



Moss Vale High School

Respectful, Safe and Responsible Learners

13 March 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Students,

Re: Minimum Standards

To help ensure New South Wales students leave school ready for success in future learning and life, a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is being introduced for the higher school certificate from 2020. For example regardless of your plans for after school you are going to need some numeracy skills to make sure you get a good deal on your mobile phone plan. Getting the basics right also means you have the foundation for doing well in all your subjects. Students will show that they meet the standard by passing short minimum standard reading, writing and numeracy tests that will be available for you to take online at school. You can take these when you are ready in year 10 year, 11 or year 12. You will be able to try each test twice a year if you want to. You do not have to pass all three tests at once and once you pass a test you do not have to sit it again.

Even after you leave school, you will still have a few more years to pass the tests to receive your HSC.

If you receive your HSC, it will be demonstrated to employers, TAFE and university that you can read, write and do basic maths. In other words, you will be ready for life after school.

Visit the NESA website for more information and to see sample questions.

You need reading, writing and maths skills to be successful in everyday life after school. That is why you are required to show a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2020.

To check you have the basics right, you need to sit short online tests of reading, writing and numeracy for everyday life.

You get two chances a year to pass each of the tests from Year 10 until a few years after the HSC. Teachers will help you decide when you are ready to take each test. If you pass the online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills you will show you have met the HSC minimum standard.

Timetable

I will complete the HSC in 2019

You do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard or pass the online tests to receive the HSC.

I will complete the HSC in 2020 (current Year 11)

You need to meet the HSC minimum standard to receive the HSC.

To show you meet the standard you need to:

- pass the online reading test or have achieved Band 8 or above in reading in Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017
- pass the online writing test or have achieved Band 8 or above in writing in Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017

- pass the online numeracy test or have achieved Band 8 or above in numeracy in Year 9 NAPLAN in 2017.

I will complete the HSC in 2021 or later

You need to meet the HSC minimum standard to receive the HSC. To show you meet the standard you need to:

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- pass the online reading test and
- pass the online writing test and
- pass the online numeracy test.

How is the standard set?

The standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), which means students will have the basic reading, writing and numeracy skills needed for everyday tasks and future learning after school. It includes skills for tasks such as:

- Following safety instructions in equipment manuals, understanding a mobile phone plan, writing a job application, creating a personal weekly budget.
- Together with the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, the HSC minimum standard is part of an effort to improve the literacy and numeracy outcomes for students.

Disability provisions and exemptions

Some students with disabilities will be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests, or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC.

Please be assured that our teaching staff and Learning Support teachers will be working closely with our current Year 11 and 10 students to prepare them for achieving success in the online tests so that every student will meet the HSC minimum standards in reading, writing and numeracy.

Please feel free to contact me, or one of the Deputy Principals, if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Patricia Holmes
Principal