

Change Package Overview

What are the changes to NCEA?

Our change package

Keep NCEA Level 1 as an optional level

We want to keep NCEA Level 1 as an optional level for those schools and communities that feel it would be of value for them. As part of our rebuild of NCEA standards, Level 1 will include a smaller number of standards and be refocused on a broad education. Some of these standards will enable wide exploration across a broad range of Learning Areas | Wahanga Ako.

Show clearer pathways to further education and employment

We will develop a Vocational Entrance (VE) Award for students to directly enter higher-level Vocational Education and Training (VET) and to build more coherent vocational pathways. We will rebuild the Record of Achievement (RoA) to make it clear what the student has achieved.

Simplify NCEA's structure

We will remove the ability to 'carry-over' 20 credits from a lower level NCEA, and make each Level of NCEA a 60 credit qualification. We will also introduce clear guidance on the number of credits that a student should enter each year.

Resubmissions will be limited to taking students from 'Not Achieved' to 'Achieved'.

Have fewer, larger standards

The review of achievement standards will reduce standards to 4 to 6 credits with around 20 credits per subject. The number of credits available will be balanced between internally and externally assessed standards. Industry-based standards will be strengthened by working in partnership with employers and industry bodies. This will ensure achievement standards can support vocational learning and be better aligned to NCEA and the National Curriculum.

Make NCEA more accessible

NCEA fees will be removed along with the redesign of achievement standards, to make NCEA accessible for all.

Where possible, Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) will be made available and easily accessible to anyone. Students with disabilities and students with learning support will be provided with equal opportunities to achieve.

Mana Ōrite mo te Mātauranga Māori

We want to ensure there is equal status for mātauranga Māori in NCEA, and that greater opportunities for students to follow mātauranga Māori pathways are available. We will work closely with Māori - in both Māori medium and English medium education and in the wider community, including iwi, hapū and whānau - to design what this looks like in practice.

Strengthen literacy and numeracy requirements

NCEA literacy and numeracy requirements will be replaced with a standardised benchmark which must be met to gain any level of NCEA.

Tools will be developed for teachers and tertiary educators to make good, valid judgements on literacy and numeracy, to assess students whenever they are ready. These standards will be assessed externally.

