



Our Ref: 2023/3094

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

As we begin a new school year, 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 2023, I am pleased to share the following information with you on behalf of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) Board.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) and Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA)

You will be aware that the administration of NAPLAN has moved from Term 2 to Term 1 in 2023. This change means results will be available earlier. In turn, you will be able to use them in your work with students and parents to target areas for student improvement.

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 an online Webex briefing is scheduled for 2.30 pm on 6 February 2023.

In response to requests from schools for more flexibility in delivery, this year the OLNA will be conducted over six windows. This new arrangement will mean there are opportunities for Years 11 and 12 students in February–March and Years 9 and 10 students in October–November. The windows in May, June, July–August and September will be for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Individual students will still have two opportunities a year to sit their OLNA. Students who sit the OLNA as Year 9 students will have that counted as their first Year 10 sit.

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.

Adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9.0

We continue the work to update the Western Australian curriculum, including developing a plan to 'adopt and adapt' the Australian Curriculum. In December 2022, the Board endorsed revisions to the Western Australian Curriculum for English and Health and Physical Education. The changes only affect Pre-primary to Year 10 curriculum content for consent, first aid and Pre-primary to Year 6 curriculum content for phonics and word knowledge. There are no changes to the achievement standards. All other aspects of the Health and Physical Education and English curriculum remain unchanged.

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 2023 for familiarisation with the changes, ahead of implementation in 2024. Summaries of revisions have also been published and online sessions will be offered to support familiarisation.

New Western Australian Languages curriculum

To complement the existing suite of Pre-primary to Year 10 Languages within the *Outline*, Western Australian Aboriginal Languages Noongar (Language Revival), Hindi, Korean and Tamil second language syllabuses are now available for implementation and are accessible via the Authority website (<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/languages>).

Years 11 and 12

ATAR

The Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) has been topical during the first few weeks of 2023. We had almost 24 000 WACE eligible Year 12 students in 2022, of whom almost 10 500 sat four or more ATAR course examinations. There were another 2500 Year 12s who sat between one and three ATAR course examinations. While the changing landscape for university entry has impacted on some students' choices, the Board remains committed to our work and the value of the ATAR courses as the best preparation for the rigours of university study.

Syllabus review

The syllabus review process is well underway. We have new course syllabuses in Year 12 that will be examined for the first time in 2023. These include Chinese: First Language, Drama, Geography, and Media Production and Analysis. The new ATAR courses commencing in Year 11 in 2023 and in Year 12 in 2024 are: Computer Science, Design, Economics, Music and Psychology. 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 Year 11 General Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies course (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/humanities-and-social-sciences>) and Year 11 ATAR Hindi and Korean Second Language and Background Language courses (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/languages>) are now accessible online via the Authority's website.

Assessment

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 2023* published in the 11 December 2022 eCircular (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/11to12-circulars/edition-11-december-2022>).

Also topical over the last few weeks has been the use of ChatGPT and other Artificial Intelligence Applications and their impact on school-based assessment. I draw your attention to the Authority's *WACE Manual 2023* and the requirement for senior secondary assessment policies to include information about authentication of student work (including cheating, collusion, plagiarism, appropriation, unacknowledged use of artificial intelligence applications (AIA), etc.) (see sub-section 2.6).

Moderation activities

During 2023, the Authority will conduct a range of moderation activities to review the Years 11 and 12 assessment and grading practices of schools. Participation by schools in these moderation activities is compulsory and schools will receive communication from the Authority regarding their requirements to participate in a moderation activity. The *WACE Manual 2023*, section 3.4, provides information on each of the Authority's moderation activities.

Mathematics – Unacceptable combinations

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) has advised that from the 2023 school year (relevant for university admission from 2024), Mathematics Applications and Mathematics Methods will no longer be an unacceptable subject combination for the purposes of calculating the ATAR. Students will now be able to include the score from both courses in their final ATAR. TISC publications and the TISC website will be progressively updated to reflect this change.

Acknowledgments

Before I close, I would like to acknowledge some changes to the people with whom we will be working this year. The Board welcomes the new Minister for Education, the Honourable Dr Tony Buti MLA, and thanks our previous Minister, the Honourable Sue Ellery MLC. I wish them both well in their new portfolios. I also wish Allan Blagaich, Executive Director, School Curriculum and Standards (SCS) well as he takes leave until November this year. I welcome Juanita Healy to the role of Executive Director, SCS in Allan's absence.

I wish you all the very best for 2023 and we look forward to working with you over the course of the year.

Yours sincerely



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

31 January 2023