



HSC minimum standard

Information for parents and carers for the 2021 HSC and beyond

Dear parents and carers,

The recent introduction of the HSC minimum standard policy by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) means that students in NSW need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive their HSC.

Students will demonstrate they have achieved the minimum standard by completing 3 online tests. These minimum standard online tests are each 45 minutes long, and include:

- a multiple choice test for reading;
- a multiple choice test for numeracy; and
- a test for writing (around 500 words) based on a written or visual prompt.

These tests are based around the Australian Core Skills Framework and the minimum standard is set at level 3. This means that students who demonstrate the standard have the basic functional skills used in everyday life, for work and further study.

Students have four opportunities each year to sit these online tests, from Year 10 until Year 12. At least 30 calendar days is required before re-attempting a test in the same domain. Students will also be able to complete the tests for up to five years after starting the HSC.

There are practice tests available at school and demonstration questions online on the NESA website: <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard>

Students will be supported by the school to meet the minimum standard. Year 10 will be sitting the Minimum Standard tests during Week 4 and 5 Term 4. Please contact the school if you would like more information.

If you believe your child has additional needs and will be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard tests, please contact Sharon Houghton- HT T&L Learning Support.

Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact the school, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 13 14 50 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call the school and will stay on the line to assist with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Kylie Hedger.

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Information for parents and carers

What is the HSC minimum standard?

The HSC minimum standard was created to help ensure that students have the key literacy and numeracy skills for life after school. Students in New South Wales will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC credential from 2020.

The HSC minimum standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). These skills are essential for everyday tasks and learning after school such as writing a letter for a job application or understanding a mobile phone plan.

The standard is assessed through online tests across three areas: reading, writing and numeracy.

The minimum standard online tests are 45 minutes long and include a multiple choice reading test, a multiple choice numeracy test and a short writing test based on a choice between a visual or written prompt.

Examples of the tests are available on the [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\) website](#). Practice tests are available for students to sit at school to help them become familiar with the online test structure and for schools to help determine student readiness to meet the minimum standard.

Who needs to complete HSC minimum standard online tests?

Students who complete the HSC in 2020:

- Students who are completing the HSC in 2020 and achieved a Band 8 or above in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in their 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN results, do not need to sit the NESA HSC minimum standard online test.
- Students who did not achieve a Band 8 in any one of the 3 areas of their 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN, but who have subsequently sat and achieved level 3 in the corresponding HSC minimum standard online tests in 2018 or 2019, have met the standard.
- Students who did not achieve a Band 8 in any one of the 3 areas of their 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN, and have not yet sat the HSC minimum standard online tests must sit the tests in 2019, 2020 or during the first few years after school.

Students who will complete the HSC in 2021 and beyond:

All students must sit the NESA HSC minimum standard online tests in reading, writing and numeracy.

When can students take the HSC minimum standard online tests and who will administer them?

Students will have four opportunities per year to sit the HSC minimum standard online tests in each area of Reading, Numeracy and Writing, in Year 10, 11 and 12.

Students are required to wait at least 30 calendar days before re-attempting a test in the same domain.

Please note: in 2020, NESA has increased the chances Year 12 students have to sit the minimum standard online tests. Students yet to meet the HSC minimum standard will be able to attempt each test up to six times in 2020, with 14 calendar days between re-attempts. Students in Years 10 and 11 continue to have four chances a year to sit each test.

The tests must be administered by schools via a lockdown browser.

Students will also have up to 5 years from the time they start their first HSC course to sit the minimum standard online tests.

Disability provisions and exemptions:

Students with additional learning needs may be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC. Parents should contact the school to find out more information.

Life Skills courses are designed to provide an equitable pathway to the HSC. Students taking four or more Life Skills courses can be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard.

Please contact your school for more information.

Further information

NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)
[educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard](https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard)