

#ProtectStudentChoice Update

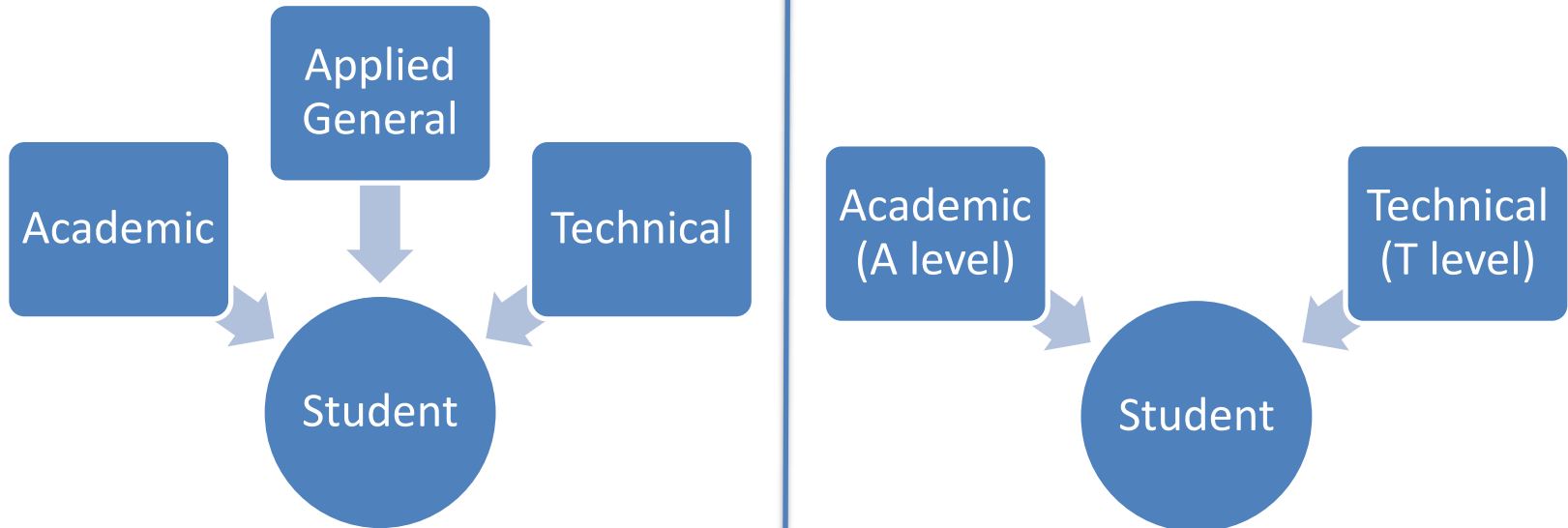
NEON Supporting BTEC Students Working Group

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The plan: two programmes of choice at Level 3



**#PROTECT
STUDENT
CHOICE**
DON'T SCRAP BTECS
protectstudentchoice.org



Sixth Form Colleges
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#ProtectStudentChoice: summary

- 29 organisations speaking with one voice
- Simple, positive messages:
 - T levels and AGQs can co-exist
 - Some young people will be better served studying an AGQ rather than a T-level/A-level only programme
 - AGQs as engines of social mobility/addressing skills gap
- Petition secured 108,352 signatures
- Letters from partners and 118 parliamentarians
- High media/social media and political profile (including House of Lords amendments)



Headlines

- Campaign has forced a series of concessions, e.g.
 - Broader group of single BTECs will remain
 - One year delay to timetable
- Latest developments:
 - *DfE minister Baroness Barran: “we expect to remove just a **small proportion of the total level 3 BTEC and other applied general style qualification offer** – significantly less than half”*
 - Just 160 qualifications on overlap list 1, less than 5% of enrolments in the SFC sector



Defunding process

- In summary:
 - Overlap list 1 and approval process 1 this year
 - Overlap list 2 and approval process 2 next year
- Appeals process has started for overlap list 1
- Current timetable for defunding:
 - Tech quals that overlap with Wave 1/2 T levels Aug 2024
 - Tech quals that overlap with Wave 3/4 T levels and 'other quals that align to Wave 1/2 T level routes' Aug 2025
 - Remaining quals either approved or defunded Aug 2026



Risk register

Bar still high, but more likely to remain:

- Single BTECs in a mixed programme, particularly in STEM subjects
- BTECs of all sizes where no T levels are planned

Qualifications most at risk:

- Double/triple BTECs and some more than others:
“Large academic qualifications such as AGQs, that overlap with T levels will not be funded”
- Doubles do not fit in the structure set out in policy documents – will DfE mandate qual combinations?



#ProtectStudentChoice: where next?

- Maintain headline messages/activities (e.g. Parliamentary debate on 18th July)
- But also start to move from general to specific
- Focus on priority subject areas - for each we need:
 - Evidence from students/HEIs/employers that 'high quality and necessary'
 - A case for why all sizes are required
 - A case for why needed alongside T levels
- We need a change of direction not a change of pace
- General Election in 2023 or 2024



T levels: a question of scale

- Our position:
 - T levels very welcome, but not a mass market product
 - Don't scrap BTECs to make them one, introduce more flexibilities if serious about growing T levels
 - BTECs should co-exist (in significant numbers) alongside A levels and T levels
- £482m spent on T levels, 6,750 students enrolled
- Spending review funding for up to 100,000 T level students by 2025 a target in all but name
- 10% of cohort more realistic than presenting as one of two “programmes of choice” alongside A levels



Thank You

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