

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 21 April 2010
TO: All Principals
FROM: Bali Haque, Deputy Chief Executive, Qualifications
SUBJECT: **Standards review – timeline, transition arrangements and literacy and numeracy requirements**

Standards review timelines

Level 1 (2011)

- Post-consultation drafts on TKI Oct 2009
- Final school planning drafts on TKI (with assessment resources) May 2010
- Standards registered¹ for use Dec 2010

Level 2 (2012)

- Pre-consultation drafts on TKI Dec 2009
- Consultation on standards Aug-Sept 2010
- School planning drafts on TKI (with assessment resources) May 2011
- Standards registered for use Dec 2011

Level 3 (2013)

- Pre-consultation drafts on TKI Dec 2010
- Consultation on standards Aug-Sept 2011
- School planning drafts on TKI (with assessment resources) May 2012
- Standards registered for use Dec 2012

Resources for Level 1 internally assessed standards:

Two quality assured assessment resources will be produced for each new or significantly changed standard. For Level 1 these will be available in May on the TKI website at:

<http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/alignment-standards.php>

The intention of these resources is to assist teachers to plan their courses for 2011. These resources are not for formal assessment use with students in 2010, except as part of the trialling process.

Each assessment resource will have six annotated exemplars of student work (12 exemplars per standard) to illustrate grade boundaries. For Level 1, these exemplars will be available at the end of 2010.

¹ Please note registration date is a technical term. Once standards are registered they may be used; therefore the registration process is as late as possible prior to the year in which the standards are to be used in.

Resources for Level 1 externally assessed standards

Sample exam papers and schedules will be trialled from Term 2, 2010. Sample exam papers will be available from July 2010, as they become available. Annotated exemplars of student work (to illustrate grade boundaries) will be available by the end of 2010.

Expiring New Zealand Curriculum derived unit standards and their replacements

This link <http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/alignment-standards.php> provides teachers with a comprehensive list of what is happening to the New Zealand Curriculum derived unit standards subject-by-subject.

Unit standards in areas such as Core Generics, Communication Skills, some in Computing and the Industry Training Organisation unit standards, are not New Zealand Curriculum derived, therefore, are not part of this review process. These unit standards will remain available for 2011 (and beyond) and will be subject to standard setting bodies' normal cycle of reviews.

Transition arrangements for 2011

All existing externally assessed Level 1 achievement standards expire at the end of 2010. These are replaced by the revised or new achievement standards for 2011.

A circular providing specific details on transition arrangements is available at: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars/secqual/2010/s2010-010.html>

2011 will be a transition year for most of these standards (excepting the externally assessed achievement standards which will expire at the end of 2010). This means that all the unit standards and internally assessed achievement standards which are being removed or being re-written, as part of the review, will still be available for use in 2011. Unit standards that are heavily used in tertiary institutions, workplaces or within other qualifications will be retained for longer than a year.

Although the transition year provides you with flexibility - our strong advice is that you use the new standards in 2011. For the transition year² exclusions will apply.

Literacy and numeracy requirements

NCEA level 1 literacy and numeracy requirement

The new literacy and numeracy requirement for NCEA level 1 is 10 credits of literacy and 10 credits of numeracy (previously 8 credits for each).

There will be two ways of meeting the literacy and numeracy requirement. One way will be through the newly developed literacy and numeracy unit standards, the other way will be through specified achievement standards.

² For some unit standards the transition may be longer than a year.

Unit standard option

This option is a package of three standards (10 credits) for literacy and a package of three standards (10 credits) for numeracy. These standards focus on establishing a literacy and numeracy standard for all learners be they school students, people in the workforce or people in other forms of training.

Achievement standards

This option will allow students to meet their literacy and numeracy requirement through achievement standards, without the need for additional assessment tasks. The Ministry of Education is currently working on this option and more information will be available in May.

The achievement standard option will represent a higher benchmark (New Zealand Curriculum level 6) than the literacy and numeracy unit standards and will be reported as such on the student result notice, but both options will fulfil the NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirement.

Mixing unit and achievement standards options

Students will be able to achieve the literacy requirement through unit standards or achievement standards, but will not be able to use some unit standard credits and some achievement standard credits to make the required 10 credits.

Similarly for the numeracy requirement, students will be able to achieve the requirement through unit standards or achievement standards, but will not be able to use some unit standard credits and some achievement standard credits to make the required 10 credits.

However students **will** be able to achieve the literacy and numeracy requirement by using the unit standard package to gain the numeracy and the achievement standards package to gain the literacy or vice versa.

Draft Literacy and Numeracy unit standards

The draft Literacy and Numeracy standards, a background document, and an abridged assessment guidelines document may be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/standard/review/literacy-numeracy.html>

Circular S2010/011 - 30 March 2010 regarding the literacy and numeracy unit standards consultation and 2011 transition arrangements for literacy and numeracy requirements can be found at:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars/secqual/2010/s2010-010.html>

The implementation timeframe for the literacy and numeracy unit standards is:

- Targeted consultation (was used to inform drafts) 15 Feb 2010
- Draft standards available on NZQA website mid Mar 2010
- Consultation with assessment support material mid Mar – May 2010
- Submit standards for quality assurance June 2010
- Registered (for use in 2011) Nov 2010

NZQA will be producing assessment guidance resources to support these unit standards and these will be rolled out over 2010.

NCEA Level 2, Level 3 and university entrance literacy and numeracy

Work is currently underway exploring literacy and numeracy requirements at other NCEA levels and for university entrance. The results of this work will be reported to you in due course to ensure that your staff and students are provided with adequate time for planning.

Hope the new term goes well.

Bali