

STRONGER HSC STANDARDS

MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD

In July 2016, the NSW Minister for Education Mr Adrian Piccoli announced reforms to ensure stronger standards in HSC processes.

These reforms are being implemented by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (formerly BOSTES). There has been extensive reporting and unfortunately, some misconceptions about the implications of these changes for students.

The reforms are designed to ensure that the standards for students who receive a HSC are above the minimum Australian standards for literacy and numeracy. The minimum standard is aligned to the nationally agreed standard of functional literacy and numeracy, mapped to the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) Level 3.

Year 12 students 2020 are the first cohort expected to meet the standard by the time they complete the HSC i.e. the Year 9 cohort of 2017.

No student will be excluded from sitting for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results. The minimum standard is **not** Band 8 in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy. Students who achieve Band 8 in these three tests prequalify for the standard and will not need to sit the online NESA tests.

Students have until Year 12 to demonstrate they meet the standard by achieving a pass in online reading, writing and numeracy tests developed by NESA. These online tests will be first available to Year 10 students in 2018.

Students will have multiple opportunities to meet the standard.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



From 2020, students need to demonstrate a minimum literacy and numeracy standard to be eligible for the HSC



There will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the HSC



Early identification and support for students most at risk of not achieving the minimum standard is available under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy



Students with Band 8 or above Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy will prequalify for the minimum standard



Some students, including those studying Life Skills courses, will not need to meet the minimum standard to be awarded the HSC

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The College will continue to work with our Year 9 students who do not attain the minimum standard in the aspects of literacy and numeracy needing to be assessed by the online tests in 2018 through support and multiple opportunities to do so.

NESA has indicated that courses and support materials for such students will be published during 2017 as will the minimum standards rules and guidelines. Pilot online reading, writing and numeracy tests are being developed this year and information will be provided to schools to support these changes and new processes in the coming months.

Further information regarding the implementation of minimum numeracy and literacy standards in the HSC from 2020 can be found at <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/initiatives/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard>

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