

Assessment Certification Examination rules

Actions for schools

How to use this document:

- Review – Read the full rule and update the practices and policies within your school
- Take note – Refer to the new rule for key information, like NESA or Schools Online deadlines

This information sheet is designed to help schools understand the clarified ACE Rules, and schools must read the rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
1: Achieving the RoSA/HSC	<p>Entering HSC students in Schools Online</p> <p>NESA has clarified requirements for schools entering students for the HSC in Schools Online. This will ensure all entries are made in an appropriate timeframe.</p> <p>Eligibility for the RoSA/HSC</p> <p>Eligibility requirements for the award of the RoSA and HSC have been clarified, and exceptions to some requirements have also been outlined.</p> <p>Transcript of Study</p> <p>Eligibility requirements for the Transcript of Study have been strengthened so that students complete a minimum course of study.</p> <p>Other NESA documentation</p> <p>The clarified rules differentiate the RoSA and HSC from other documentation that students may be eligible to receive.</p> <p>Retrospective eligibility for the RoSA in Stage 6</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of principals have been clarified to ensure they provide NESA with evidence to support a student’s retrospective eligibility for the RoSA in Stage 6.</p> <p>Overseas exchange students</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of principals have been clarified to ensure they provide NESA with evidence to support an exchange student’s retrospective completion of Year 10.</p>	1.1: Achieving the RoSA Take note of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility requirements for the Award of the RoSA (including retrospective award of the RoSA). • Minimum course of study requirements for a Transcript of Study. 1.2: Achieving the HSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and comply with the due date for entering students in HSC courses in Schools Online.

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
<p>2: Assessment, results, and appeals</p>	<p>2.1: Formal assessment programs and tasks</p> <p>Formal assessment program</p> <p>NESA has clarified the requirements for the development of a Preliminary and HSC course school-based assessment program. Rules are now explicit about the components of assessment programs that students must have at the start of a course.</p> <p>School malpractice policy</p> <p>NESA has strengthened the requirements for managing and reporting malpractice in school-based assessment to align with NESA's rules for the integrity of HSC school-based assessment and exams.</p> <p>Formal assessment tasks</p> <p>NESA has clarified the ACE Rules for assessment tasks that have multiple parts. The clarified rules explain the conditions under which an assessment task with multiple parts can constitute a single formal assessment task, and how they need to be reflected in an assessment schedule.</p> <p>Task notifications</p> <p>NESA has clarified the written notice period that schools must give students for upcoming assessment tasks.</p> <p>Estimate marks</p> <p>NESA's rules clarify the expectation that students attempt all assessment tasks, and the conditions under which a school can issue either an extension of time or a substitute assessment task. The rules also indicate the conditions for the provision of estimate marks in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Retaining records</p> <p>NESA has revised the minimum period that schools need to retain record of marks awarded in each HSC assessment task.</p> <p>Assessment terminology</p> <p>NESA has clarified assessment terminology for schools. Clarifications will help schools understand NESA's requirements for school-based assessment, including assessment policies and procedures, schedules and tasks, and course documentation.</p>	<p>2.1: Formal assessment programs and tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update your school's Formal assessment programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ requirements for both Preliminary and HSC courses ○ requirements for individual assessment tasks, including those with multiple parts and reflect those in each course's Formal assessment program ○ written notice task notification period for assessment tasks ○ requirements for invalid/unreliable tasks ○ clarified rules for the substitute assessment tasks and use of estimate marks ○ requirements for appeals of school-based assessment marks ○ minimum requirements for malpractice policies (see rule 10.1 Malpractice).

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
<p>2: Assessment, results, and appeals</p>	<p>2.2: Calculating and confirming submitted marks and grades</p> <p>Certifying HSC results data</p> <p>NESA has clarified rules for certifying HSC results data. The clarified rules define HSC results data and specify the certification requirements for principals. The clarified rules also set the due date for entering data in Schools Online.</p> <p>Internal school reviews and student appeals</p> <p>NESA has clarified requirements for internal school reviews of final Stage 6 grades and for subsequent appeals to NESA. The rules also provide direction to schools for resolving student appeals of marks allocated for individual assessment tasks.</p> <p>Submitting assessment data and rank order placement reviews</p> <p>The clarified rules outline the process for submitting assessment data to NESA for Preliminary and HSC courses including grades and HSC school-based assessment marks. The rules also clarify the process for students requesting a school or NESA review of their rank order placement in an HSC course.</p> <p>2.3: Allocating and submitting Stage 5 grades</p> <p>School policies and procedures</p> <p>NESA has clarified the policies and procedures schools must have in place for determining grades in Stage 5, including assessment plans for each 100-hour or 200-hour graded course.</p> <p>Confirming grades</p> <p>NESA has outlined the steps for schools to follow to confirm grades awarded for Stage 5 courses.</p> <p>2.4: Retaining student work samples and assessment activities</p> <p>Work samples</p> <p>NESA has clarified requirements for the retention of student work samples and assessment activities. These rules specify the number of work samples to be retained for Year 10, Preliminary and Year 12 courses respectively. The rules also include the minimum retention period for work samples, and the format for submitting work samples in Schools Online.</p>	<p>2.2: Calculating and confirming submitted marks and grades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comply with the due date for entering HSC results data in Schools Online. Review the data certification requirements for principals, and clarified definition of HSC results data. Review strengthened requirements for internal school reviews of Preliminary grades. Review clarified process for students requesting a NESA review of rank order placement. Review clarified process for student appeals of Stage 6 grades. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarified process for submitting student assessment data in Schools Online. <p>2.3: Allocating and submitting Stage 5 grades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the policies and procedures schools must have in place for assessment in Stage 5, including confirming Stage 5 grades. <p>2.4: Retaining student work samples and assessment activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review retention period for student work samples, including the number and type of samples that must be retained for each grade awarded by a school.

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

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<p>2: Assessment, results, and appeals</p>	<p>2.5: HSC practical exams</p> <p>Definition of HSC practical exams</p> <p>NESA has clarified the term ‘HSC practical exams’ to describe the HSC courses with projects, submitted works and performances.</p> <p>Certification</p> <p>NESA has strengthened rules for certifying and submitting HSC projects, submitted works and performances. The ACE Rules now specify requirements for the Student Declaration Form and record retention. The clarified rules also outline the process for non-certification.</p> <p>Transporting physical works</p> <p>NESA has clarified its requirements for transporting physical works to ensure equity across HSC courses.</p> <p>Health and safety</p> <p>NESA has clarified rules for both principals and students regarding the health and safety requirements for the development and submission of projects, submitted works and performances.</p> <p>2.6: HSC results services</p> <p>NESA has simplified and updated the rules for principal and students enquiring about HSC results. These rules make clear that HSC results inquiries are not an avenue for appeal or re-marking of HSC exams.</p>	<p>2.5: HSC practical exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review certification and submission requirements for submitted works. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transport arrangements for submitted works, and update your school’s processes. health and safety requirements for projects, submitted works and performances, including breaches. clarifications to rules relating to HSC results services.
<p>3: Course commencement, entries and eligibility</p>	<p>3.1: Preliminary and HSC course commencement</p> <p>Date of Preliminary and HSC course commencement</p> <p>To ensure fairness and consistency across secondary schools, NESA has mandated a commencement date for the Preliminary and HSC courses.</p>	<p>3.1: Preliminary and HSC course commencement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comply with commencement date for HSC courses.

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<p>3: Course commencement, entries and eligibility</p>	<p>3.2: Course eligibility</p> <p>Eligibility for entering Preliminary courses</p> <p>Eligibility requirements for entry into Preliminary courses have been clarified to clearly differentiate between eligibility for the RoSA and the completion of Year 10.</p> <p>Stage 6 English EAL/D courses</p> <p>NESA has clarified the eligibility rules for entry into the Stage 6 English as an Additional Language or Dialect (English EAL/D) course. The rules have been clarified to ensure students provide appropriate evidence to support principal determinations of student eligibility.</p> <p>Stage 6 Languages courses</p> <p>For the Stage 6 languages courses that have eligibility criteria, NESA has included links in the ACE Rules to the eligibility determination forms. Timeframes for processing forms have been clarified.</p> <p>Extension courses</p> <p>The clarified rules provide guidance on the courses students need to complete and/or concurrently complete to maintain eligibility for extension courses.</p>	<p>3.2: Course eligibility</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligibility requirements for entry into Preliminary and HSC courses. • eligibility rules for and appropriate evidence required to support principal determinations for entry into the Stage 6 EAL/D course. • links to eligibility determination forms for Stage 6 languages courses are included in ACE Rules, as well as clarified timeframes for processing forms. • guidance on maintaining eligibility for extension courses.
	<p>3.3: Course entries, changes and exclusions</p> <p><i>Course entries</i></p> <p>Confirmation of entry</p> <p>The clarified rules specify requirements for a student's signed Confirmation of Entry form, and the retention period for this document. The rules also clarify NESA's requirement for schools to produce a student's signed Confirmation of Entry form to NESA on request.</p> <p>Student e-signatures</p> <p>The clarified rules outline NESA's policy on the use of e-signatures for Confirmation of Entry forms.</p> <p>Entry into Stage 5 mandatory PDHPE</p> <p>NESA has clarified the processes for correctly entering students into the 100-hour or 200-hour mandatory PDHPE course in Years 9 and 10.</p> <p>Returning students</p> <p>NESA has clarified the processes for entering students who leave a NSW school after the start of a Preliminary course and return in a subsequent year.</p>	<p>3.3: Course entries, changes and exclusions</p> <p><i>Course entries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Confirmation of Entry form requirements, including document retention period. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESA's acceptance of e-signatures on the Confirmation of Entry form. • requirements for confirming Stage 5 and 6 student entries. • entry requirements for returning students.

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
<p>3: Course commencement, entries and eligibility</p>	<p>3.3: Course entries, changes and exclusions</p> <p><i>Course changes</i></p> <p>Preliminary and HSC course changes</p> <p>Roles, responsibilities and key dates for course changes have been clarified to help schools understand what they need to do, and when.</p> <p>Withdrawing from HSC courses</p> <p>Rules for withdrawing students from courses have been strengthened with specific dates, based on the type of HSC course. This ensures schools and students understand what they need to do to withdraw from an HSC course, and when.</p> <p>Mathematics Extension 2</p> <p>NESA has clarified the requirements for schools withdrawing students from Mathematics Extension 2.</p> <p>HSC courses with optional exams</p> <p>The clarified rules include requirements for schools withdrawing students from HSC courses with optional exams.</p> <p><i>Course Exclusions</i></p> <p>Course-specific exclusions</p> <p>NESA has clarified the exclusions for students entering into certain combinations of HSC courses for their pattern of study. Course-specific exclusions are now outlined in HSC course descriptions, instead of the ACE Rules, to ensure schools and students understand the requirements and exclusions for each syllabus.</p>	<p>3.3: Course entries, changes and exclusions</p> <p><i>Course changes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comply with key dates for course changes and withdrawing students. <p>Take note of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarified process for withdrawing students from Mathematics Extension 2. clarified process for withdrawing students from HSC courses with optional exams. <p><i>Course exclusions</i></p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarified exclusions for certain types of courses, which are located in HSC course descriptions only (not within ACE Rules).
<p>4: Course completion, non-completion and appeals</p>	<p>NESA has not clarified these rules.</p>	<p>NESA has not changed its requirements for course completion, non-completion and appeals.</p> <p>All current ACE rules concerning course completion, non-completion and appeals have been transferred to the NSW Curriculum website without change to content. Schools should continue to follow their existing processes for course completion, non-completion and appeals until NESA publishes clarified requirements.</p>

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

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<p>5: Curriculum requirements</p>	<p>Meeting mandatory curriculum requirements: NESA has clarified the requirements for schools to teach, program and timetable mandatory courses for Year 10. NESA has also clarified the requirements for schools to ensure students are eligible for the award of the RoSA.</p> <p>Electives courses: NESA has clarified the requirements for the delivery and credentialling of elective courses across Years 7–10.</p> <p>School Developed Board Endorsed Courses (SDBECs): NESA has clarified the rules relating to the application and submission of Stage 6 SDBEC proposals, credentialling requirements and key dates.</p> <p>University Developed Board Endorsed Courses (UDBECs): NESA has clarified the rules relating to the application and submission of Stage 6 UDBEC proposals, credentialling requirements and key dates.</p>	<p>5.1.1: Meeting mandatory requirements for the RoSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review requirements for mandatory courses students must complete by the end of Year 10. <p>5.1.2 Meeting mandatory curriculum requirements for the RoSA by the end of Year 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review mandatory curriculum requirements for the award of the RoSA by the end of Year 10, including course hours. <p>5.1.3: Elective Years 7-10 curriculum</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requirements for credentialling elective courses in Years 7-10. <p>5.2: Requirements for SDBECs and UDBECs</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> process for submitting/applying for School Developed Board Endorsed Courses (SDBECs) and University Developed Board Endorsed Courses (UDBECs).

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

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<p>6: Disability provisions and appeals</p>	<p>Approval of disability provisions</p> <p>NESA has clarified the conditions under which disability provisions will be approved. NESA has clarified that adjustments approved by principals for school-based assessment tasks may be different to those approved by NESA for HSC exams and the HSC minimum standard test.</p> <p>Applying for disability provisions</p> <p>NESA has strengthened the roles and responsibilities of schools in applying for disability provisions, including obtaining relevant evidence and submitting applications.</p> <p>Adjustments for school-based assessment tasks</p> <p>NESA has strengthened the roles and responsibilities of schools in determining and implementing adjustments for students with disability for school-based assessment tasks.</p> <p>Appeals</p> <p>NESA has outlined criteria for schools submitting disability provisions appeals and specified the timeframes for review.</p>	<p>6.1: Disability provisions program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comply with NESA's process for the approval of disability provisions, including evidence requirements. Review school processes for determining adjustments for school-based assessment. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the distinction between adjustments made by principals for school-based assessment, and those adjustments approved by NESA for HSC exams. clarified appeals process for disability provisions.
<p>7: HSC exam operations</p>	<p>Presiding Officer eligibility and nomination</p> <p>NESA has clarified its requirements for Presiding Officer eligibility and the nomination of Presiding Officers by principals. These rules include requirements relating to job sharing, mandatory Working with Children Checks and additional employment requirements. These rules ensure consistency in HSC exam operations across schools.</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities</p> <p>NESA has clarified the roles and responsibilities of schools and students in conducting and completing HSC exams.</p> <p>HSC exam timetable</p> <p>The ACE Rules clarify that the published timetable is final, and individual times and dates of exams are not subject to change to accommodate individual circumstances.</p>	<p>7.1: Conducting HSC Exams</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> process for Presiding Officer eligibility and nomination. NESA's clarification that the published HSC exam timetable is final. <p>7.2: Completing HSC exams</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> school and student responsibilities during the HSC exams.

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

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<p>8: HSC minimum standard</p>	<p>Minimum standard test attempts NESAs clarified when students can attempt the minimum standard tests, the maximum number of attempts in each domain, and the waiting period between test attempts.</p> <p>Exempt students NESAs clarified the exemptions for students studying Stage 6 Life Skills courses.</p> <p>Alternative evidence NESAs clarified the exceptional circumstances where a student may demonstrate the HSC minimum standard using alternative evidence.</p> <p>Administration of the HSC minimum standard tests NESAs clarified the rules for the HSC minimum standard tests for schools, students, and post-school leavers. These rules include scheduling and entering students for tests, the equipment permitted during the test, and the requirements for supervising the tests.</p>	<p>8.1: Demonstrating the HSC minimum standard Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> exemptions for HSC minimum standard tests for Life Skills students under specific conditions. circumstances for alternative evidence permitted. <p>8.2: Administration of the HSC minimum standard tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comply with timing of tests and number of attempts. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clarified rules on administration of HSC minimum standard tests.
<p>9: Illness/Misadventure and appeals</p>	<p>Appeals NESAs clarified the rules for appealing declined Illness/Misadventure applications.</p> <p>Illness/Misadventure program exclusions The clarified rules outline the circumstances where NESAs will not consider Illness/Misadventure applications.</p> <p>Student responsibilities NESAs clarified the process for students submitting illness/misadventure applications. These rules outline a student's responsibility for obtaining independent supporting evidence and completing the relevant sections of NESAs's Illness/Misadventure form.</p> <p>Independent evidence NESAs strengthened the criteria for the submission of independent evidence and specified what evidence will not be accepted by NESAs.</p> <p>Principal responsibilities NESAs clarified the actions principals must take when submitting Illness/Misadventure applications on Schools Online.</p> <p>Application deadlines and procedures NESAs clarified the circumstances where an Illness/Misadventure form may be submitted on behalf of a student. The rules also specify the deadlines for the submission of Illness/Misadventure forms.</p>	<p>9.1: Illness/Misadventure program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review processes to ensure students' Illness/Misadventure applications have appropriate evidence. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthened criteria for independent evidence for Illness/Misadventure applications. circumstances where NESAs will not consider Illness/Misadventure applications. clarified principal responsibilities when submitting IM applications. clarified rules for appealing Illness/Misadventure applications.

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<p>10: Integrity of HSC school-based assessment and exams</p>	<p>10.1: Malpractice</p> <p>Defining malpractice</p> <p>NESA has clarified different types of malpractice including misrepresentation, plagiarism, collusion, and breach of assessment conditions. NESA’s clarifications are to ensure students understand what constitutes malpractice in HSC exams and the HSC minimum standard tests.</p> <p>School malpractice policy</p> <p>NESA has outlined the minimum components for a school’s malpractice policy, and the timeframe for this policy to be provided to students. The clarified rules also contain links to advice on developing a malpractice policy.</p> <p>Malpractice Register</p> <p>NESA has strengthened the requirements for reporting malpractice in HSC school-based assessments. The clarified rules outline how and when school-based assessment malpractice offences need to be registered and finalised in the Malpractice Register in Schools Online.</p> <p>Penalties and procedures</p> <p>NESA has clarified the procedures for student appeals of suspected student malpractice. The rules also include the penalties that may be imposed by the Examination Rules Committee (ERC) for malpractice or a breach of assessment conditions in HSC exams or the HSC minimum standard tests.</p> <p>10.2: All My Own Work</p> <p>Early commencement of Stage 6 VET courses</p> <p>NESA has specified timeframes for the completion of All My Own Work for Year 9 and Year 10 students undertaking early commencement of Stage 6 VET courses.</p>	<p>10.1: Malpractice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review school malpractice processes and documents to ensure compliance/alignment with clarified rules, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ requirements for a school’s malpractice policy and procedures, including minimum components and clarified malpractice definitions. ○ Timeframes and process for reporting malpractice in school-based assessment in Schools Online. <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarified NESA procedures for student appeals of suspected student malpractice in HSC exams, including potential penalties. <p>10.2: All My Own Work (AMOW)</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMOW requirements have been consolidated under one rule. • timeframes for the completion of AMOW for Year 9 and Year 10 students undertaking early commencement of Stage 6 VET courses.

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
<p>10: Integrity of HSC school-based assessment and exams</p>	<p>10.3: Serious and non-serious attempts</p> <p>Serious attempts</p> <p>The clarified rules outline what constitutes a serious attempt in an HSC exam and the HSC minimum standard tests.</p> <p>Non-serious attempts</p> <p>NESA has clarified what constitutes a non-serious attempt in an HSC exam and the HSC minimum standard tests. The clarified rules provide additional context for what constitutes objectionable material in student responses.</p> <p>Penalties and procedures</p> <p>The clarified rules outline procedures for the review of a non-serious attempt determination. The rules include how and when students can respond to a non-serious attempt determination by NESA that results in a course suspension. Penalties that may be imposed by the Examination Rules Committee (ERC) for non-serious attempts in an HSC minimum standard test or an HSC exam have also been outlined in the rules.</p> <p>HSC minimum standard test</p> <p>NESA has clarified the rules for appealing a non-serious attempt determination in an HSC minimum standard test, including the grounds for appeal to NESA.</p>	<p>10.3: Serious and non-serious attempts</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarified definitions of ‘serious attempt’ and ‘non-serious attempt’. • procedures for the review of a non-serious attempt determination in and HSC courses and the HSC minimum standard test.
<p>11: Life Skills</p>	<p>Stage 5 and 6 Life Skills</p> <p>NESA has clarified the ACE Rules for Stage 5 and 6 courses based on Life Skills outcomes and content. The rules clarify student eligibility, course entries in Schools Online, reporting student achievement, and credentialling.</p> <p>Continuing in Life Skills courses</p> <p>NESA has clarified the requirement for a student to continue in a Life Skills course once they have entered the course.</p> <p>Exceptional circumstances for Stage 6 Life Skills courses</p> <p>NESA has clarified the exceptional circumstances that may allow schools to enrol students in Stage 6 Life Skills courses after the school year has commenced.</p> <p>Exclusions and course documentation for Stage 6 Life Skills courses</p> <p>NESA has clarified the exclusions for Life Skills courses in Stage 6. NESA has also clarified the ACE Rules that require schools to refer to the Life Skills syllabus, as well as assessment and reporting information.</p>	<p>Stage 5 and 6 Life Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take note of consolidation of Life Skills rules into one group, including rules for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the clarified eligibility requirements for Life Skills courses. ○ the clarified requirements for a student to continue in a Life Skills course once they have entered the course, and to contact NESA for eligibility or entry matters. ○ the exceptional circumstances that may allow schools to enter students in Stage 6 Life Skills courses after the school year has commenced. ○ the exclusions for Life Skills courses.

Assessment Certification Examination rules : Actions for schools

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<p>12: Pattern of study</p>	<p>12.1: Pattern of study</p> <p>The clarified Pattern of study rules have been written to support schools to make consistent and accurate decisions about Pattern of study. The clarified rules include links to related rules that affect decisions about Pattern of study, such as course exclusions, accumulating and/or repeating courses.</p> <p>Mathematics courses: NESAs clarified how the unit value of mathematics extension courses contribute to Pattern of study requirements.</p> <p>12.2: Accumulating and/or repeating courses</p> <p>Accumulating courses: NESAs clarified the conditions under which students may accumulate courses to meet Pattern of study requirements.</p> <p>Student requirements: NESAs clarified the requirements for students to accumulate and/or repeat courses, including time limits, school responsibilities and potential impacts on credentialling.</p>	<p>12.1: Pattern of Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take note of clarified rules on Pattern of study, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Course exclusions, accumulating and/or repeating courses. ○ Requirements for mathematics extension courses. <p>12.2: Accumulating and/or repeating courses</p> <p>Take note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarified requirements to accumulate and/or repeat courses, including time limits and potential impacts on credentialling.
<p>13: Students with atypical circumstances</p>	<p>13.1: Students accelerating into a course(s)</p> <p>Decisions about students accelerating into courses</p> <p>NESA has consolidated the requirements for schools when making decisions about students accelerating into courses.</p> <p>Courses for acceleration and exclusions</p> <p>NESA has updated the list of Stage 6 courses students may accelerate into.</p> <p>13.2: Compressed curriculum</p> <p>Principal responsibilities</p> <p>NESA has clarified and strengthened the responsibilities of principals who choose to deliver a compressed curriculum. The rules mandate compliance requirements for eligibility, commencement, school-based assessment and submitting marks to NESA.</p> <p>Student responsibilities</p> <p>NESA has also clarified the responsibilities of students studying under a compressed curriculum including requirements for eligibility, course commencement and the All My Own Work program.</p>	<p>Take note of rules for students with atypical circumstances, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students accelerating into courses, including decision-making considerations, and course exclusions. • Clarified responsibilities for principals who deliver a compressed curriculum model. • Clarified principal responsibilities in credit transfer and RPL determinations. • Study with an external provider, including determining suitability, data collection, data entry in Schools Online, and record retention requirements. • Granting leave during an HSC course, including the extent of principal discretionary powers.

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<p>13: Students with atypical circumstances</p>	<p>13.3: Credit transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) NESAs clarified the rules for students applying for credit transfer, including for students transferring from other jurisdictions. These clarifications include principals' responsibilities in RPL determinations, retention of supporting documentation by schools, the RPL application process, and the credentialling of courses in which RPL is granted.</p> <p>13.4: Study with an external provider</p> <p>School responsibilities ACE Rules for outsourcing courses to external providers have been strengthened to ensure all schools are aware of their duty of care obligations to students.</p> <p>Retaining records The clarified rules outline the documentation that schools must retain when outsourcing courses to external providers, and the minimum record retention period.</p> <p>Determining suitability NESAs clarified the rules for principals in determining the suitability of external providers. The clarified rules also outline the documentation a school must retain.</p> <p>Principal responsibilities The roles and responsibilities of both principals and external providers are clearly defined throughout the clarified rules. This will support course delivery and ensure student data is entered correctly in Schools Online.</p> <p>Limitations on study with an external provider NESAs clarified the limitations on study with an external provider for courses that contribute to the RoSA and/or the HSC.</p> <p>Credentialling NESAs clarified that conditions under which courses studied with external providers are eligible to be recorded on the RoSA, Transcript of Study, or HSC.</p> <p>13.5: Granting leave during an HSC course</p> <p>School responsibilities NESAs strengthened the rules for granting leave and approving a returning student for the HSC. The clarified rules specify the extent of a principal's discretionary power to consider and approve leave requests from HSC students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study with an outside tutor, including principal responsibility for determining suitability and approving study, and responsibilities of outside tutors. These rules also include clarified requirements for approving the study of languages with an outside tutor in Stage 4. • Transferring, withdrawing, and entering students, including the different obligations for schools with incoming transfers and those with outgoing transfers. These obligations include Schools Online entry requirements, provision of assessment data, and RoSA eligibility rules.

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
<p>13: Students with atypical circumstances</p>	<p>13.6: Self-tuition</p> <p>Eligibility NESAs has strengthened eligibility criteria for applicants to enrol in HSC courses by self-tuition. These include NSW residency, citizenship status, and minimum academic requirements.</p> <p>Other requirements NESAs has clarified related requirements for self-tuition applicants, including which HSC courses they may study, allocation to an HSC exam centre, application dates and the required documentation.</p> <p>13.7: Study with an outside tutor</p> <p>Determining suitability NESAs has strengthened the requirements for principals when determining the suitability of outside tutors. This will ensure schools meet their duty of care obligations to students.</p> <p>Principal responsibilities NESAs has clarified the rules for approving study with an outside tutor in Stage 5 and Stage 6, including key dates and limitations on the courses that may be approved.</p> <p>Outside tutor responsibilities Key responsibilities for outside tutors have been clarified and strengthened to support course delivery, including the provision of student assessment data to schools.</p> <p>Study of languages NESAs has clarified the rules for approving the study of languages with an outside tutor in Stage 4.</p> <p>13.8: Transferring, withdrawing, and entering students</p> <p>Schools Online NESAs has clarified schools' responsibilities related to transferring students. Rules include the requirements for both previous and new schools when entering, withdrawing, and providing student assessment data.</p> <p>Eligibility for the RoSA NESAs has clarified the RoSA eligibility rules for students transferring from home schooling, or a non-accredited NSW non-government school.</p>	

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
14: VET	<p>14.1: VET curriculum requirements</p> <p>RoSA and HSC</p> <p>NESA has strengthened the rules for counting VET courses towards the RoSA and HSC. The clarified rules include alignment to the syllabus/course description, indicative hours and student completion.</p> <p>School responsibilities</p> <p>NESA has clarified the rules for delivering VET courses, including a school's obligations when engaging a registered training organisation (RTO).</p> <p>VET BEC endorsements</p> <p>NESA has clarified the responsibilities of school systems/sectors proposing VET Board Endorsed Courses (VET BECs) for endorsement.</p> <p>14.2: VET entries and exclusions</p> <p>Entering student VET data</p> <p>NESA has clarified the type of VET data that must be entered in Schools Online, and the due date. The clarified rules also include the requirements to enter students into HSC VET exams in Schools Online.</p> <p>Change of Stage 6 VET course</p> <p>NESA has clarified the rules for students changing VET courses in Stage 6. These rules include a principal's discretion to make course change decisions, and the cut-off date for course changes.</p> <p>240-hour VET courses</p> <p>NESA has clarified the requirements for students who commenced a 240-hour VET course but only complete the first 120 hours of the course, including the minimum hours of mandatory work placement.</p> <p>VET course exclusions</p> <p>NESA has clarified the roles and responsibilities of schools and RTOs for entering students into VET courses.</p> <p>HSC VET exams</p> <p>NESA has clarified the rules for students sitting HSC VET exams, including the location of the exam and the information principals must provide students when repeating exams, including implications for accumulating HSC courses, and the ATAR.</p>	<p>Take note of consolidation of VET rules into one rule grouping, including rules for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VET curriculum requirements • VET entries and exclusions • Entering VET units of competency and outcomes in Schools Online • Credit transfer, RPL, and VET • VET assessment requirements • VET course completion • VET credentialling.

Grouping	Clarifications	Actions for schools
14: VET	<p>14.3: Entering VET units of competency and outcomes in Schools Online</p> <p>School and RTO responsibilities</p> <p>NESA has clarified the rules for RTOs when determining VET unit of competency outcomes. The rules also include the process for entering competencies and submitting unit of competency outcomes in Schools Online.</p> <p>14.5: VET assessment requirements</p> <p>Duty of care</p> <p>The clarified ACE rules outline the duty of care responsibilities when schools engage a RTO to deliver VET courses.</p> <p>Formal assessment programs for Stage 6 VET courses</p> <p>NESA has clarified the rules for formal assessment programs. The clarified rules identify and explain the key components of the assessment program that schools must provide students at the start of a course.</p> <p>14.6: Credit transfer, RPL, and VET</p> <p>NESA has clarified its requirements for students in VET courses who apply for credit transfer and recognition of prior learning. Clarifications include the application process for credit transfer and/or RPL within VET courses, rules for the provisional approval of credit transfer, and the rules for appealing a credit transfer determination. The clarified rules also outline the document retention period for schools applying for credit transfer and RPL.</p> <p>14.7: VET credentialling</p> <p>Inclusion of VET BEC courses on HSC credential</p> <p>Students who satisfactorily complete requirements for a Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed Course (VET BEC) will have the course name and HSC credit value reported on their HSC credential, without a mark.</p> <p>Other course documentation</p> <p>NESA has clarified the documentation students receive when they successfully or partially complete requirements for an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) VET qualification.</p> <p>Other VET rules</p> <p>NESA is reviewing the ACE rules for VET course completion, credit transfer, and recognition of prior learning (RPL). NESA will progressively publish these in 2023-2024 and update the ACE Record of Changes webpage.</p>	