

HSC MINIMUM STANDARD

INITIAL ADVICE FOR PRINCIPALS

November 2016

SET FOR SUCCESS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

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

The standard is mapped against Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), a nationally agreed standard of functional literacy and numeracy.

With a stronger focus on literacy and numeracy in schools, modelling indicates the vast majority of students will demonstrate the minimum standard by the end of Year 12.

The minimum standard will be assessed across three areas:

- ✓ reading
- ✓ writing
- ✓ numeracy

EXAMPLES OF SKILLS

Students with ACSF Level 3 skills can do things like:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| READING | Predict the meaning of unknown words based on the context and surrounding words in a sentence

Understand some words and phrases have figurative meanings

Read and interpret diagrams |
| <hr/> | |
| WRITING | Write clear, sequenced instructions for using everyday technology or equipment eg a photocopier or fire extinguisher

Use email for routine, workplace communication

Write a short, formal letter giving instructions for a particular purpose eg cancelling gym membership or closing a bank account |
| <hr/> | |
| NUMERACY | Compare the cost of everyday items in different-sized containers to work out the most cost-effective purchase

Create a personal weekly budget in a spreadsheet

Prepare an invoice for a particular job, eg to build a fence of a set length |

MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO PASS ONLINE TESTS

From 2018, online reading, writing and numeracy tests will be available for students to sit at least twice a year in:

- ✔ Year 10
- ✔ Year 11
- ✔ Year 12
- ✔ for up to 5 years after starting the HSC

BOSTES is developing the online tests in consultation with the sectors and key stakeholders as part of the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

Students will only have to sit the online tests in areas in which they have not yet met the minimum standard.

A demonstration test is available: hscliteracynumeracy.bostes.nsw.edu.au/

YEAR 9 NAPLAN: AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY

Students will have the first opportunity to prove they meet the standard by achieving Band 8 results or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests. Students who achieve Band 8 will not need to sit the online tests later in years 10, 11 and 12.

No student will be ineligible to sit for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results.

SCHEDULING AND TRACKING

Requirements for scheduling and administering the tests are being developed and will be released in July 2017. A pilot of the online tests is scheduled for late 2017.

Schools will be able to keep track of the areas in which students have demonstrated the minimum standard, and any further tests required via Schools Online. Students will also be able to track their own progress via Students Online.

REPORTING

Year 9 NAPLAN data will be useful in helping teachers and students identify areas where further support is needed to meet the standard.

An online test report is being developed to provide schools and students with feedback on test results. The reports will identify skill areas needing development.

Receipt of a HSC testamur indicates a student has met the minimum standard in all three areas. There is no intention for the HSC testamur to report results from the online reading, writing and numeracy or Year 9 NAPLAN tests.

Students leaving school, who do not meet the minimum standard in one or more areas, will receive a Record of School Achievement (ROSA).

DISABILITY PROVISIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

Disability provisions will be available for students with a permanent or temporary disability to provide a fair opportunity to respond to the online tests.

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

SUPPORT TO MEET THE STANDARD

From 2017, a specific maths pathway will be available for Year 9 and 10 students who are identified to be at risk of not demonstrating the minimum numeracy standard by the end of Year 10.

YEAR 9 AND 10

The existing English syllabus for Years 9 and 10 provides opportunities for teachers to address the individual learning needs of students who are at risk of not demonstrating ACSF Level 3 reading and writing skills by the end of Year 10.

The new Year 11 and 12 syllabuses for English Studies, Standard English and Mathematics General 1 are mapped to support students to meet the minimum standard by the end of Year 12.

YEAR 11 AND 12

Students need to continue developing their reading, writing and numeracy skills until they reach the standard. Schools may choose to offer short courses, topics or one on one tutoring, in addition to the English Studies, Standard English and Mathematics General 1 courses.

While maths will not be mandatory for Year 11 and 12, studying Mathematics General 1 is an option for students who need to improve their numeracy skills in order to meet the minimum standard.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY STRATEGY

Support for students most at risk of not achieving the minimum standard is available under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.

CASE STUDIES

In Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017, Lauren achieves a Band 6 in reading, a Band 5 in writing and a Band 8 in numeracy. In Year 10, Lauren sits the online tests in reading and writing. She passes reading, but not writing.

In Year 11 and Year 12, Lauren sits but does not pass the online test in writing. Lauren completes her HSC exams in 2020, but has not demonstrated the minimum standard. Lauren will not be awarded a HSC in 2020, but she does receive a ROSA.

She has until 2024 to demonstrate the minimum standard by passing the online test in writing. She does this in 2021 and is then awarded her HSC credential.



LAUREN



JACK

In Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017, Jack gets Band 5s in reading, writing and numeracy.

In consultation with his teachers, Jack chooses to wait until Year 11 to sit the online tests, which he passes.

Jack has demonstrated the minimum standard. After completing his HSC courses, Jack is awarded his HSC credential in 2020.

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