

A new NSW school curriculum

Every student prepared and ready for their future

Teachers and educators: what you need to know about the NSW Curriculum Reform

More time for teachers to concentrate on teaching and learning

The new curriculum will give teachers more time to focus on teaching, so that students gain a deeper understanding of core concepts. It will ensure students develop strong foundations for learning, life and work in a complex and fast-changing world.

Answers to teachers' questions about the new NSW curriculum

Why was there a review of the curriculum?

This was the first comprehensive review of the NSW curriculum since 1989. The review and subsequent reforms aim to equip students to continue to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century.

How were teachers involved in the review?

Feedback from teachers shaped the final recommendations of the review. Teachers were invited to be part of the review through consultation opportunities in 2018 and 2019.

Has the NSW Curriculum Review finished?

Yes. The final report of the NSW Curriculum Review has been published, and work on implementing curriculum reform has started. This includes planning the new syllabuses.

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



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What is happening with the reform now?

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

Some reforms will need additional work by government agencies, in partnership with the education sector, and other key stakeholders.

NESA has a leading role in providing advice to the NSW Government on all aspects of the implementation of curriculum reform.

What are the priorities for reform?

The NSW Government is prioritising reform with an ambitious timeframe:

- **building strong foundations** for future learning by 2022 with new English and mathematics curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 2
- **more time for teaching** by 2022 by reducing the hours teachers spend on extracurricular topics and issues, and compliance requirements
- **strengthening post-school pathways** by 2022 with new learning areas for Year 11 and 12 that clearly link learning to future employment and study options
- **a new curriculum** from 2024, with new syllabuses focusing on what is essential to know and do in the early and middle years of schooling, and new senior years key learning areas.

What are the 'key' recommendations of the review?

The NSW Curriculum Review included 24 recommendations that address:

- the structure and content of new syllabuses
- new syllabuses will prioritise core knowledge, understanding and skills, giving teachers time to focus on depth of learning.

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Building strong foundations for learning in the early, middle and senior years of schooling

Ensuring every student leaves school prepared for a lifetime of ongoing learning and informed and active citizenship, and with the knowledge, skills and attributes that will help equip them for meaningful work and satisfying careers.

Stakeholder engagement

Ensuring teachers and other key stakeholders are part of curriculum reform implementation.

Creating enabling conditions to support successful reform

Increasing time for teachers to focus on the priorities of the new curriculum and to engage in professional capacity-building to support schools' delivery of the new curriculum.

What support will be provided to teachers and educators?

NESA will be working with key stakeholders from the government and non-government school sectors to ensure that teachers and school leaders are well supported to implement changes as a result of curriculum reform. Support for teachers will include:

- resources for teaching staff, including support materials and online learning
- reviewing current demands on teachers' and school leaders' time to maximise the time available for teaching, learning and instructional leadership
- professional learning opportunities for teachers to familiarise themselves with the new curriculum.

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How will teachers be involved in the reform?

Teachers are key partners in achieving curriculum reform. NESA will engage teachers throughout the development and implementation of the reform using an approach that supports the connection of curriculum with practice, is manageable in an ambitious timeframe, and promotes sustained implementation.

What are TENs teachers?

The reform of the curriculum needs the expertise of teachers. Teacher expert networks (TENs) consist of more than 200 teachers nominated by the sectors.

TENs teachers give feedback on curriculum and support materials. They also share knowledge about the new curriculum with their schools, regions and sectors.

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. Feedback from public consultation confirmed that many syllabuses have too much content, and that compliance requirements are crowding out teaching and learning time.

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