



Our Ref: 2025/4517

To the Principal
 All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

I trust this letter finds you well after a break from the rigours of school life. As we begin the new school year, I am writing to share an update on the work being undertaken by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) in 2025.

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

The Authority’s work on adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9 within the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (the *Outline*) continues in 2025. Following extensive involvement by teachers from across the state since 2022, we are pleased with the progress made. We are looking forward to working further with teachers this year as the processes of consultation, familiarisation and implementation continue. A highlight for this year will be the delivery of professional learning.

Throughout 2024, consultation was undertaken with teachers across the state for Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and Technologies. The syllabuses for these learning areas will be available for familiarisation in 2025, ahead of implementation in 2026. The scope and sequence documents to be used for familiarisation are located above the curriculum content on the learning area pages of the *Outline* on the Authority website.

The revised Western Australian Curriculum for English and Health and Physical Education to be implemented this year is available on the website with a brand-new look at <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/wa-curriculum/learning-areas>. Work has commenced on adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9 for The Arts and Languages, and consultation will occur later in the year.

The Authority’s [Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy](#) and [Policy Standards for Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting](#) have been revised to reflect the timelines for the phased approach to implementation. The graphic below indicates the phases of consultation, familiarisation and implementation for each of the learning areas in the *Outline*.

	English	Health and Physical Education	Humanities and Social Sciences	Languages	Mathematics	Science	Technologies	The Arts
Implementation	2025	2025	2026	2027	2026	2026	2026	2027
Familiarisation	2024	2024	2025	2026	2025	2025	2025	2026
Consultation	2023	2023	2024	2025	2024	2024	2024	2025

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

The dates for NAPLAN 2025 are Wednesday, 12 to Monday, 24 March. Schools should be aware that the initial registration and demographic information (via SRGDG file) for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 must be uploaded to the Authority by Thursday, 13 February in preparation for this assessment.

Information about the responsibilities of Principals and NAPLAN coordinators to manage the administration of NAPLAN, including the provision of equitable adjustments for students with disabilities, is published in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's (ACARA) *NAPLAN National protocols for test administration* at <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-schools/national-protocols-for-test-administration>.

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 2025 an online briefing is scheduled for 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2025. The briefing will be repeated at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 19 February 2025. Register via <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/events>.

Registrations

Student registration is particularly important for secondary students because of NAPLAN, Abilities Based Learning Education, Western Australia (ABLEWA), Brightpath and the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Further information about registering students is available in the *Data Procedures Manual 2025* on the Authority website at <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/data-procedures-manual>. See the *2025 Activities Schedule* at <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/activities-schedule> for key dates.

Equitable access to assessment – adjustments

The Authority is committed to all students having access to curriculum and assessment that is appropriate to their needs and recognises and supports individual students who may need assessment adjustments to allow them to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills.

The underlying principle of the Authority's *Equitable Access to Assessment Policy and Guidelines* at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/special-provisions> is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in and complete their assessments in an equitable manner.

Schools are encouraged to engage with the Authority as early as possible to discuss any issues related to supporting students in Years 7–11 who may be eligible for or require specific adjustments in the ATAR course examination. This will allow schools to discuss interventions and implement appropriate adjustments for school-based assessment in the years preceding Year 12. The Authority is planning to conduct workshops for schools to assist them with furthering their understanding of the equitable access adjustment process late in Term 1. These workshops will be advertised via the *7to12 Circular*.

Senior secondary students

As always, there is a lot happening in relation to students in the senior secondary years.

Courses update and syllabus review

This year sees the first year of ATAR course examinations for courses that were introduced for Year 11 in 2024. The examinations for the new ATAR courses will be set and marked by the Authority in 2025.

In 2025, Year 11 Careers and Employability General replaces Year 11 Careers and Enterprise General.

The Authority monitors the implementation of WACE courses through gathering a range of information. As a result, the Authority may identify the need for necessary changes to aspects of courses and syllabuses.

The list of courses provided in my letter from Term 4 last year is attached again to this letter.

At its December meeting, the Board approved the following courses for syllabus review in 2025:

- Aviation – ATAR and General
- English – ATAR and General
- Materials Design and Technology – ATAR and General.

In 2025, work will commence on the development of a General Framework for Languages. Work will continue on the courses that commenced syllabus review last year. These include the ATAR Languages and the General Arts courses.

As is our established practice, the Authority will work with the Curriculum Advisory Committees to draft revisions for the syllabuses and seek feedback from teachers of the courses, professional associations and other stakeholder groups.

Further information about the syllabus review will be provided through the *7to12 Circular* and I encourage teachers of the courses and other stakeholders to participate in the feedback and consultation processes.

Physical Education Studies Year 12 ATAR update

After an extensive process of consultation, a pilot program and state-wide trial, the Authority is introducing the school-based practical external assessment (SPEA) for Physical Education Studies Year 12 ATAR in 2025. I thank all of the teachers and school leaders who have been involved in the trialling and development of the SPEA.

Assessment of Years 11 and 12 students

The Board is committed to its position that 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 permanent shift to the minimum requirement for assessment in Years 11 and 12 courses, as previously advised in the [11to12Circular February 2024](#).

New look circulars

In 2025, the [Authority circulars](#) will be realigned to focus on readers in primary and secondary schools. Realigning the circulars from *Kto10* and *11to12* to *Kto6* and *7to12* provides an opportunity to target information for primary and secondary contexts.

The change to the new year groupings will be completed in stages. In the initial stage of the realignment:

- current subscribers to the *Kto10 Circular* will be directed to the *Kto6 Circular* and current subscribers to the *11to12 Circular* will be directed to the *7to12 Circular*
- both circulars will continue to be on the same page and subscribers will be able to navigate freely between the accordions
- information about updating subscriptions will be sent to current subscribers and schools early in 2025.

In the longer term, the Circulars page on the Authority website will be remodelled as part of the website redevelopment.

Value of engagement

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the work of the Authority. The staff from the School Curriculum and Standards Division, led by Juanita Healy and the executive team, work collaboratively to deliver on the vision of the Board. The input of our formally constituted committees, including the Curriculum Advisory Committees, the Secondary Principals' Advisory Committee and the many working groups and panels, is critical to the success of the Authority.

A series of school leader briefings in metropolitan and regional locations is planned for Term 2. Details of the schedule and registration will be provided to Principals and through the *7to12 Circular*. It is through your engagement that we are able to deliver high-quality curriculum and clearly defined standards across the secondary years of schooling.

The work to support the WACE Refreshment continues to maintain the WACE as a robust, rigorous and contemporary senior secondary certificate that aligns with the evolving needs of young people, and that is respected nationally and internationally. We look forward to sharing updates on the WACE Refreshment throughout the year.

Thank you and your staff for your ongoing dedication and commitment to the education of young people to equip them with the skills, knowledge, values and capabilities to succeed in their schooling, and to support their pathways beyond school. I wish you all the best for 2025.

Yours sincerely



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

29 January 2025

Att

Attachment 1

Years 11 and 12 courses

As a part of the Authority's ongoing syllabus review process, a number of courses will be offered for the first time in 2025.

Reviewed courses implemented in Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025

- Years 11 and 12 Ancient History ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Engineering Studies ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Human Biology General
- Years 11 and 12 Modern History ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Physical Education Studies ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Religion and Life Foundation

Reviewed courses to be implemented in Year 11 in 2025 and Year 12 in 2026

- Years 11 and 12 Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Careers and Employability General (replacing Careers and Enterprise General)
- Years 11 and 12 Physics ATAR

New courses implemented in Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025

- Years 11 and 12 Agribusiness ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Science in Practice General

New course to be implemented in Year 11 in 2025 and Year 12 in 2026

- Years 11 and 12 Humanities and Social Sciences in Action General

Courses approved for retirement in Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025

The Year 11 course is no longer available, and the Year 12 course will be offered for the last time in 2025.

- Years 11 and 12 Career and Enterprise ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Children, Family and the Community ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Integrated Science ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Biology General
- Years 11 and 12 Earth and Environmental Science General
- Years 11 and 12 Economics General
- Years 11 and 12 Literature General
- Years 11 and 12 Philosophy and Ethics General
- Years 11 and 12 Physics General
- Years 11 and 12 Politics and Law General

Courses replaced by new courses in Year 12 2025

These courses have been replaced by new courses, with 2024 being the last year of teaching.

- Year 12 Animal Production Systems ATAR (replaced by Year 12 Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR)
- Year 12 Integrated Science General (replaced by Year 12 Science in Practice General)
- Year 12 Plant Production Systems ATAR (replaced by Year 12 Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR)