



Our Ref: 2024/3888

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

With the start of a new school year upon us, I trust you had the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing break and are returning to work rested and refreshed and looking forward to your students' return. As we begin our work for 2024, I am pleased to share the following information with you on behalf of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) Board.

Strategic Plan and Priorities

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority Strategic Plan 2024–2027, (the *Strategic Plan*) is the framework which articulates the Authority's strategic directions, including its vision, values and goals. The Strategic Plan is now available on the Authority website, along with an overview of the Board's priorities for 2024, at <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/about-us/strategic-plan>.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

You will be aware that, in 2023, the administration of NAPLAN moved from Term 2 to Term 1. The dates for 2024 NAPLAN are 13 March – 25 March. The Authority's training modules for Principals, NAPLAN coordinators, Test administrators, and School technical support officers are now available. I encourage you, and members of your team, to complete the relevant training at your earliest convenience. Remember to check the Authority website for information for schools at <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/assessment/testing/naplan/schools>.

To support schools to prepare for NAPLAN 2024, an online WebEx briefing is scheduled for 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 13 February 2024 and repeated at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 15 February 2024. Register via <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/events/naplan-2024-preparation>.

Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline (the Outline)

The Western Australian curriculum, as published in the *Outline* (<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/>) continues to be the mandated Pre-primary to Year 10 curriculum for Western Australia and must continue to be implemented.

The content revisions to the Western Australian Curriculum for English (Pre-primary to Year 6) for phonics and word knowledge and Health and Physical Education (Pre-primary to Year 10) for consent and first aid are included in the curriculum for teaching this year. Teachers were able to attend online sessions to familiarise themselves with the changes during 2023. All other aspects of the curriculum remain unchanged for 2024. There are no changes to the achievement standards.

Adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9.0

The Authority continues the adoption and adaptation of the Australian Curriculum version 9 to the Western Australian context. In 2023, the Authority completed the review for the English and Health and Physical Education curriculum.

Revised Scope and Sequence Statements for English and Health and Physical Education are now accessible in the *Outline* (<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/>). Schools will be able to use 2024 for familiarisation with the changes, ahead of implementation in 2025. Summaries of revisions have also been published and both face-to-face and online sessions will be offered to support familiarisation during this year.

During 2024 the Authority will continue with the adoption and adaption of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and Technologies curriculum to the Western Australian context, working with its Curriculum Advisory Committees. Teachers will be able to attend consultation sessions, both face-to-face and online, during the course of this year.

New Western Australian Languages curriculum

To complement the existing suite of Pre-primary to Year 10 Languages within the *Outline*, Punjabi: Second Language is now available for implementation. The Authority recognises for Western Australian Aboriginal students, learning their own language is crucial to their identity and overall learning and achievements. The Western Australian Aboriginal Languages (Language Revival) template has been developed for communities to develop language specific curricula and the provision of language learning programs in schools. Access to these documents is via the Authority's website (<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/languages>).

I encourage you and your teachers to subscribe to the Authority's monthly online *eCircular* at <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars>.

Years 11 and 12

ATAR and the WACE 2023

With the 2023 academic year finished I can report that 92.7% of WACE-eligible students achieved a WACE in 2023 (this is an increase from 91.3% in 2022) and 94.8% of these students achieved the numeracy, reading and writing standard, again a slight increase from 2022. 26 138 students received a Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement. The popularity of VET programs continued to rise with the number of students obtaining a Certificate II or higher in Years 10, 11 or 12 also increasing. In addition to the two Beazley medallists, there were 3891 awards and certificates earned by students. I thank all teachers for their work with all their students.

Syllabus Review

The syllabus review process for senior secondary courses continues. We have revised ATAR course syllabuses in Year 12 that will be examined for the first time in 2024. These include Computer Science, Design, Economics, Music, Physical Education Studies and Psychology. The revised ATAR courses commencing in Year 11 in 2024 and in Year 12 in 2025 are Ancient History, Engineering Studies and Modern History. Year 11 General Human Biology will commence in 2024 and in Year 12 in 2025.

The Authority has completed the Physical Education Studies Validation Pilot and will be holding online information sessions for schools offering the course to advise teachers on the way forward with the practical assessment. For 2024, the external practical examination will remain.

The syllabus review process for a number of other courses continues, and additional courses may be added to the review process following the Board's March Board meeting. We will keep you and your teachers up-to-date about developments through the *eCircular*.

New courses

I am also pleased to advise that the syllabuses for the new courses are now accessible online via the Authority's website:

- Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR Year 11 (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/science/agricultural-science-and-technology>)

- Agribusiness ATAR Year 11 (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences/agribusiness>)
- Science in Practice General Year 11 course (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/science/science-in-practice>)
- Foundation Religion and Life Foundation Year 11 (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences/religion-and-life>)
- Tamil and Punjabi Second and Background Language ATAR Year 11 and Hindi and Korean Second and Background Language ATAR Year 12 (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/languages>),
- Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies General Year 12 (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences>).

Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies ATAR Year 11 will be offered in schools for the first time in 2024 with the Authority updating the principles and protocols to align with the General course, while commencing the syllabus review process.

Assessment

The Board is committed to its position that assessment should not generate workload and/or stress that, under fair and reasonable circumstances, would unduly diminish the performance of students. I encourage you to ensure that your staff are aware of the Authority's Updated Years 11 and 12 Assessment Advice for 2024 published in Edition 11, December 2023 *11to12Circular* (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/11to12-circulars/edition-11-december-2023>). The syllabuses for the Authority's Years 11 and 12 courses have been updated over the summer break to reflect this advice.

WACE Refreshment

The Authority will be continuing work on the WACE Refreshment. The Board remains committed to our position that modifications introduced to the WACE will be to maximise its value for students as they move into further education, training, and employment, and to minimise impact on schools and teachers wherever possible.

The WACE Refreshment process is being run alongside the Pathways to Post-School Success review, which is being led by the Department of Education in partnership with Catholic Education Western Australia and the Association of Independent Schools Western Australia. Updates on the WACE Refreshment will be provided as the year progresses.

Acknowledgments

I would like to welcome Dr Lilly Brown as a new member of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Board, replacing Adjunct Professor Dr Lyn Henderson-Yates. I thank Lyn for her contribution to the work of the Authority and acknowledge Lilly will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board.

I wish you all the very best for 2024 and we look forward to working with you over the course of the year.

Yours sincerely



**PAULINE WHITE
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY**

29 January 2024