

Dear Principal -

Our reference: D2016/101964

### **Re: HSC minimum literacy and numeracy standard**

In July 2016, the Minister for Education announced the *Stronger HSC Standards* reforms. The reforms include the requirement for students to demonstrate a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy to be eligible for the HSC from 2020.

Over the next 12 months, BOSTES will continue to work with principals and other stakeholders to develop specific requirements for implementation of the minimum standard. In the meantime, we recognise the need to clarify aspects of the minimum standard, including that:

1. The minimum standard is set at a functional level of literacy and numeracy for success in day-to-day life.
2. Students can demonstrate the minimum standard in two ways:
  - a. -Band 8 or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests, or
  - b. passing online reading, writing and numeracy tests of an equivalent standard in Years 10, 11 and 12.
3. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate they meet the standard between Year 9 and the time they complete their HSC.
4. Importantly, no student will be ineligible to sit for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results.

The minimum standard will be mapped against the functional level of literacy and numeracy approved by federal and state ministers as Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework. With a stronger focus on literacy and numeracy in schools, the vast majority of students are expected to meet the minimum standard by the end of Year 12.

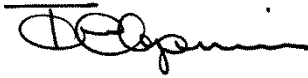
Special provisions and exemption policies will be available for students as appropriate, and we will be consulting you in developing these guidelines. Life skills courses will continue to be available.

I enclose an Information Kit which includes posters, flyers and advice for principals. I would appreciate your help to build understanding about the process by:

- displaying the posters in staff rooms
- copying the flyer as needed and distributing to your teachers
- encouraging Head Teachers to discuss the minimum standard at a staff meeting.

We will keep you updated as details are finalised in 2017 and further resources become available. For more information and copies of the kit go to [bostes.nsw.edu.au/strongerHSC](http://bostes.nsw.edu.au/strongerHSC). You can also email [strongerHSC@bostes.nsw.edu.au](mailto:strongerHSC@bostes.nsw.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Alegounarias', with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Tom Alegounarias

**President**

23 / 11 / 2016