



Our Ref: 2025/69081v2

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

As we begin a new semester, I am pleased to share a further update on the work of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). The Authority's progress continues to benefit from the engagement and efforts of teachers and school leaders. I again thank everyone involved.

Year 12 ATAR Physical Education Studies School-based practical external assessment (SPEA)

The SPEA will be administered in schools from the start of this week and will continue until the end of Week 8. All participating schools received their timetables for the SPEA last term and there are support materials available on the course page of the Authority website at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/health-and-physical-education/physical-education-studies>, in addition to the online and in-person training that has been conducted.

All staff and students should all be aware that participation in the SPEA is compulsory for all students and is a requirement for course completion. Should a student miss the SPEA for some reason, they are required to complete an *Application for approved absence* form (available from the course page) within two weeks of the scheduled SPEA.

This new assessment process begins after an extensive trial and is an exciting point in our work. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the teachers, school leaders, assessors and the participating students.

NAPLAN

This year's NAPLAN was conducted between Wednesday, 12 and Monday, 24 March. The printed Individual Student Reports (ISRs) have begun arriving in schools for distribution to students/parents/carers. The Authority has notified schools via a NAPLAN update about the availability of digital versions of the ISRs and how they can be accessed and downloaded. Schools are requested to check the hard copies and digital copies of ISRs carefully before distributing to students/parents/carers.

Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment

One of the key purposes of the WACE Refreshment is to support students to engage with the courses and programs that are personally challenging and best meet their needs as lifelong learners. Today, I am pleased to share with you a Refreshment that will support students choosing to enrol in ATAR courses.

The Authority is aware that some students choose not to enrol in Year 12 ATAR courses based on concerns that they may not achieve a WACE if they receive a D grade for their school-based assessment.

Following extensive analysis of student data and consultation, the Board of the Authority has determined that a student who achieves a D grade for any pair of Year 12 ATAR course units and a moderated written school mark or ATAR course written examination mark of approximately 40 will receive a C grade equivalent for each of those pairs of units which can contribute to meeting WACE requirements.

This C grade equivalent will support students who have taken an ATAR course to meet the WACE requirement of 'at least six C grades (or equivalents) in Year 12 units'. The C grade equivalent will be applied to as many Year 12 ATAR courses as relevant for a student. This C grade equivalent reflects the pitch of the course content and the rigour of the teaching, learning and assessment programs of Year 12 ATAR courses.

The application of a C grade equivalent in an ATAR course will be indicated on a student's Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) and the student summary report that schools access through the Student Information Records System (SIRS).

As the application of the C grade equivalent in an ATAR course will be made by the Authority on the basis of analysis of a student's results within the certification process, teachers and schools should not anticipate the potential C grade equivalent as part of their assessment of student performance. Grading judgements should be made by teachers in accordance with syllabus requirements. Further details of this refreshment will be provided throughout Term 3.

The Board remains committed to its 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. I am pleased to advise that this year's cohort of students will benefit from the implementation of this Refreshment.

Moderation

The Authority conducted Externally Set Task (EST) marker training during the first week of the school holidays and marking is completed. Thank you to all those involved in this process.

Consensus moderation begins this term with 16 sessions scheduled between Tuesday, 29 July and Tuesday, 2 September. These sessions focus on using the grade descriptions for selected courses to determine a grade through the review of student assessment files. The sessions will also focus on assessment practice and the development and implementation of valid and appropriate school-based assessment tasks. Following each session, participants and Principals will receive a summary of grading judgement feedback and reflection via return email allowing teachers to follow up on the feedback.

This term, selected schools will be involved in the Assessment Task Review (ATR). The ATR is designed to support teachers to develop assessment tasks and marking keys that reflect the appropriate pitch and demand of the course and meet the syllabus requirements. The process will provide feedback to teachers and schools to inform the future development of quality assessment tasks and marking keys. Following the Authority's review of the documents, a report for each course will be made available to schools at the conclusion of Term 3.

Syllabus review

The Board has approved Aviation, English and Materials Design and Technology for syllabus review. A survey will be made available to teachers of these courses and other stakeholders in Week 3 on Monday, 4 August to build on the feedback provided by the Curriculum Advisory Committees for these courses. I thank everyone for contributing to the process.

2025 ATAR course examination timetable

In June, the ATAR course examination timetable was published on the Authority website at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/examination-timetables>. Students will be able to access their personal examination timetables for the ATAR course practical and written examination from Tuesday, 9 September via the student portal.

Adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9 within the Western Australian curriculum

I am very pleased to report that teachers are engaging with the Authority's professional learning opportunities that are supporting schools with familiarisation of the Western Australian curriculum for Years 7 to 10 Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and Technologies. These in-person professional learning opportunities will continue throughout this term in metropolitan and regional centres and online. Registrations are still open via the Authority website Events page at <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/news-and-events/all-events>.

The Authority's Languages team has begun the consultation phase for the adopting and adapting process. The team has met with members of the Kindergarten to Year 2, Years 3 to 6 and Languages Years 7 to 10 Curriculum Advisory Committees and teachers representing ten Languages from Pre-primary to Year 10 to consult on the draft revised curriculum. Feedback from participants will be used to further refine the proposed content descriptions, accompanying examples and year level descriptions and achievement standards. Public consultation on the revised Languages curriculum will begin in September.

Public consultation for the Pre-primary to Year 10 curriculum for The Arts will be scheduled later in Term 3. School will be advised via the Authority's circulars. The initial consultation will provide direction for the Authority's work in this area.

School leader briefings

A series of briefings in metropolitan and regional locations are scheduled for Term 3. The focus of these 'roadshow' briefings for secondary school Principals and school leaders will be the WACE Refreshment. I encourage you and your senior school leaders to attend. Please register via the Authority website Events page at <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/news-and-events/all-events/2025-secondary-school-briefings>.

I look forward to sharing more information about this work in coming months. I wish you all the best for a productive and rewarding Term 3.

Yours sincerely



PAULINE WHITE
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY

28 July 2025