

1. MINIMUM STANDARD



ESTABLISH A MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE HSC

WHAT IS CHANGING FOR THE NSW HSC?

Students will be required to reach a minimum literacy and numeracy standard before they are eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

The minimum standard is set at a functional level of literacy and numeracy required for everyday life. The standard is not representative of the skills required for academic study but at the minimum level students will need to function after they leave school.

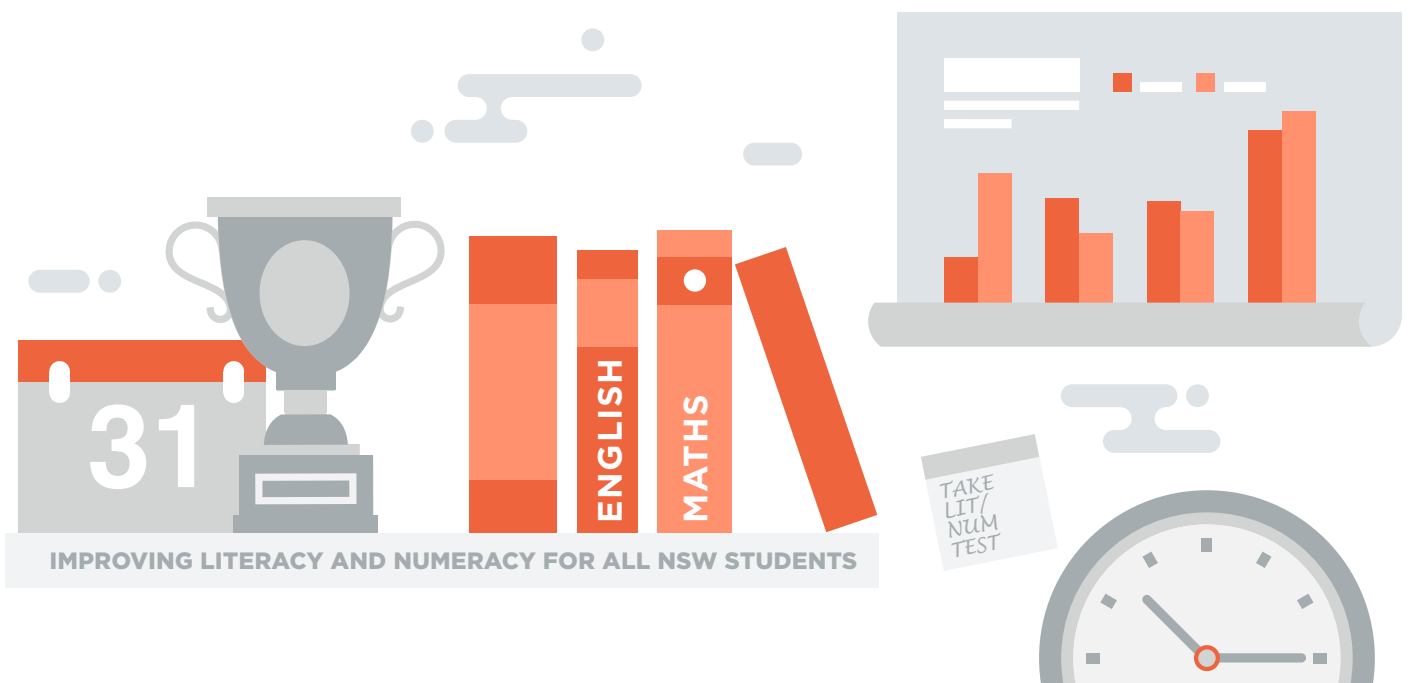
Students can meet the BOSTES standard by achieving:

- a Band 8 in each of their Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests; or
- a pass in the online literacy and numeracy tests in Years 10, 11 or 12.

This standard will be subject to further work and validation by BOSTES.

WHAT EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THIS DECISION?

- OECD research confirms the best indicator of success in life after school (as measured through employment, higher salaries and good health) is a student's literacy and numeracy skills
- Australia's 2012 PISA results show Australia is falling behind internationally and up to one-fifth of 15-year-olds fail to meet the international proficiency standard in literacy and numeracy
- The NSW Business Chamber, the NSW Minerals Council and other employers consistently raise concerns about the literacy and numeracy skills of school leavers. AiGroup has detailed the effect it has on employers trying to build sophisticated Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills in their workforce, and to upskill their employees
- Countries such as New Zealand and Finland, and Australian jurisdictions such as WA have established literacy and numeracy standards as a condition of their Year 12 certificate



CURRENT STATE	FUTURE STATE
The HSC is awarded to all students who meet the eligibility requirements	To receive the HSC, students must meet the HSC eligibility requirements that include a minimum literacy and numeracy standard, needed for everyday life and employment
Students who do not satisfy the requirements for the HSC receive a Record of School Achievement (RoSA)	Students who do not satisfy the requirements for the HSC, including the literacy and numeracy standard, still receive a RoSA
Students have five years after leaving school to complete the requirements and receive the HSC	Students have five years after leaving school to complete the requirements of the HSC, including sitting an online literacy and numeracy test
Mathematics is not compulsory in Years 11 and 12	Students who do not reach the numeracy standard by the end of Year 10 are required to study a prescribed Mathematics course or topics until they demonstrate they can reach the numeracy standard
Literacy skills are not explicitly addressed in English courses in Years 11 and 12	All Year 11 and 12 English courses have specific strands of literacy
Employers and the community assume that students with an HSC have achieved a functional level of literacy and numeracy	Employers and the community are assured of the level of literacy and numeracy achieved by students who are awarded an HSC

NEXT STEPS

IN 2016	BEYOND 2016
Collaborate with jurisdictions to share research, teaching strategies, support materials and sample test questions for the implementation of a minimum standard	Work with school sectors to ensure the online literacy and numeracy test is available at set periods each year for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. The test will be available from 2018
Develop specific units within Mathematics and English courses for students at risk of not meeting the minimum standard	
Develop a communications strategy to ensure students, parents, teachers and schools understand the minimum standard	

WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN?

The first students to be affected are the Year 9 students of **2017**

Their first opportunity to demonstrate the standard will be the **2017** Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests.

Achieving the minimum standard in literacy and numeracy will be a condition for Year 12 students to receive the HSC from **2020**.

