



Our Ref: 2020/53019v2

To the Principal
All Western Australian Schools

Dear Principal

CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS – 2021

As Chair of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) Board, I would like to acknowledge the work of everyone in schools in managing the circumstances arising from COVID-19. As we plan for the 2021 school year, the Authority will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and will provide ongoing advice for students, teachers, school leaders, parents/guardians/carers and the community as needed.

The flexible approach to meeting emerging issues that the Authority took in 2020 served our community well. As Western Australia has been spared the worst impacts of COVID-19 up to this point, we are planning for a return to largely normal operations in 2021. In line with this plan, the Authority will:

- return to the policy requirements and processes, including moderation processes, described in the *WACE Manual 2021*, except for the assessment requirements outlined below
- recommence the delayed syllabus review processes
- conduct externally set tasks (ESTs) as normal.

Years 11 and 12 courses which were modified in 2020 will revert to their regular syllabuses, in particular:

- teachers of Design and Outdoor Education are required to revert to using the Authority's standard assessment tables in 2021
- teachers of Materials Design and Technology and Music are required to revert to using the Authority's standard examination design briefs in 2021.

The assessment requirements for all Years 11 and 12 courses in 2021 will include:

- teachers are required to assess each Assessment Type **at least once** over the year/pair of units (rather than twice over the year/pair of units)
- assessment types and weightings, as stipulated in the Authority's course syllabus, **must not** be changed unless specified by the Authority.

With these arrangements in place, the Authority expects that, in 2021:

- teachers will continue to provide students with opportunities to engage with coursework and meet course completion requirements under the procedures described in the school's senior secondary assessment policy
- students will do their best and take every opportunity to complete their learning and assessment programs as they work towards meeting the requirements of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

For Pre-primary to Year 10, as for Semester 2, 2020, there will be a return to the minimum requirements of the Authority's *Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy and Policy Standard*.

Further information

The COVID-19 pages on the Authority website will continue to be our key point of communication and advice in relation to the pandemic at <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/curriculum-assessment-covid-19/overview>. The pages will be updated for the 2021 school year in January. We encourage everyone to stay up-to-date with our latest communications and resources as they become available.

Schools are reminded to stay up-to-date with the latest information on COVID-19 by visiting the Australian Government Department of Health website: www.health.gov.au. Additional information is also available on the Western Australian Department of Education website at www.education.wa.edu.au. Further advice will be provided to schools as the situation evolves and decisions about activities and procedures will be made in the context of the State's COVID-19 Roadmap.

Thank you, again, to everyone who has played a role in the provision of education to our students during this challenging period.

Yours sincerely



**PATRICK GARNETT
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY**

16 November 2020