

# FACT SHEET

## HSC minimum standard

A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy will be required to receive the HSC from 2020. The NSW Government has introduced this change to ensure students have developed the literacy and numeracy skills required for life beyond school.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate the HSC minimum standard by taking new, short online tests when they are ready in Years 10, 11 or 12.

However, if your child has achieved Band 8 or above in their Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests, they have shown they have met the HSC minimum standard early and will not be required to take further tests.

## What is the HSC minimum standard?

The HSC minimum standard is set at a nationally agreed level of literacy and numeracy required to meet the demands of everyday life and work. It is expected that students, on finishing their HSC, will, at a minimum, be able to do things like:

- Find the time and date of a music concert on an online ticket website
- Calculate the quantity of paint needed to paint a room
- Estimate distance, travel time and costs for a transport route
- Take notes from a lecture or training session
- Create a personal weekly budget in a spreadsheet
- Measure quantities to follow a recipe
- Follow safety instructions in an equipment manual
- Enter data in a computer based management system.

## **Meeting the standard**

Students will have multiple opportunities to meet the minimum standard. From 2018, online reading, writing and numeracy tests will be available for students to sit at least twice a year in Years 10, 11 and 12, and for up to 5 years after starting the HSC.

The tests will be available on the following school days in 2018:

- Term 1: 19 February to 23 March 2018
- Term 2: 21 May to 22 June 2018
- Term 3: 13 August to 14 September 2018
- Term 4: 5 November to 7 December 2018

There are three tests: reading, writing and numeracy. Students don't need to sit all their tests at the same time. You and your child should talk to your child's teachers to decide when is the best time to sit the test or tests.

## **NAPLAN and the HSC minimum standard**

NESA acknowledges that some Year 9 students already have the literacy and numeracy levels required for the HSC minimum standard.

Students can demonstrate they have met the standard early by achieving Band 8 results or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests. Students who achieve Band 8 will not need to sit the online tests later in Years 10, 11 and 12.

## **Support for students to meet the minimum standard in Years 10, 11 and 12**

Quality teaching of the NSW curriculum is the best way to prepare students to achieve the standard. All NSW syllabuses from Kindergarten to Year 12 integrate the development of literacy and numeracy skills through general capabilities, cross-curriculum content or key competencies.

All schools currently have in place processes for identifying students who do not meet expected literacy and numeracy benchmarks and for providing additional support to these students. Teachers and schools know their individual students best and will determine the most appropriate way of providing additional support to students identified as being at risk of not meeting the new standard.

Strategies and materials will also be made available to assist teachers in supporting students to reach the standard through the *NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2017–2020*. New support materials and resources from NESA will emphasise the early identification of students in primary and high school at risk of not meeting the standard.

For further information on the HSC minimum standard and the online tests, visit:  
<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au>.