

## **Background to NCEA Changes**

In February 2020 changes to NCEA were confirmed by the government and a process was undertaken, with consultation, which aimed to 'strengthen NCEA by making a series of changes to improve well-being, equity, coherence, pathways and credibility – for students and teachers alike'. The changes were:

1. **Make NCEA more accessible** – zero fees, fewer barriers for learners with disabilities and learning support needs.
2. **Equal status for mātauranga Māori in NCEA** – develop new ways to recognise mātauranga Māori, build teacher capability, and improve resourcing and support for Māori learners and te ao Māori pathways.
3. **Strengthen literacy and numeracy requirements and assessments** – ensure students with an NCEA have functional literacy and numeracy skills that will ready them to transition into tertiary education or the workplace.
4. **Fewer, larger standards** – new achievement standards and resources will be developed to replace existing standards and ensure the qualification achieved credentials the most significant learning in a learning area or subject.
5. **Simplify NCEA's structure** – credits can no longer be carried over to the next level and resubmissions will only be allowed where they take students from a 'Not Achieved' grade to an 'Achieved' grade. Sixty credits are required to pass each NCEA level.
6. **Clearer pathways to further education or work** – develop a Vocational Entrance Award to signal when a student is ready to transition into higher-level vocational education and strengthen vocational pathways through NCEA.
7. **Keep NCEA Level 1 optional** – ensure Level 1 provides students with the broad, foundational knowledge needed to support specialisation at Levels 2 and 3

<https://ncea.education.govt.nz/what-ncea-change-programme>

Action 1: This was implemented In 2020 with NZQA fees being removed and the requirement for students to have an Edpsych report in order to receive special assessment conditions was removed.

Action 2: During the refresh of the New Zealand Curriculum, and the rewriting of Achievement Standards, along with provisions being made for professional development to support teachers, the strategies to develop new ways to recognise mātauranga Māori are underway.

Action 3: To strengthen literacy and numeracy, these areas are being assessed as a corequisite. In 2024, and now extended for 2025, students are able to gain literacy and numeracy through common assessment activities (CAAs) or through Achievement Standards that are indicated as being literacy or numeracy-rich.

This year many of our Year 10 students sat the CAAs with results due in early December. It is important to note that should students not gain literacy or numeracy through the CAAs they will either be offered further opportunities to either sit the CAAs or they will be assessed using literacy/ numeracy rich NCEA Level 1

Achievement Standards. More information will be provided in 2025 to students and parents about this.

Action 4: The 'new' NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards that have been implemented this year are 'fewer and larger' in that each subject area has a total of 4 Achievement Standards making up a total of 20 credits available to assess in each learning area. For most subject areas each standard is worth 5 credits.

Action 5: Previously to gain NCEA Level 2, 20 credits from Level 1 could be carried forward, and similarly to gain NCEA Level 3, 20 credits from Level 2 could be carried forward. This requirement has been removed and now students must gain 60 credits at each level and have achieved the literacy and numeracy corequisite.

Action 6: The Vocational Entrance Award has the requirement of needing NCEA Level 2 and 60 credits from the recommended assessment standards for a Vocational Pathway.

Action 7: Keep NCEA Level 1 optional to ensure students are provided with 'foundational knowledge needed to support specialisation at Levels 2 and 3'. Schools have the option to assess a full or partial NCEA Level 1 course through assessing Achievement Standards or to not assess Year 11 using NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards.

### How will students attain NCEA Level 2 without NCEA Level 1?

There are 3 levels of NCEA certificate, depending on the difficulty of the standards achieved.

Students require 80 credits to achieve an NCEA certificate at each level: 60 credits at that level or above, plus 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits and 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits.

The 20-credit Literacy and Numeracy/ Te Reo Matatini and Te Pāngarau requirement only needs to be met once. After the requirement is met, it counts for every level of NCEA.

| How to achieve NCEA  |   |   |
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| <b>Level 1</b><br>✔ 60 credits at any Level (1, 2 or 3)  | <b>Level 2</b><br>✔ 60 credits at Level 2 or above  | <b>Level 3</b><br>✔ 60 credits at Level 3 or above  |
| <b>Plus</b><br>✔ 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits, and<br>✔ 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits | <b>Plus</b><br>✔ 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits, and<br>✔ 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits. | <b>Plus</b><br>✔ 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits, and<br>✔ 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits. |

<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/ncea-levels-and-certificates/>