

FACT SHEET

HSC minimum standard

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for success in life after school. This is why a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required to receive the Higher School Certificate from 2020.

Students show they meet the HSC minimum standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills needed for everyday tasks.

Students master skills at different rates so there are multiple opportunities available to pass the minimum standard online tests, from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12.

Year 9 NAPLAN tests are no longer used as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard. However, students who achieved a Band 8 or above in a 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing or numeracy test are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that particular area and will not need to sit the corresponding online test. If they did not achieve a Band 8 in any one of the NAPLAN tests, they will need to sit the online test for that area.

What does meeting the HSC minimum standard mean?

Meeting the HSC minimum standard of literacy and numeracy means your child has the basic reading, writing and maths skills needed for everyday tasks such as:

- following safety instructions in equipment manuals
- understanding a mobile phone plan
- writing a job application
- creating a personal weekly budget.

How will my child meet the standard?

Your child will show they meet the standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills:

- Minimum Standard Reading Test – 45 multiple choice questions
- Minimum Standard Numeracy Test – 45 multiple choice questions
- Minimum Standard Writing Test – up to a 500-word response to one question based on a visual or text prompt.

Your child decides with their teachers when the time is right for them to take each test, and they don't have to sit or pass all tests at once. After passing an online test, they don't have to sit it again.

Your child's school enrolls them in the tests.

The tests will be available on the following school days in 2019:

Every school day from 18 February – 13 December

Schools may run a test for a group of students or an individual student.

Students can sit the tests up to twice a year in Year 10, 11 or 12 and even after the HSC. Schools will help students decide when to take each test.

After your child completes an online test, your school and child will receive a results report indicating, for each area, whether they have reached the HSC minimum standard or need to sit the test again.

Disability provisions and exemptions

Some students with disabilities will be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests, or an exemption from the HSC minimum standard requirement. Your child should enquire with their teacher if they think they are eligible for extra provisions.

Support for my child

Students learn and develop literacy and numeracy skills from Kindergarten to Year 12 through quality teaching of the NSW curriculum.

Teachers and schools know their students best, and will provide additional support if your child is identified to be at risk of not meeting the HSC minimum standard of literacy and numeracy by Year 12.

Further literacy and numeracy resources, as well as sample online test questions, answers and practice tests, are available on the NESA website.

What if a student got a Band 8 or above in a 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN test?

These students are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that particular area and will not need to sit the corresponding online test.

Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be available as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard. This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focussed on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

What if my child doesn't pass the tests by Year 12?

Your child will have many opportunities to meet the HSC minimum standard, including after they leave school. Importantly, students do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard to:

- study HSC courses
- sit HSC exams
- receive HSC results
- receive an ATAR
- receive a Record of School Achievement.

Further information

For further information on the HSC minimum standard and the online tests, visit:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard>