



Our Ref: 2026/91404

To the Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Schools

Dear Principal

As we begin Term 4 for 2026, I would like to provide an update on the work of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority).

Adopting and Adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9

It has been pleasing to see the progress made in 2026 to implement the revised Pre-primary to Year 10 Western Australian Curriculum for Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and Technologies. Languages and The Arts are nearing the end of the familiarisation phase, with implementation of these final two learning areas in the adopt and adapt project commencing in 2027. From 2027, schools will be required to teach the revised year-level curriculum for Languages and The Arts.

Support for implementation and familiarisation will continue throughout Term 4. The Authority will provide targeted professional learning, supported by funding for one day of teacher relief for schools with students in Pre-primary to Year 10. Schools may also use this funding, at their discretion, for whole-school planning for implementation in 2027.

Professional learning opportunities

During Term 4, online seminars will support schools to familiarise themselves with the Western Australian Curriculum for Pre-primary to Year 10 Languages. The Authority will also offer an online briefing for schools and teachers using the Australian Curriculum Languages with Pre-primary to Year 10 students.

A highlight of the Term 4 professional learning program is a series of workshops supporting teachers to use the Year 9 teaching and learning exemplar, 'The Pinjarra Massacre: Truth-telling'. The workshops enable teachers to engage with the exemplar's content and the apology delivered to the Bindjareb Noongar people on 28 October 2025 by His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia. The first workshop, held in September, was well received by participants.

I am pleased that work continues on resources to help teachers plan for multi-age classes. Online briefings will also be held in Term 4 to support this planning.

Professional learning opportunities are advertised in the Authority's Circulars. I encourage you and your staff to register to receive them at <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/>.

Equitable access to assessment

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment, the Authority's Board is seeking independent advice on:

- the parameters the Authority should establish to confirm equitable access adjustments (EAA) for students undertaking ATAR course examinations before Year 12, ideally in Year 10

- appropriate alternatives to the current requirement for a documented medical diagnosis when students seek equitable access adjustments
- whether the disabilities listed in the Authority's *EAA Policy and Guidelines* should be amended
- whether the adjustments listed in the *EAA Policy and Guidelines* should be amended.

A public survey will be used to collect feedback from schools, parents, students and community stakeholders to inform the advice to the Board. I encourage parents to participate and ask schools to promote the survey across their parent and broader school communities.

The survey can be accessed via the Authority's website <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/equitable-access-assessment-policy>.

Later in the term, stakeholders will be invited to participate in targeted online engagement workshops. Participants will include school principals, students, parents, physicians, paediatricians, psychologists and relevant advisory groups.

ATAR course examinations

The ATAR course practical examinations (excluding Interstate languages) began on Saturday, 26 September and will conclude on Sunday, 25 October 2026. Written examinations will run from Wednesday, 28 October to Wednesday, 18 November 2026. If examinations are held at your school, please keep the surrounding area quiet to minimise disruption for students.

Please remind all Year 12 students enrolled in an ATAR course examination to check their personalised examination timetable carefully. They must bring a printed copy of the timetable and photographic identification to each examination. Timetables can be downloaded from the student portal at <https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au>.

The September Circular included general information about the 2026 ATAR course examinations, including equipment and materials, identification, timetables and late arrivals. This information is drawn from the Authority website and *Year 12 Information Handbook Part II: Examinations*. Please note the guidance on authorised and unauthorised items and materials, as taking unauthorised items into an examination may breach examination rules and result in avoidable penalties.

The Authority will publish further reminders for students on its website and social media. The Circular is available at <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/7to12-circulars/edition-9-september-2026>.

Thank you to everyone who has helped prepare and support students for the practical and written ATAR course examinations. I also acknowledge the teachers who serve as examination panel members and markers.

Please pass on my congratulations to your Year 12 students on completing their secondary education. I wish the Class of '26 every success.

WACE Refreshment

As previously advised, from 2028, only Certificate IV qualifications included on the Authority's *Certificate IV Specified List* will count as unit equivalents towards WACE achievement. This WACE Refreshment change applies to students beginning Year 11 in 2027 who will complete their WACE in 2028. The *Certificate IV Specified List* and frequently asked questions are available on the Authority website at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/vet/all-about-vet>.

The General Capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. From 2027, the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) for Year 12 students will record students' engagement with the General Capabilities, mapped to their WACE courses as identified within the Years 11 and 12 syllabuses.

Work continues on the provisionally titled WACE Access initiative, which aims to enable more Western Australian students, including students with disability and others unable to meet current WACE requirements despite appropriate adjustments, to complete Year 12 with meaningful recognition through a senior secondary certificate. I thank the many stakeholders advising the Authority on the principles and design for WACE Access.

Thank you

Each year in education is busy, and people contribute to the Authority's work in many ways. Thank you to members of curriculum advisory committees, forums, advisory groups and working parties; examination panels, markers and supervisors; those who develop and mark assessments, including externally set tasks, the common oral assessment task and school-based practical external assessments; school leaders, teachers and other secondary school staff; and parents and broader school communities. I sincerely thank everyone who has given their time and energy to support the Authority's work and improve outcomes for students.

Yours sincerely



PAULINE WHITE
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY

14 October 2026