

A new NSW school curriculum

Every student prepared and ready for their future

Parents and carers: what you need to know about curriculum reform

Every student prepared and ready for their future

The new curriculum will give students more time to focus on key learning areas so that they can acquire a deeper understanding of central concepts.

It will ensure students develop strong foundations for learning, life and work in a complex and fast-changing world.

Answers to parents' and carers' questions about the new NSW curriculum

Why did we have a review of the NSW curriculum?

The NSW Government announced the NSW Curriculum Review in 2018 – the first comprehensive review of the NSW primary and secondary curriculum since 1989. The aim is to update and rework the NSW curriculum so that students can continue to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century.

Did parents and carers have a say in the review?

Yes. In 2018 and 2019, parents and carers took part in the review through consultation. Input from parents and carers helped to form the final recommendations of the review.

Visit nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au to find out more.



A new NSW school curriculum

Every student prepared and ready for their future



Is the NSW Curriculum Review over?

We have finished the review. The implementation of curriculum reforms has now started.

The NSW Government has considered the recommendations of the review and is supportive of the overall principles of proposed reform.

Opportunities for engagement will be ongoing as we work together to create a new NSW curriculum. Sign up for updates below.

What does 'building strong foundations' for learning mean in the early years (K-2)?

Years K-2 are sometimes referred to as 'the early years of school'. They are essential to establish foundations for future learning success, particularly the development of oral language, reading and writing skills, and mathematical knowledge and skills.

'Back to basics' is a term sometimes used when referring to building strong foundations.

What does the reform mean in the middle years (Years 2-10) of children's schooling?

In the middle years of school, priority will be given to providing every student with challenging learning material appropriate to their current level of knowledge and skills. This means that students who need more time to master curriculum content will have it; students who are ready to move on more quickly can do so.

The new curriculum will set clear standards for achievement in mandated subjects by the completion of schooling. It will provide a better way of monitoring students' long-term progress, which will make it easier for parents/carers to know if their child is on track.

Visit nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au to find out more.



A new NSW school curriculum

Every student prepared and ready for their future

What about changes to senior years (Years 11-12)?

In the later years of school, each subject will build solid theoretical foundations, provide opportunities to transfer and apply knowledge, and develop skills in the practical application of learning.

This will help to ensure that your child leaves school better prepared for further learning, life and the workforce.

Feedback consolidated the role of the HSC as a valued senior secondary credential. The NSW Government will carefully consider the impact of any reform activities in the senior years on the HSC credential to ensure it maintains its value and relevance as an exit credential.

Advice on the ATAR was beyond the review's Terms of Reference. Consultation acknowledged that the ATAR remains a useful tool.

What does 'strengthening senior secondary pathways' mean?

Pathways to post-school options like university, TAFE or the workforce will be strengthened through the introduction of new learning areas. These will act as a focal point for schools' careers advice and relationships with businesses and tertiary providers. HSC subjects will be organised under these new learning areas.

The focus on 'streamlining' the curriculum

Essential facts, concepts and principles

It has been 30 years since the last significant reform of the NSW curriculum. The world has changed and the curriculum has grown over this time. Public consultation confirmed that many syllabuses have too much content, and that contemporary-issues content and compliance paperwork are crowding out teaching and learning time.

Visit nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au to find out more.

