



Our Ref: 2026/65786

To the Principal and EST Coordinator  
All Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

I am writing in relation to the 2026 Externally Set Task (EST) reports that are now accessible from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (the Authority) Student Information Records System (SIRS).

The Authority has been implementing the EST for Year 12 General and Foundation courses since 2016. The primary purpose of the EST is to ensure the fair and comparable assessment of student achievement in Year 12 General and Foundation courses. This is achieved by schools using the Authority-provided marking keys for each EST. The EST has an educative role in establishing common understandings among teachers of the course standards and syllabus content. It models best assessment practice, which teachers can also apply to other school-based assessment tasks.

After all data has been collected and analysed by the Authority, each school is provided with access to download several SIRS reports for each course (Attachment 1). The feedback provided in the SIRS reports enables the teacher/s of the course to reflect on their marking standards.

### **Using the feedback in the reports**

Specific reports provide useful feedback for schools related to:

- selected scripts reviewer mark compared with the school mark. The lines represent the acceptable tolerance (10% above and below the mean reviewer mark) (i.e. EST021)
- understanding by teachers of the standards in each course (i.e. EST013, EST017)
- supporting recalibration of their teachers' understanding of the course standards and, where applicable, internal comparability between classes within the same course (i.e. EST013, EST021)
- school performance compared with the rest of the State cohort (i.e. EST014, EST018).

Using these reports, and through personal reflection and professional dialogue, teachers and school leaders can consider:

- how the other school assessment tasks and marking keys align with the EST standards and the Authority-provided marking keys for the EST
- the extent to which the EST data can inform the future focus of the course delivery within a school.

During Term 4, the Authority will publish an EST summary report which includes information on questions and general advice to assist teachers enhance their practice and improve student performance. This will accompany the publication of strong and satisfactory sample student scripts for most General and Foundation courses. These documents will be made available behind the Authority's Extranet on the General and Foundation page for each course.

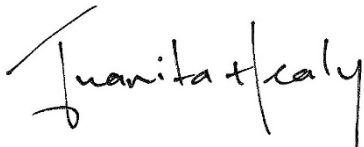
As in previous years, the Authority continues to closely review the data for all Year 12 General and Foundation courses across all schools as part of its moderation process. These activities include:

- selecting General and Foundation courses with large numbers of schools whose marking was out of tolerance and collecting and marking all scripts
- selecting schools with multiple courses whose marking is out of tolerance and collecting and marking all scripts for a selection of courses
- if school marking is still out of tolerance for the majority of the marked scripts, the school could be requested to use the Authority's reviewer marks for the EST school assessment
- the Authority providing additional moderation support where the data suggests that marking in one or more courses has remained out of tolerance for several years.

I recommend that School Leaders and Heads of Learning Areas analyse the available EST reports for the General and Foundation courses from SIRS, and where the marks in a course are outside the accepted tolerance to investigate possible reasons for this.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juanita Healy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JUANITA HEALY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS**

19 August 2026

Att.

**Attachment 1****EST001 – EST marks by student**

List of students' EST marks as marked by the school and, for those selected, by the reviewer.

**EST013 – EST marks comparison (school v reviewer)**

A list by class of the EST school mark submitted for each student and the reviewer mark for selected scripts.

**EST014 – EST school marks frequency**

Frequency distribution of EST school marks in comparison with the statewide EST school marks distribution by each EST course, with selected students and not selected students to be externally marked being identified.

**EST017 – EST marks breakdown by provider**

A breakdown of reviewer marks by question for each selected student in each EST.

**EST018 – EST percentage school marks and grades**

Visual presentation of EST school marks and grades relative to the statewide marks distribution, with selected students and not selected students to be externally marked being identified.

**EST021 – EST scatter graphs for selected scripts**

Visual presentation of EST student marks, the lines representing the acceptable tolerance (10% above and below the mean reviewer mark for selected scripts) and the mean reviewer mark for selected scripts. The report includes a table the teacher's mark and the reviewer mark for the selected scripts.