



Our Ref: 2023/30720

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

I am writing to provide you with an update of work being undertaken by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). Before I move to the updates, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the amazing efforts invested in making the start of this year, in relation to the Authority's activities, so successful. I am aware of the impact that the early scheduling of NAPLAN has had on all schools and recognise that many adjustments were required by schools to be able to prepare for and administer the assessments. On behalf of all members of the Board, my sincere thanks.

I am also aware of the impact that early NAPLAN has had on the scheduling within schools of the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA). I hope that the additional OLNA windows will serve to reduce this impact. I thank everyone involved in the work associated with the OLNA.

I am also grateful for the manner with which schools have embraced the need to ensure the integrity of the externally set tasks (ESTs), which all students studying Year 12 General and Foundation courses have recently completed. The effective administration of these assessments is essential to support the validity of grades that are awarded for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) at the end of two years of senior secondary education. Additional diligence is required from schools when there is not a set date and time for ESTs and I thank schools that have self-identified integrity breaches and worked with the Authority to respond to these. Authority staff will always support schools by providing advice when breaches occur, and I trust that schools will contact us if any such situations arise.

NAPLAN 2023

One of the reasons NAPLAN was moved to earlier in the year was to provide schools with school aggregated achievement data and individual student reports earlier than in previous years. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has recently notified the Authority, as the administrator of NAPLAN for Western Australia, that the 2023 Student and School Summary Report (SSSR) will be released to schools in late June. At this stage, it is anticipated that Individual Student Reports (ISRs) will be released in early Term 3. Further updates will be communicated through the Authority's *NAPLAN Update*.

As you would be aware, from this year, reports will indicate student achievement in terms of four proficiencies – Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support. Supporting documentation will also be provided that will explain to parents and students what the proficiencies indicate and where each child sits in relation to his/her cohort. For 2023, the Authority's K–10 Testing team has developed a report that will be provided to schools, at the same time as the SSSR, which will provide the Proficiency Standard for each of their Years 7 and 9 students in each of their NAPLAN tests.

Schools will continue to be provided with a report for individual students through SIRS which will indicate whether Year 9 students have pre-qualified and, therefore, are not required to sit the OLNA. This document can be printed and provided to parents of Year 9 students.

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

As part of the State Government's 2023–24 Budget, \$24.3 million has been committed to support the Authority to adopt and adapt the Australian Curriculum Version 9 within the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline*. This work has commenced and is being undertaken to reflect the feedback that was received from over 1800 teachers who participated in public consultation workshops in 2021.

As always, the Board of the Authority and its staff, aims to continue to support principals and teachers with a high-quality curriculum with explicit standards which are clearly exemplified, well developed assessments and examinations. We welcome your feedback and trust that together we will continue to provide all students with the very best opportunity to work towards successful pathways on the completion of 13 years of education.

Yours sincerely



PAULINE WHITE
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY

13 June 2023