Introducing the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Find out more
Visit the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au, or telephone (07) 3864 0299.

Education resources and services for schools

Quality- assurance of VET
Vocational education and training (VET) in schools provides students with work-related knowledge and skills. There are hundreds of VET programs available, covering most industries and occupations.

The QCAA:
- registers schools as Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)
- provides advice to schools on VET qualifications and VET contributions to the Queensland Certificate of Education
- promotes a range of VET options that allow young people to access industry-recognised training through nationally endorsed VET qualifications or nationally accredited courses.

Connecting with students
When a student is in Year 10 or turns 15 (whichever comes first), their school registers them with the QCAA and we open an online learning account for the student. Schools give students a Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) — a 10-digit number that the QCAA uses to identify a student — and a password, so students can access their learning account.

Once a learning account is opened, all eligible learning is recorded in the account, as well as where and when the learning took place, and the results achieved.

Respected certificates and qualifications
The QCAA develops and issues certificates of achievement, notably the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).

- The QCE is awarded to eligible students, usually at the end of Year 12. The QCE recognises broad learning options and offers flexibility in what, where and when learning occurs.

- The QCIA recognises the schooling achievements of students who have impairments or difficulties in learning. It is an official record to show that students have completed at least 12 years of education, and provides students with a summary of their skills and knowledge that they can present to employers and training providers.

- In addition, the QCAA:
  - issues certified copies of certificates
  - records achievements in approved areas of learning
  - assesses the equivalency of school qualifications obtained at educational institutions outside Queensland.

Fair and transparent reporting
Reporting provides information for students and parents to support students’ future learning. The QCAA has formal and informal methods of reporting through which teachers and schools provide information about student learning.

The QCAA:
- supports schools to be transparent in reporting student performance data
- requires schools to be accountable to parents and the wider community
- reports relevant school data to the public.

July 2018
The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is an independent statutory body of the Queensland Government. Our organisation provides kindergarten to Year 12 (K–12) syllabuses, guidelines, assessment, reporting, testing and certification services for Queensland schools. The QCAA was established on 1 July 2014, replacing the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). We assumed all QSA functions and are responsible for implementing new initiatives in curriculum, assessment and reporting.

**Priorities**

The QCAA has a wide range of responsibilities. Our priorities are to:
- deliver the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system, starting with Year 11 students in 2019
- support schools and kindergartens to implement the P–10 Australian Curriculum and revised Queensland kindergarten learning guideline
- provide resources to support schools to improve student outcomes focusing on literacy and numeracy.

**Commitment**

The QCAA is committed to building strong and enduring partnerships in the education community and:
- engages with principals, teachers and students from kindergarten to Year 12 to inform the development of education products and services
- works with vocational education and training providers, universities and many other stakeholders to ensure that curriculum and assessment in Queensland schools encourages the development of valued knowledge and skills
- adheres to rigorous assessment and certification processes to assure teachers, students and parents that high standards of student achievement, fairness and equity are met.

The QCAA is open and accountable to parents and the wider community.

**Education resources and services for schools**

**Evidence-based syllabuses and guidelines**

Schools use QCAA syllabuses and guidelines to construct and align curriculum, assessment and reporting.

The QCAA:
- develops, approves and revises syllabuses and guidelines for K–12
- offers professional development services and resources to help teachers implement syllabuses and guidelines
- ensures curriculum and assessment programs developed by schools are rigorous and meet the requirements of QCAA syllabuses
- moderates teacher judgments about student achievement using trained expert panels.

**Kindergarten — the best start to learning**

Our Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (QKLG) provides advice for planning, interacting with children, monitoring and assessing, and sharing information in kindergarten contexts.

This resource helps teachers assess, reflect and make evidence-based judgments about children’s learning progress. The QKLG:
- is based on the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- is informed by evidence-based research
- helps services meet the criteria for an approved kindergarten program.

The QCAA website hosts a wide range of professional development resources and training modules that support kindergarten teachers to implement the QKLG and meet the National Quality Standard.

We also offer an accreditation service for kindergarten guidelines developed outside the QCAA.

**Implementing the Australian Curriculum**

Prep to Year 10

Australia has adopted a national framework for schooling aimed at raising education standards and achieving nationally consistent curriculum, assessment and reporting. Queensland schools began using the Australian Curriculum in 2010 and are working towards implementing all learning areas for Prep to Year 10.

The QCAA assists schools to successfully implement each learning area by providing:
- advice, guidelines and resources based on the Australian Curriculum content descriptions and achievement standards
- A–E standard elaborations to enable teachers to make consistent and comparable judgments about student achievement
- assessment advice and guidelines, fact sheets and templates covering assessment for learning, developing assessments, making judgments, using feedback and moderation
- sample assessments
- planning resources that support curriculum and assessment planning at three levels: whole school planning, year level planning and unit planning
- face-to-face workshops focused on developing knowledge and understanding of the Australian Curriculum.

Years 11 and 12

The entire suite of QCAA senior secondary syllabuses has recently been redeveloped to support implementation of a new system of senior assessment, starting with Year 11 students in 2019. The Australian Curriculum was used as the basis for developing relevant syllabuses. Queensland schools will continue to use the current QCAA senior syllabuses until the new system of senior assessment commences.

**Expert testing and other assessment**

The QCAA has expertise in developing, administering and marking tests for students across all phases of learning. Additionally, we interpret student test responses to identify trends in student learning and to support school planning that will improve student achievement.

The QCAA:
- designs, administers and marks statewide tests, such as the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test and Senior External Examinations
- administers and marks the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for all Queensland schools
- develops procedures to help schools administer all QCAA tests
- provides test results and feedback to schools and students.

**Valid and reliable senior assessment**

For students completing Year 12 in 2018 and 2019 Queensland follows a system of externally moderated school-based assessment for students completing Year 12 in 2018 and 2019. Senior students are assessed by their schools throughout the senior phase of learning using a variety of techniques including practical responses, non-written presentations and assignments, as well as supervised exams.

The QCAA:
- ensures curriculum and assessment programs developed by schools are rigorous and meet the requirements of our syllabuses
- moderates teacher judgments about student achievement using trained expert panels
- offers professional development and training to enable teachers to become test markers or panel experts.

For students completing Year 12 from 2020 Queensland is introducing a new system of senior assessment for students completing Year 12 from 2020. The new QCE system will give students the skills they need for success in work and life in the future.

Key features include:
- new and redeveloped QCAA senior syllabuses
- external assessment in most senior subjects
- new quality assurance processes to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- changes to QCE eligibility requirements.

The QCAA is leading the development and implementation of the new QCE system in partnership with key stakeholders — the Minister for Education, representatives from schooling sectors, parents, teachers, principals, unions, the tertiary sector and the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). QCAA will cease ranking Year 12 students for tertiary entrance after 2019. QTAC is developing the new rank — the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) — which will replace the Overall Position (OP) from 2020.