59.4%	17.1%	40.6%

School types for winning school teams vs. finalist school teams

Over the last 8 years 66% of winning schools teams have been state schools, this compares with 71% of the school teams making the finals, suggesting that there is a slight trend in state schools being less likely to convert a place in the national finals with a win. For the independent school teams this difference is 34% and 29% respectively.

When compared to the national average of independent schools in England, the percentage of both winners (34%) and finalists (29%) who represented independent schools were higher the national average of 10%³.

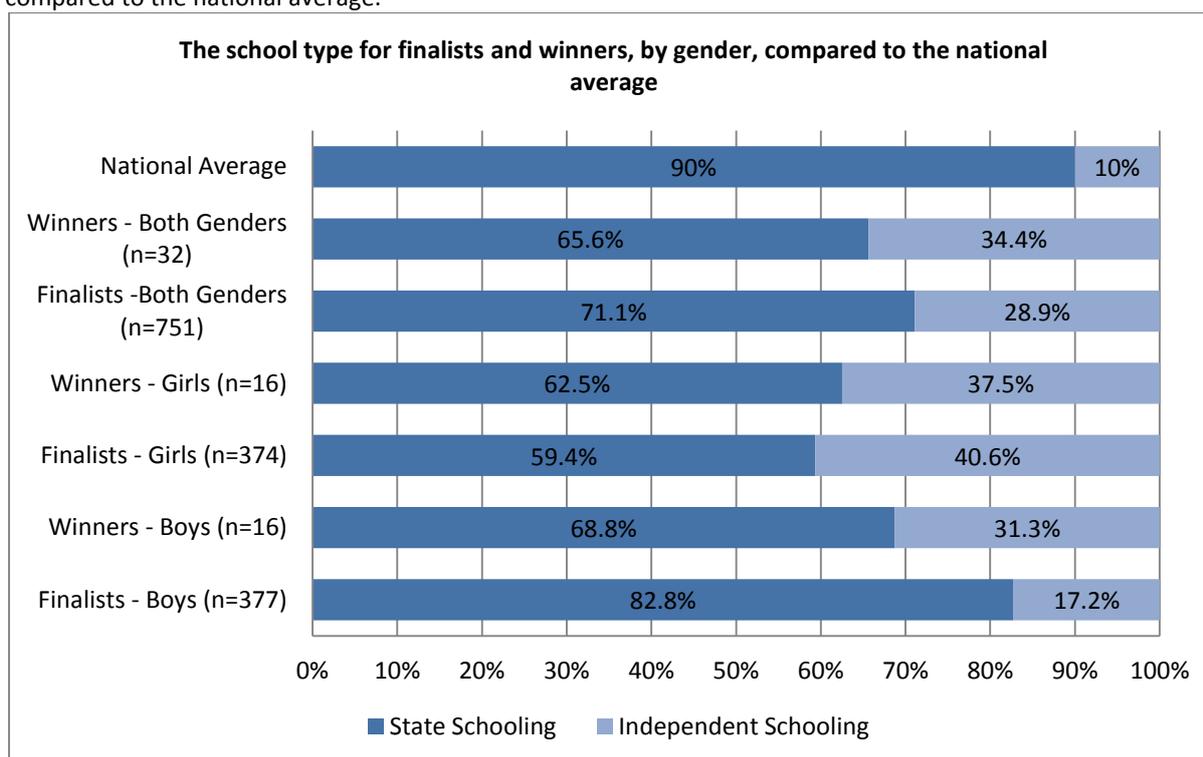
Figure 3.1.c The type of school represented by all of the cross country winning and finalist teams, compared to the national average.



Further analysis looking at the winners and finalists by gender (figure 3.1d) revealed that whilst the male winners' cohort only contained 6 % more state schools than its female counterpart, the male finalists' cohort contained 23% more state schools than the female finalists cohort.

³ National average sourced from: Department for Education (2013) Schools, Statistical First Release: Pupils and their Characteristics, London. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>.

Figure 3.1.d The type of school represented by the cross country winning and finalist teams, by gender, compared to the national average.



The biggest difference was between the percentage of the male and female teams making the cross country finals, while only 17% of the male finalist teams were from independent schools, 41% of the female teams were from independent schools, a difference of 24%.

School lists by winners and finalists

The schools represented by the winning and finalist teams have been analysed to identify the most frequent schools in the cohort (more than once).

By winners

Figure 3.1.e The most frequent schools in cross country winning cohort.

All	School	Education type	Number of athletes who attended
1	Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham	State	3
2	Southend High School for Girls	State	3
3	St Albans School	Independent	3
4	Guildford High School	Independent	2
5	Queens College, Taunton	Independent	2
6	St Anselm's College, Birkenhead	State	2
7	St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate	State	2

Of the most frequent schools for the winners, 4 of these were state and 3 were independent schools.

By finalists

Figure 3.1.f The most frequent schools in cross country finalist cohort.

All	School	Education type	Number of athletes who attended
1	Millfield School; (Millfield School and Millfield Prep School)	Independent	20
2	Helsby High School, Frodsham	State	19
3	The Judd School, Tonbridge	State	14
4	Southend High School for Boys	State	14
5	Southend High School for Girls	State	13
6	Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton	State	11
7	James Allen's Girls School, London;	Independent	11
8	Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham;	State	10
9	Central Newcastle High School;	Independent	10
10	Northampton School for Boys	State	9
11	Aylesbury High School;	State	9

Of the most frequent schools for the finalists, 8 were state and 3 were independent schools.

3.2 ESAA National Track & Field Schools' Cup

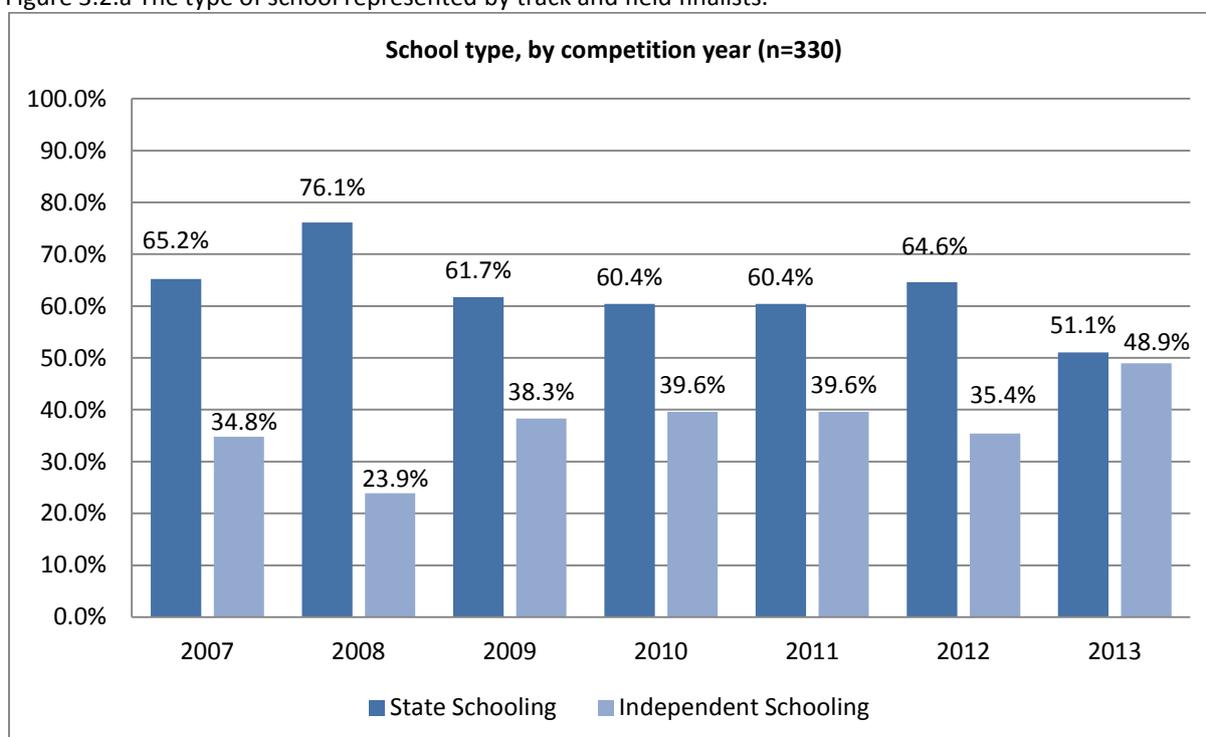
The cohort for this data is the male and female teams who represented their school in the U13s and U15s age group categories. Annual data was available from years 2007-2013.

The results of the analysis below concern only the school type data which was available. Of the 336 finalists, the type of school for 6 of the teams was unknown. Therefore, the analysis was conducted on 330 school teams.

School types across the cohort over time

The average percentage of state school teams for all 7 years collectively was 62.8%, whilst the same figure for independent school teams was 37.2%. This figure for independent school teams is much higher than the 10% national average⁴.

Figure 3.2.a The type of school represented by track and field finalists.



Though it is true that for each of the 7 years, there were always more state teams than independent, the figures year by year were not always consistent. The years 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 all has similar figures for each school type, whilst 2008 marked the year in which there were over 10% more state school teams than the average for the cohort. Alternatively, in 2013, there were 10% less state school teams than the average for the cohort, meaning that the figures for each school type in 2013 were almost equal.

This data can be further broken down by gender (figure 3.2b). The findings of this analysis illustrate that, on average, the male teams represented 36% more state schools than the female teams. The

⁴ National average sourced from: Department for Education (2013) Schools, Statistical First Release: Pupils and their Characteristics, London. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>.

data is showing an emerging trend of fewer female school teams making the schools finals from the state sector, over the 7 years of the data there is a 10% reduction. In 2013 the independent sector had 61% of the teams making the girls finals, with only 40% of the schools from the state sector.

Figure 3.2b. The type of school represented by all track and field finalists, by gender.

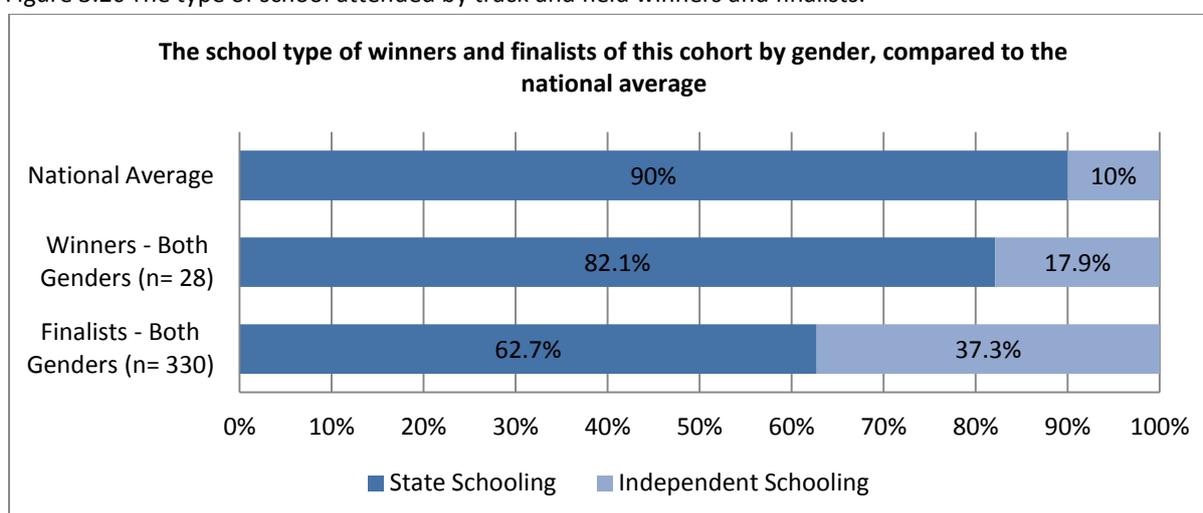
n=320	State school teams - boys	State school teams - girls	Independent school teams - boys	Independent teams - girls
2007	81.8%	50.0%	18.2%	50.0%
2008	95.5%	58.3%	4.5%	41.7%
2009	87.0%	37.5%	13.0%	62.5%
2010	79.2%	41.7%	20.8%	58.3%
2011	75.0%	45.8%	25.0%	54.2%
2012	87.5%	41.7%	12.5%	58.3%
2013	62.5%	39.1%	37.5%	60.9%
Mean % =	81.2%	44.9%	18.8%	55.1%

School types for winners vs. finalists

Collectively, the school types for the winning and finalist teams were compared. The data showed that 82% of the winning school teams were from state schools while, only 63% of the finalist teams were from state schools. This finding loosely suggests that state school teams making the finals had a greater chance of winning than their independent counterparts.

When compared to the national average, the percentage of both winners (17.9%) and finalists (37.3%) who represented independent schools were higher than the national average of 10%⁵.

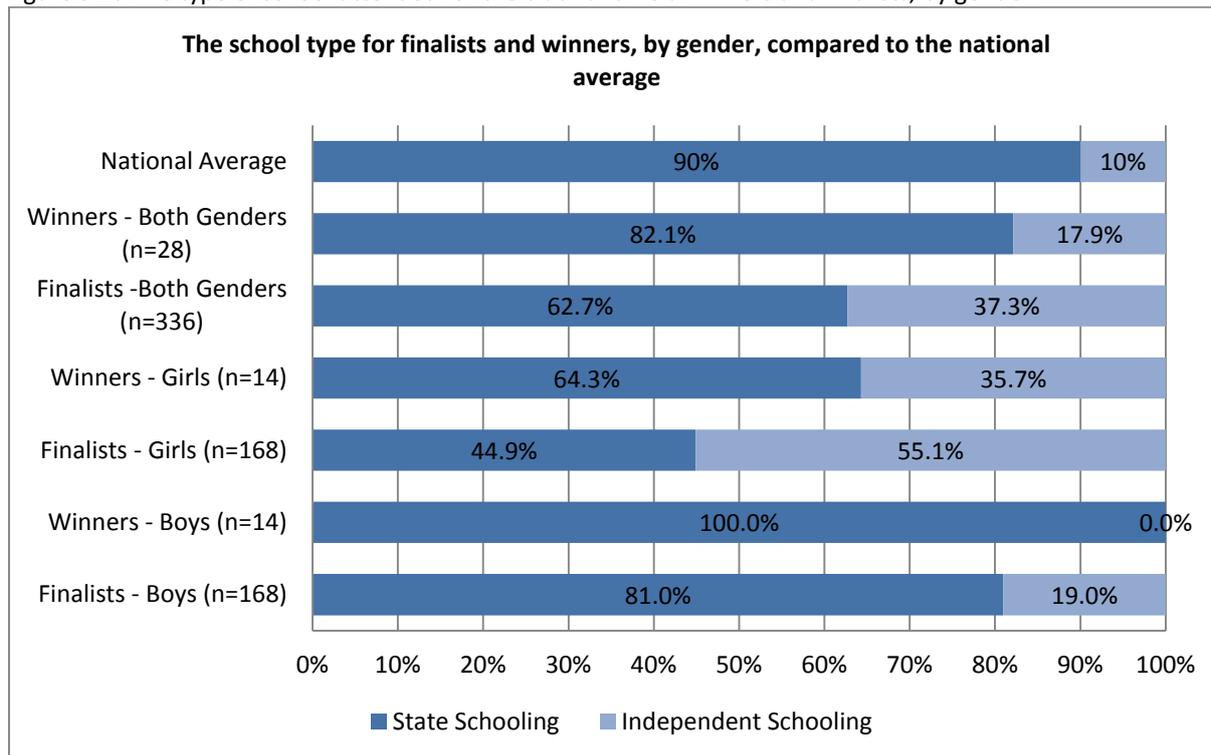
Figure 3.2c The type of school attended by track and field winners and finalists.



Further analysis looking at the winners and finalists by gender revealed that there were 35.7% more state schools in the male winner's cohort than the female winner's cohort. Similarly, there were 36.1% more boys' state school teams making the finals than girl state school teams.

⁵ National average sourced from: Department for Education (2013) Schools, Statistical First Release: Pupils and their Characteristics, London. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>.

Figure 3.2d The type of school attended for the track and field winners and finalists, by gender.



School lists by winners and finalists

The schools represented by the winning and finalist teams have been analysed to identify the most frequent schools in the cohort.

By winners

Figure 3.2e The most frequent schools in the track and field winning cohort.

All	School	Education type	Number of athletes who attended
1	Southend High School for Girls	State	8
2	FitzWimarc School, Raleigh	State	6
3	Southend High School for Boys	State	6
4	Millfield School (Millfield School and Millfield Prep School)	Independent	3

Of the most frequent schools for the winners, 3 were state and 1 was independent.

By finalists

Figure 3.2f The most frequent schools in the track and field finalist cohort.

All	School	Education type	Number of athletes who attended
1	FitzWimarc School, Rayleigh	State	14
1=	Southend High School for Boys	State	14
1=	Southend High School for Girls	State	14
2	Millfield School (Millfield School and Millfield Prep School)	Independent	12
3	Kirkham Grammar School, Preston	Independent	9
3=	St Anselm's College, Prenton	State	9
4	Bourne Grammar School	State	8
4=	Brentwood School	Independent	8
4=	James Allen's Girls School, London;	Independent	8
4=	Portsmouth Grammar School	Independent	8
4=	The Judd School, Tonbridge	State	8

Of the most frequent schools for the finalists, 6 were state and 5 were independent. NB the top 3 schools and Brentwood school all compete against each other in Essex schools leagues.

4.0 A comparison of both cohorts

The data from the 2 competitions; the ESAA National Schools' Cross Country Cup and the ESAA National Track & Field Cup show that there is a higher percentage of school teams making the finals from state schools in cross country (71% cross country vs. 63% track and field). While the number of state school teams winning in the track and field final (82%) is higher than cross country (66%), the number of independent school teams making the finals remains higher than the national average of 10%⁶. Thus, suggesting that independent schools' teams are over represented at school team finals in both cross country and track and field.

Figure 3.2g shows the percentage difference between the state school teams that have made the national school finals and the state school teams that went on to win for both the cross country and track and field competitions.

Figure 3.2g Percentage difference between state school team finalists and winners.

	Cross country - difference between winners and finalists (%)	Track and field - difference between winners and finalists (%)
All	-5.5	+19.4
Girls	-3.1	+19.4
Boys	-14.0	+19.0

In the ESAA national schools cross country cup finals, state school teams were less likely to go on to be eventual winners than independent schools teams. This was most marked for male cross country teams (-14%). In contrast, the state school teams in the ESAA national track and field schools cup were more likely (19.4%) to go on to be eventual winners than independent school teams. This difference was the same for male and female state school teams.

⁶ National average sourced from: Department for Education (2013) Schools, Statistical First Release: Pupils and their Characteristics, London. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk>.