



Our Ref: 2025/92718

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

As we move forward in the final term for 2025, I am pleased to provide an update on the work of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). I would also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of schools, leaders, teachers and our stakeholders to the Authority's progress and delivery of our legislated responsibilities.

Adopting and Adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9

The Authority has continued to support teachers of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and Technologies learning areas as they prepare for implementation of the revised Pre-primary to Year 10 Western Australian curriculum in 2026. Many teachers have taken advantage of online familiarisation sessions. The feedback from participants at these sessions has been positive. The focus sessions the Authority is offering in Term 4 has been identified from teacher feedback at workshops held earlier in the year. Registrations are still open for the October and November sessions at <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/news-and-events/all-events/Pre-primary-to-Year-10-Curriculum-familiarisation-online-focus-meetings>.

There is an additional in-person professional learning opportunity to support schools with familiarisation with the Western Australian Curriculum: Mathematics for Years 7–10. This is a repeat of the Term 3 in-person professional learning workshop hosted by the Authority and will be held on Wednesday, 19 November 2025. Registration is open at <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/news-and-events/all-events/curriculum-familiarisation-2025-years-710-mathematics-workshop>.

At the Education Ministers Meeting held on Friday, 17 October 2025, the Ministers agreed to iterative reviews of the Australian Curriculum – starting with Foundation (Pre-primary) to Year 2 Mathematics – as part of a 10-year curriculum review cycle.

The revised Western Australian: Mathematics curriculum for Pre-primary to Year 10 that has been available for familiarisation in 2025 will become the mandated curriculum in 2026. Any further revisions that may arise through the review announced by Ministers will be determined through the Authority's processes over the coming years.

Public consultation on curriculum for The Arts and Languages has been completed. The Arts and Languages teams are now working with their Curriculum Advisory Committees (CACs) to finalise the revisions to progress to the Board for endorsement.

NAPLAN

Preparations are underway for the 2026 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) scheduled for Wednesday, 11 to Monday, 23 March 2026. Schools are reminded not to book activities for this time that will stop students in Years 7 and 9 from completing the NAPLAN assessments. Writing tests for both Years 7 and 9 must start on 11 March with the following day only used where there are technical or logistical limitations.

In preparation for the 2026 NAPLAN, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), who develops and centrally manages NAPLAN, encourages schools to complete practice tests in the assessment platform from the start of this term. Please contact naplan@scsa.wa.edu.au if you would like more information regarding this.

Further information will be provided to schools via the Authority's NAPLAN updates.

Senior secondary leader briefings and follow-up

In Term 3, the Authority's executive team, led by Juanita Healy, Executive Director – School Curriculum and Standards, presented 14 senior secondary leader briefings across the state. Over 300 school leaders took advantage of the opportunity to hear directly about current projects such as the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment and Adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9 within the Years 7–10 Western Australian Curriculum.

Juanita will provide a repeat of the secondary leader briefing on Wednesday, 19 November at 2 pm. School leaders who were unable to attend one of the briefings during Term 3, are encouraged to register via <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/news-and-events/all-events/2025-secondary-school-briefings>. Principals may wish to include additional staff members, particularly those with roles in career counselling and course selection.

SPEA thank you

I would like to personally thank all schools who were involved in the administration of the first school-based practical external assessment (SPEA), the new assessment task introduced this year in the Year 12 Physical Education Studies (PES) ATAR course to replace the ATAR practical (performance) examination.

In 2025, 331 SPEAs were scheduled to be conducted in schools, in a collaborative hub or in an Authority-administered hub. The introduction of the SPEA was not only supported by schools offering the PES ATAR course, but also other schools who released teachers from their regular classes so that they could be External Assessors for the assessment.

ATAR course examinations

The ATAR course practical examinations (excluding Interstate languages) began at the start of the last school holidays and concluded on Sunday, 26 October 2025. The written examination period is Wednesday, 29 October until Thursday, 20 November 2025. If ATAR course examinations are being conducted onsite at your school, please endeavour to ensure that the area around the venue is quiet, allowing students to complete the examinations with minimal disruption.

Please remind all Year 12 students enrolled in an ATAR course examination to check their personalised examination timetables carefully, and to have their timetable printed and available for each examination, together with photographic identification. Students can download their personalised examination timetables from the student portal at <https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au>.

I would ask that you convey my thanks to all teachers and the wider school community in the role they have played in preparing and supporting students for the practical and written ATAR course examinations. I also wish to acknowledge all the teachers who apply for and become markers of the ATAR course examinations, giving their time to ensure that the examinations are marked on time and with integrity.

While the school year is over for many Year 12s, I would also appreciate you passing my best wishes to the cohort through your networks. My congratulations to all this year's school leavers on achieving the milestone of completing Year 12. You are poised at the start of a new adventure and the Authority's best wishes are with you in your endeavours.

WACE Refreshment

The WACE Refreshment has continued. Earlier this year, I announced a number of the Board's initial decisions. Identification of the Certificate IV qualifications to be included on the list specified for inclusion in the WACE is progressing. Information flyers and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) relating to the C grade equivalents for ATAR courses and the tertiary preparation endorsed programs (TPEPs) will be available later in Term 4.

Revised course rationales, aims and statements about the General Capabilities have been confirmed through the Curriculum Advisory Committees (CACs). 'What's Changing' documents that show the revised rationales, aims and statements about the General Capabilities are available on course pages. This revised information will be added to the course syllabuses for teaching in 2026 and 2027, with the new syllabuses for Year 11 courses available in the new year.

The Board approved the review of Years 11 and 12 ATAR and General courses at its meeting on 3 December 2024: Aviation, English and Materials Design and Technology. I would like to thank the many teachers, Heads of Department and other stakeholders for the feedback that was provided to the Authority. The Board has considered the feedback and will now work with the CACs to progress the syllabus review process.

Curriculum and Advisory Committees

The Authority's CACs have continued to provide expert advice. It is important for the Authority to seek advice from practising teachers and representatives from school systems/sector offices, professional associations and, as appropriate, representatives from universities, the training sector, industry and/or the community.

Many CACs have provided advice regarding secondary education in 2025. The Early and Middle Adolescence CACs (Years 7–10) for the eight learning areas and the Late Adolescence and Early Adulthood (Years 11 and 12) CACs that represent the senior school courses and pathways provided advice to the Authority on topics and issues that include the Pre-primary to Year 10 adopting and adapting of the Australian Curriculum version 9 for the Western Australian context, the mapping of the General Capabilities to the Western Australian curriculum from Pre-primary to Year 12 and the ongoing Years 11 and 12 syllabus review process, including the intersection with the WACE Refreshment.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to these committees. The Board, the education community and our students have all benefitted from the consideration of ideas raised and constructive feedback facilitated through the CACs.

Thank you

As we move towards the end of another busy year, I would like to once again thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Authority. The contributions have come from a wide range of individuals beyond those I can acknowledge here directly. To school leaders, teachers and associated staff in secondary schools, to your parents and school communities, thank you for your ongoing dedication to our students' success.

Yours sincerely



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

28 October 2025