



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

This legislation is administered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). For more information please see:

Website: <http://www2.nzqa.govt.nz>

Contact phone: 0800 697 296

Contact address: PO Box 160, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Assessment and Examination for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Rules 2026

These Rules are made under section 452(1)(m) of the Education and Training Act 2020 by the Board of NZQA.

Contents

	Page
1 Title	3
2 Commencement	3
3 Scope and application of these Rules	3
4 Interpretation	3
5 Nominees of Schools and TEOs	7
6 Candidate Eligibility for Assessment	7
7 Entry conditions	7
8 Assessment Requirements	8
9 Special Assessment Conditions	8
10 Extended Opportunities for Internally Assessed Standards	8
11 Conditions for reporting and recording results	8
12 Application of Administrative Guidelines	9
13 Schedules containing detailed processes	9
14 Revocation	9

Schedule 1

Qualifications and Endorsements for NCEA and achievement of University Entrance, Vocational Pathways, and New Zealand Scholarship

NCEA Levels 1-3	11
1 National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 1	11

2	National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 2	11
3	National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 3	12
4	NCEA Certificate Endorsement	12
5	NCEA Course Endorsement	13
6	New Zealand University Entrance Minimum Requirements	14
7	University Entrance Recognition	14
8	Vocational Pathways	14
9	Credit exclusions when determining qualification or award eligibility	14
10	Publication and inapplicability to University Entrance	15
11	Monetary Awards	15
12	Payment of monetary award	16
13	Results	17
14	New Zealand Record of Achievement	18
15	Production and issue of NCEA Certificates	18
16	Credit Inclusion for NCEA Certificates	18
17	Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion	18

Schedule 2

Candidate Derived Grade Processes

1	Purpose	20
2	Principles	20
3	Initiating the process	20
4	Responsibilities of Schools and TEOs	21
5	What is the decision-making process and possible outcomes?	21
6	How to request an appeal or review of the decision	22

Schedule 3

Candidate Special Assessment Conditions Processes

1	Purpose	23
2	Principles	23
3	Process	23
4	Responsibilities of Schools and TEOs	24
5	Decision-making process and possible outcomes	24
6	How to request an appeal or review of the response	25

Schedule 4

Moderation Processes

1.	Purpose	26
2.	Principles	26
3.	Internal moderation process	26
4.	External Moderation Process	26
5.	Report	27
6.	Schools or TEOs to address issues that are identified in the report	27
7.	How to request an appeal or review of the decision	27

Schedule 5

Process for Candidate Breaches of External Assessment

1.	Purpose	28
2.	Principles	28
3.	What triggers the process for possible Candidate Breaches of External	28
4.	Investigation initiation process	29

5.	Decision-making process	29
6.	Penalties	30
7.	How to request an appeal or review of the breach decision	31

Rules

1 Title

These are the Assessment and Examination for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Rules 2026.

2 Commencement

These Rules come into force on 1 February 2026.

3 Scope and application of these Rules

(1) These Rules apply to:

- (a) schools;
- (b) TEOs assessing against Achievement Standards or NCEA Co-requisite Standards;
- (c) Candidates.

(2) The principles of fairness, validity and transparency of assessment practice for all Candidates are fundamental to the administration of qualifications and New Zealand Scholarship and underpin these Rules.

4 Interpretation

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Academic year is the time from the start of a school year until the Published final date for reporting results for that year

Achievement Standard means a standard on the Directory that is derived from the achievement objectives of the New Zealand Curriculum or Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and developed by the Ministry of Education

Act means the [Education and Training Act 2020](#)

Administrative Guidelines refers to the Published administrative processes for the matters specified in rule 10

Adverse event means an uncontrollable event that has:

- (a) a significant prolonged disruption to teaching, learning and assessment of Candidates at a school; and
- (b) been accepted by NZQA as an event to which the process for Unspecified credits should apply

Affected Candidate means a Candidate entered into assessment standards leading to a NCEA qualification who:

- (a) for the purposes of Unspecified credits for Adverse events:
 - (i) is a School leaver;
 - (ii) has experienced between 20-29 (*inclusive*) days of disruption by one or more Adverse events; and
 - (iii) is up to 5 credits short of achieving NCEA:
- (b) for the purposes of Unspecified credits for an Exam booklet mix up:
 - (i) is a School leaver;
 - (ii) was awarded either or both of NCEA or University Entrance prior to Results Release;
 - (iii) has their Results downgraded after Results Release following discovery of the Exam booklet mix-up, and has had the award of either or both of NCEA or University Entrance withdrawn; and
 - (iv) is up to 6 credits or fewer short of achieving either or both of the withdrawn NCEA and University Entrance

Applicable credits means:

- (a) Eligible Credits recorded on a Candidate's Record of Achievement;
- (b) Candidate learning recognition credits;
- (c) Credit equivalents gained through Credit Inclusion;
- (d) Unspecified credits

Assessment Opportunity refers to an instance where a Candidate is given an opportunity to be assessed against a Standard

Assessment Requirements include the Assessment Standard, the Assessment Specifications, the Conditions of Assessment, and the Consent and Moderation Requirements ([CMRs](#)) [available on the NZQA website](#)

Assessment Specifications are the assessment parameters for each externally assessed Standard, which are Published in December annually and updated by 31 March the following year, where necessary

Assessment Standard means a Standard listed on the [Directory that is not a skill Standard](#)

Authenticity or authentic is the assurance that the evidence submitted for assessment by a Candidate is their own, with the evidence being free of plagiarism, and any inclusion of work from another source acknowledged and appropriately referenced

Candidate means a student entered for assessment against Standards on the Directory and/or [New Zealand Scholarship performance standards](#)

Candidate Breaches of External Assessment are described in sub-[clause 3\(1\) of Schedule 5](#)

Candidate learning recognition credits means, in relation to a Candidate enrolled in a School in 2020–2022, credits that were awarded to that Candidate for the purposes of

recognising the disruption to teaching, learning and assessment due to staff and student absences resulting from the impact of Covid-19 and other winter illnesses

Conditions of Assessment are the assessment parameters [Published for each internally assessed standard by the Ministry of Education](#)

Consent to Assess is the consent granted to an institution under section 449 of the Act

Consent to Assess Rules means rules made from time to time under section 452 of the Act for the purposes of Consent to Assess

Credit in the context of the credit value of a qualification, micro-credential or Standard, represents 10 notional learning hours for one credit

Credit equivalents gained through Credit Inclusion are described in [clause 16 of Schedule 1](#)

Derived Grade is a quality assured external assessment result provided by a School or TEO for an approved Candidate, the process for which is set out in [Schedule 2](#).

Directory means the Directory of Assessment and Skill Standards provided for in section 437 of the Act

Entry refers to the information that Schools and TEOs send to NZQA indicating the Standards that a Candidate is enrolled in and is being assessed against

Exam booklet mix up means a situation where, due to a system or human error, a Candidate's exam booklet or marked examination grade is attributed to another Candidate.

External Assessment refers to an assessment activity developed and assessed by NZQA, including Examination, Common Assessment Activity (CAA) or Tūmahi Aromatawai Pātahi (TAPā), and Submission (*including portfolio or kete manarua*), either over time, or at a Published point in time

External Moderation refers to the process whereby NZQA moderators provide assurance that Providers' assessment decisions in relation to Assessment Standards are consistent nationally

Formal face to face meeting means a meeting in person or an online meeting

Internal Assessment refers to the assessment or evaluation of Candidates' knowledge and skills by their teachers in their School or TEO

NCEA refers to the National Certificate of Educational Achievement available for award at Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3

NCEA co-requisite means the Published 20 credit co-requisite requirement for NCEA made up of 10 literacy or te reo matatini credits and 10 numeracy or te pāngarau credits

Nominee means a staff member nominated by a School Principal, or nominated and appointed by a TEO, [under rule 3](#)

NZQA means the New Zealand Qualifications Authority as continued under section 430 of the Act

NZQCF means the **Qualifications and Credentials Framework** provided for in section 436 of the Act

Out of cycle external moderation means additional external moderation required under sub-clause 6(2) of Schedule 4

Plagiarism is where a Candidate has:

- (a) copied, paraphrased or otherwise used another person's work or ideas; or
- (b) used machine or digitally generated content (*such as through the use of artificial intelligence, software, programmes*); and
- (c) presented it as the Candidate's own work without full acknowledgement

Principal's Nominee is a staff member nominated by the Principal of a School [under rule 3](#)

Publish or Published means to make or be made available on the [NZQA website](#).

Qualification means a qualification listed on the NZQCF

Record of Achievement means an individual student's transcript of standards credited to the student, the credit value of the standards, and National or New Zealand Qualifications and Awards completed by the student, maintained by NZQA

Result is the outcome of assessment of a student against a Standard as reported on a Candidate's Record of Achievement

Results Release is described in clause 13 of Schedule 1

school means any relevant school (*as defined in section 10(1) of the Act*)

School means any relevant school (*as defined in section 10(1) of the Act*) with Consent to Assess

School leaver, for the purposes of the definition of an Affected Candidate, means a Candidate who is in their final year at a school

Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) are NZQA approved assessment provisions, or assessment provisions notified to NZQA by Schools or TEOs, which are provided to Candidates for recognised learning, behavioural or medical needs, the process for which is set out in Schedule 3

Standard means:

- (a) for Schools, any standard listed on the [Directory](#), or a [New Zealand Scholarship](#) performance standard;
- (b) for TEOs, any Achievement or NCEA Co-requisite Standard listed on the [Directory](#)

TEO or Tertiary Education Organisation means an institution within the meaning of that term in section 10(1) and (5) of the Act

University Entrance or UE means the common educational standard established under section 434 of the Act (*or its predecessor section*) as a prerequisite for entrance to university for people who have not attained the age of 20 years

Unspecified credits for Adverse events means up to 5 credits added to an Affected Candidate's NCEA credits through the process set out in the [Administrative Guidelines](#), so the Candidate is able to achieve NCEA

Unspecified credits for an Exam booklet mix up means up to 6 credits added to an Affected Candidate's NCEA or University Entrance credits through the process set out in the [Administrative Guidelines](#), so the Candidate is able to achieve either or both of NCEA or University Entrance

Vocational Pathway is a certification recognising a student's achievement in specific 'sector-related' Standards.

5 Nominees of Schools and TEOs

- (1) A School Principal must nominate a staff member to act as the Principal's Nominee who is responsible for ensuring that the School meets the requirements of:
 - (a) the Consent to Assess Rules that apply to Schools;
 - (b) these Rules.
- (2) A TEO must nominate and appoint a staff member, to act on its behalf, who is responsible for ensuring that the TEO meets the requirements of these Rules and any relevant requirements of the Consent to Assess Rules that relate to the TEO's assessment against Achievement or NCEA Co-requisite Standards.

6 Candidate Eligibility for Assessment

- (1) A Candidate is eligible to be assessed against a Standard if the Candidate:
 - has an Entry from a School forwarded to NZQA;
 - (a) is enrolled at a TEO and has had their Entry from the TEO and the relevant fees for the Standards concerned forwarded to NZQA;
 - (b) is assessed by a School, TEO, or (*for external assessment*) NZQA;
 - (c) meets any eligibility criteria specified in the Standard concerned; and
 - (d) has not been disqualified by NZQA from being assessed against the Standard.
- (2) NZQA may allow a person to be entered for assessment against a Standard despite the person not meeting the eligibility criteria above if the situation justifies it and the person agrees to the content of [rule 7\(1\)](#).
- (3) A Candidate is not eligible for assessment against a Standard if prevented from doing so under the Candidate Breaches of External Assessment (*see Schedule 5*).

7 Entry conditions

- (1) Once entered for assessment it is a condition that the Candidate:
 - (a) is subject to these Rules and all Assessment Requirements; and
 - (b) permits, for educational purposes, NZQA access to and use of the material produced by the Candidate (*for example as Published exemplars*).
- (2) Candidates entered in a New Zealand Scholarship award must be enrolled in a school in the year of the Entry.

8 Assessment Requirements

- (1) Schools and TEOs must assess Candidates in accordance with the Assessment Requirements.

9 Special Assessment Conditions

- (1) Candidates who have Special Assessment Condition provisions approved by NZQA, or notified to NZQA by Schools or TEOs, must be provided with these provisions by Schools and TEOs for internal and external assessment in accordance with the Assessment Requirements and the process in [Schedule 3](#).

10 Extended Opportunities for Internally Assessed Standards

- (1) Schools and TEOs may offer Candidates a maximum of one [Further Assessment Opportunity](#) for the Candidate to improve their grade against an internally assessed Standard within an academic year:
 - (a) where manageable;
 - (b) after further learning has taken place; and
 - (c) using a different assessment.
- (2) Schools and TEOs may, under the following circumstances, offer Candidates one [Resubmission](#) per Assessment Opportunity where the Candidate did not achieve the standard:
 - (a) the assessor judges the Candidate has made a minor error or omission limited to specific aspects of the assessment that the Candidate can discover and correct on their own; and
 - (b) the result of the resubmission is limited to an Achieved grade.

11 Conditions for reporting and recording results

- (1) Schools and TEOs must report to NZQA all internal assessment results for Candidates, including Not Achieved, where adequate opportunity to be assessed has been made available.
- (2) Schools and TEOs must report the highest grade achieved where Candidates have more than one result for an Assessment Standard within one academic year.
- (3) Where the evidence submitted is authentic and the Candidate's conduct in the assessment meets the Assessment Requirements, NZQA will record the internal and external assessment results.
- (4) NZQA will record a result from a Derived Grade on a Candidate's Record of Achievement based on quality assured Standard specific evidence provided by the School or TEO.
- (5) Candidates qualify for achievement of Qualifications and Endorsements for NCEA, and for achievement of University Entrance, Vocational Pathways, and New Zealand Scholarship, as set out in [Schedule 1](#).

12 Application of Administrative Guidelines

- (1) NZQA will use its Administrative Guidelines for the following administrative processes:
 - (a) request to change examination centre:
 - (b) working with Examination Centre Manager:
 - (c) examination timetable clashes:
 - (d) External Assessment:
 - (e) processes for conferring Unspecified Credits for adverse events or Exam booklet mix ups:
 - (f) Internal and External Assessment of home-schooled students:
 - (g) fees for international students:
 - (h) reviews and reconsiderations:
 - (i) translation of examination papers or answers.

13 Schedules containing detailed processes

- (1) The following processes are set out in the stated Schedules for them:
 - (a) Schedule 1 for Qualifications and Endorsements for NCEA, and achievement of University Entrance, Vocational Pathways, and New Zealand Scholarship:
 - (b) Schedule 2 for Candidate Derived Grades:
 - (c) Schedule 3 for Candidate Special Assessment Conditions:
 - (d) Schedule 4 for Moderation Processes:
 - (e) Schedule 5 for Candidate Breaches of External Assessment.

14 Revocation

- (1) The following rules are revoked:
 - (a) NZQA Assessment Rules for Schools, TEOs assessing against Achievement Standards and NCEA Co-requisite Standards, and Candidates 2025:
 - (b) NZQA Assessment Rules for Schools, TEOs assessing against Achievement Standards and NCEA Co-requisite Standards, and Candidates 2024, Amendment No.1.

Schedule 1

Qualifications and Endorsements for NCEA and achievement of University Entrance, Vocational Pathways, and New Zealand Scholarship

Background to this Schedule

NZQA is the awarding body for the achievement of:

- (a) NCEA qualifications and endorsements:
- (b) University Entrance:
- (c) Vocational Pathways:
- (d) New Zealand Scholarships.

This Schedule details the requirements associated with the awarding processes.

Table of Contents

NCEA Levels 1-3

- 1. National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 1 (80 credit minimum)
- 2. National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 2 (80 credit minimum)
- 3. National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 3 (80 credit minimum)

NCEA Certificate and Course Endorsements

- 4. NCEA Certificate Endorsement
- 5. NCEA Course Endorsement

University Entrance

- 6. New Zealand University Entrance Minimum Requirements
- 7. University Entrance Recognition

Vocational Pathways and Credit exclusions

- 8. Vocational Pathways
- 9. Credit exclusions when determining qualification or award eligibility

New Zealand Scholarship

- 10. Publication and inapplicability to University Entrance
- 11. Monetary Awards
- 12. Payment of monetary award

Release of results, Record of Achievement, Certificates and Credit Inclusion

- 13. Results
- 14. New Zealand Record of Achievement
- 15. Production and issue of NCEA Certificates
- 16. Credit Inclusion for NCEA Certificates
- 17. Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion

NCEA Levels 1-3

1 National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 1

- (1) The award of the Level 1 NCEA Qualification (*80 credit minimum*) to a Candidate is based on the Candidate achieving at least:
 - (a) 60 Applicable credits at Level 1 or higher; and
 - (b) 10 literacy or te reo matatini credits from one of the following sub-paragraphs:
 - (i) NCEA co-requisite standards 32403 and 32405 for literacy; or
 - (ii) NCEA co-requisite standards 32413 and 32415 for te reo matatini; or
 - (iii) [additional standards](#) Published for the NCEA co-requisite for literacy or te reo matatini for 2024-2027;
 - (c) 10 numeracy or te pāngarau credits either from:
 - (i) NCEA co-requisite standard 32406 (*for numeracy*) or 32412 (*for te pāngarau*); or
 - (ii) [additional standards](#) Published for the NCEA co-requisite for numeracy or te pāngarau for 2024-2027.
- (2) Where credits from sub-paragraphs (b)(iii) or (c)(ii) of sub-clause 1(1) are used towards the NCEA co-requisite, they cannot also be used towards the 60 Applicable credits required for paragraph (a) of this clause 1.
- (3) Where more than 10 credits are achieved through the additional standards referred to in sub-paragraphs (b)(iii) or (c)(ii) of this clause 1, the surplus credits can be used towards the 60 credit requirement of paragraph (a) of sub-clause 1(1) at the level of the credits.
- (4) Where standards are used to meet the NCEA co-requisite, the associated credits will still be used in calculations for Course Endorsement and Certificate Endorsement.
- (5) Literacy credits must only be derived from either sub-paragraph (b)(i) or sub-paragraph (b)(iii) of sub-clause 1(1) (*i.e, the 10 credits cannot be a mix of credits from sub-paragraphs (b)(i) and (b)(iii) of sub-clause 1(1)*).
- (6) Te reo matatini credits must only be derived from either subparagraph (b)(ii) or subparagraph (b)(iii) of sub-clause 1(1) (*i.e, the 10 credits cannot be a mix of credits from sub-paragraphs (b)(ii) and (b)(iii) of sub-clause 1(1)*).
- (7) Candidates who achieved the NCEA literacy or te reo matatini and/or numeracy or te pāngarau requirements set out in rules made by NZQA under section 452(1)(m) of the Act for the 2023 academic year will be considered to have met the relevant NCEA co-requisite standards described in paragraph (a) of sub-clause 1(1) for the purposes of awarding NCEA in respect of academic years 2024-2027.

2 National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 2

- (1) The award of the Level 2 NCEA Qualification (*80 credit minimum*) to a Candidate is based on the Candidate achieving at least:

- (a) 60 Applicable Credits at Level 2 or higher; and
 - (b) the 10 literacy | te reo matatini credits and the 10 numeracy or te pāngarau credits set out in paragraphs (b) and (c) of sub-clause 1(1) of this Schedule, and sub-clauses 1(2)-1(6) apply to those credits.
- (2) Candidates who achieve the Level 1 NCEA literacy or te reo matatini and/or numeracy or te pāngarau requirements set out in rules made by NZQA under section 452(1)(m) of the Act for the 2023 academic year, will be considered to have met the relevant NCEA co-requisite standards described in paragraph (a) of sub-clause 1(1) of this Schedule in respect of academic years 2024-2027.

3 National Certificate of Educational Achievement Level 3

- (1) The award of the Level 3 NCEA Qualification (*80 credit minimum*) to a Candidate is based on the Candidate achieving at least:
- (a) 60 Applicable Credits at Level 3 or higher; and
 - (b) the 10 literacy or te reo matatini credits and the 10 numeracy or te pāngarau credits set out in paragraphs (b) and (c) of sub-clause 1(1) of this Schedule, and sub-clauses 1(2)-1(6) apply to those credits.
- (2) Candidates who achieve the Level 1 NCEA literacy or te reo matatini and/or numeracy or te pāngarau requirements set out in rules made by NZQA under section 452(1)(m) of the Act for the 2023 academic year, will be considered to have met the relevant NCEA co-requisite standards described in paragraph (a) of sub-clause 1(1) of this Schedule in respect of academic years 2024-2027.

NCEA Certificate and Course Endorsements

4 NCEA Certificate Endorsement

- (1) Endorsement of NCEA certificates is based on Credits on a Candidate's Record of Achievement.
- (2) Where a Candidate qualifies for Excellence or Merit endorsement only the highest eligible NCEA Certificate endorsement from the following list will be recognised on the Certificate awarding the NCEA Qualification:
- (a) NCEA Level 3 Excellence:
 - (b) NCEA Level 3 Merit:
 - (c) NCEA Level 2 Excellence:
 - (d) NCEA Level 2 Merit:
 - (e) NCEA Level 1 Excellence:
 - (f) NCEA Level 1 Merit.
- (3) An **Excellence endorsement** of an NCEA certificate is issued to Candidates who have achieved **50 or more Credits** from Standards with a grade of Excellence at the same or higher Level as the NCEA Certificate being endorsed.
- (4) A **Merit endorsement** of an NCEA certificate is issued to Candidates who have achieved **50 or more Credits** from Standards with a grade of either Merit or Excellence at the same or higher Level as the NCEA Certificate being endorsed.

- (5) Where a Candidate qualifies for a NCEA Certificate at more than one Level in January of a year, each of those Certificates will be checked for endorsement.
- (6) A Candidate may apply for NCEA Certificate endorsement in a year after the year the Candidate received an NCEA Certificate, where the Candidate achieves the required 50 or more Credits at either Excellence or Merit at the Level of that NCEA Certificate.

5 NCEA Course Endorsement

- (1) A Course eligible for Course endorsement at Excellence or Merit or Achieved is a programme of assessment for a Candidate at Levels 1, 2 or 3 undertaken within one academic year which:
 - (a) consists of Assessment Standards;
 - (b) follows [NZQA guidelines](#) and is notified to NZQA; and
 - (c) meets the assessment requirements in sub-clause 5(2).
- (2) Subject to the exemptions in sub-clause 5(4), for the purposes of paragraph (c) of sub-clause 5(1) the approved programme of assessment must contain a minimum of 14 Credits from Assessment Standards, with:
 - (a) a minimum of three of those Credits from internally assessed standards; and
 - (b) a minimum of three of those Credits from externally assessed standards.
- (3) The Course endorsement is gained at the Level of the lowest standard making up the eligible 14 Credits. Subject to the exemptions in sub-clause 5(4), NZQA will grant a Candidate a Course endorsement of:
 - (a) **Excellence** where a Candidate achieves 14 or more Credits from standards within the Course with a grade of Excellence, including at least three of those Credits from internal standards and three of those Credits from external standards;
 - (b) **Merit** where a Candidate achieves 14 or more Credits from the assessment within the Course at Merit or Excellence, including at least three of those Credits from internal standards and three of those Credits from external standards;
 - (c) **Achieved** where a Candidate achieves 14 or more Credits from the assessment within the Course at Achieved, Merit or Excellence, including at least three of those Credits from internal standards and three of those Credits from external standards.
- (4) The following exemptions from the internal and external credit requirements for Course endorsement are applicable:
 - (a) there is no requirement for 3 Credits from:
 - (i) externally assessed standards for Courses where all the standards are from any of the following subject areas:
 - (A) Levels 2 and 3 Physical Education;
 - (B) Levels 2 and 3 Religious Studies;
 - (C) Levels 2 and 3 New Zealand Sign Language;
 - (D) Level 2 Psychology.

- (ii) Levels 2 and 3 externally assessed standards where there are no external standards within a domain of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa curriculum:
 - (iii) internally assessed standards where all the standards are at Level 3 and from the subject area of Visual Arts where the Candidate has achieved a single 14 Credit externally assessed standard within the Course:
 - (iv) externally assessed standards where the Candidate has achieved 14 Credits from internally assessed standards from the subject area of Visual Arts within the Course.
- (5) The Credits recorded on a Candidate's Record of Achievement for a particular standard are eligible to be used only once towards a single Course endorsement for the year in which the credits were gained.
 - (6) A Candidate is eligible for only one endorsement for each Course.
 - (7) A Course endorsement is recognised on the Candidate's Record of Achievement.

University Entrance

6 New Zealand University Entrance Minimum Requirements

- (1) A Candidate will have met the minimum requirements for entrance to a university in New Zealand if the Candidate has obtained at least:
 - (a) NCEA Level 3; and
 - (b) 14 Credits in three of the Approved subjects Published on the NZQA website; and
 - (c) a minimum of 10 literacy Credits at Level 2 or above from the list of Literacy requirements for University Entrance (*Published on the NZQA website*) made up of at least 5 Credits in reading and 5 Credits in writing; and
 - (d) a minimum of 10 numeracy or te pāngarau Credits from either:
 - (i) NCEA co-requisite standard 32406 (*for numeracy*) or 32412 (*for te pāngarau*); or
 - (ii) the Published list of numeracy achievement standards for University Entrance.

7 University Entrance Recognition

- (1) A Candidate who meets the minimum requirements set out in clause 6(1) will have University Entrance recognised on the Candidate's Record of Achievement.

8 Vocational Pathways

- (1) NZQA will recognise a Candidate's achievement of a Vocational Pathway based on Applicable Credits.
- (2) Vocational Pathways are recognised on the Candidate's New Zealand Record of Achievement.

9 Credit exclusions when determining qualification or award eligibility

- (1) Where different Standards assess the same learning outcome, those Standards are specified in the Published [Exclusions List](#).

- (2) Standards on the Exclusions List are mutually exclusive for the purposes of determining the award of NCEA Certificates, NCEA Certificate endorsements, Course endorsements, University Entrance and Vocational Pathways.
- (3) Standards recorded multiple times on a Candidate's New Zealand Record of Achievement are mutually exclusive for the purposes of determining the award of NCEA Certificates, NCEA Certificate endorsements, Course endorsements, University Entrance and Vocational Pathways.
- (4) From the mutually exclusive Standards, the Standard with the best outcome for the student for each circumstance will be used for determining the award of NCEA Certificates, NCEA Certificate endorsement, Course endorsement, University Entrance and Vocational Pathways.

New Zealand Scholarship

10 Publication and inapplicability to University Entrance

- (1) NZQA publishes the list of New Zealand Scholarship subjects annually.
- (2) New Zealand Scholarship results do not contribute towards University Entrance.

11 Monetary Awards

- (1) The New Zealand Scholarship Monetary Awards are available to eligible Candidates with an entry from a school forwarded to NZQA, and comprise:

Premier Award	For the very top 7 to 12 Candidates. The minimum eligibility required to be considered for this award is achievement of at least three Scholarships at “Outstanding” level in the same year. The number of recipients for this award is restricted and achieving the minimum requirement will not guarantee an award. \$10,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study.
Outstanding Scholar Award	For the next 40-60 top Candidates. The minimum eligibility requirement to be considered for this award is achievement of three Scholarships including at least two at “Outstanding” level in the same year, or more than three Scholarships including at least one at “Outstanding” level in the same year. The number of recipients for this award is restricted and achieving the minimum requirement will not guarantee an award. \$5,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study.

Scholarship Award	For Candidates who achieve New Zealand Scholarship in three or more subjects in the same year and for Candidates who achieve two Scholarships at “Outstanding” level in the same year. \$2,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study.
Top Subject Scholar Award	For the top Candidate in each one of the New Zealand Scholarship subjects. \$2,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study.
Single Subject Awards	For Candidates who achieve New Zealand Scholarship in one or more subjects. A ‘one-off’ award of \$500 per subject, for up to two subjects, (<i>maximum payment \$1000</i>).

- (2) The Prime Minister’s Award for Academic Excellence is awarded to the Candidate with the best results in New Zealand Scholarship. The Candidate will be a Premier Award recipient and for the purposes of assessing the best results consideration will be given to the number of subjects achieved at “Outstanding” level, the number of additional Scholarships achieved, and the ranking of Candidates within individual subjects.

12 Payment of monetary award

- (1) For recipients of all New Zealand Scholarship awards:
- (a) the recipient must be enrolled in tertiary study in New Zealand (*at least 0.4 Equivalent full-time student (EFTs)*) with an institution which holds accreditation under section 441 of the Act to provide one or more approved programmes, and must allow use of their name and school for publicity about their success:
 - (b) Single Subject Awards are paid only in the first year of tertiary study in New Zealand:
 - (c) for awards with second or subsequent year payments, recipients must maintain at least a ‘B’ grade average during each year of their tertiary study in New Zealand with an accredited provider to qualify for payment in the following year:
 - (d) note that Studylink has separate requirements relating to payment of New Zealand Scholarship Awards.
- (2) Monetary awards for New Zealand Scholarship cannot be accumulated except as specified below.

- (3) Where a Candidate meets the criteria for more than one monetary award, they will receive only the award of the highest monetary value, except where a Candidate receives a Top Subject Scholar Award and in addition achieves a Single Subject Award in a different subject, in which case they will receive the Top Subject Scholar Award and a maximum of one \$500 Single Subject Award.
- (4) The monetary amounts for the Premier Award, Outstanding Scholar Award and Scholarship Award are available only for results obtained within the year of entry. Results cannot be aggregated over more than one year.
- (5) Candidates must notify NZQA through their Learner Login of their intention to accept an award by 15 January of the year following the year they receive their result.
- (6) NZQA must be notified annually of a recipient's intention to defer a monetary award. Recipients of monetary awards may annually defer receiving the award for up to four consecutive years after they leave school.
- (7) A Candidate who defers an award because they are still at school and gains:
 - (a) an award in the same subject in more than one year will only receive one monetary award being the highest value award achieved:
 - (b) a Single Subject Award in one subject in a year and in a second subject in another year is eligible for two one-off awards of \$500 if the student is enrolled in tertiary study as outlined in paragraph (a) of sub-clause 12(1) up to the maximum payment of \$1000 for Single Subject Awards:
 - (c) a Single Subject Award in one subject in a year, but fails to gain a Single Subject Award in the same subject in another year, will still be eligible to be paid for the award gained:
 - (d) a Single Subject Award in one or two subjects and the Scholarship Award in three or more subjects in another year is eligible only for the Scholarship Award in the three or more subjects:
 - (e) a Top Subject Scholar Award in the same subject in two different years will receive payment for one Top Subject Scholar Award only:
 - (f) a Top Subject Scholar Award in a subject in a year and a Single Subject Award in a second subject in another year, or vice versa, will receive both awards.

Release of School results, record of achievement, certificates and credit inclusion

13 Results

- (1) NZQA will release the following via the Learner Login in January of the year after assessment:
 - (a) school Candidate results for Standards assessed:
 - (b) Credit equivalents gained through Credit inclusion:
 - (c) any applicable Unspecified Credits.
- (2) NZQA will release School Candidate results via the Learner Login for New Zealand Scholarship subjects before 1 March of the year following assessment.

- (3) NZQA may set alternative dates for the release of results to Candidates in extenuating circumstances.
- (4) Results, Records of Achievement, and certificates will be in a form determined by NZQA and approved by NZQA's Chief Executive, subject to any fees as set out in the [secondary education fees schedule](#).

14 New Zealand Record of Achievement

- (1) Results for all Assessment Standards achieved in an academic year will be recorded on a Candidate's Record of Achievement following the release of results in January the following year.
- (2) All Credits on a Candidate's Record of Achievement are used for NCEA Certificates, NCEA Certificate endorsement, Course endorsements, University Entrance, and Vocational Pathways. NZQA will use only one Standard to give the best outcome for the Candidate where Standards are recorded multiple times on a Candidate's Record of Achievement.
- (3) A Candidate's Record of Achievement is available free of charge in electronic format (PDF) via NZQA's secure web portal. A PDF authenticity verification service is also available via NZQA's website.
- (4) Candidates may order one free hard copy of their Record of Achievement for each year that they undertake study, with a fee as set out in the Fee Schedule applying to further hard copies of their Record of Achievement.

15 Production and issue of NCEA Certificates

- (1) Candidates who apply for one or more different NCEA Certificates are entitled to one free copy of each Certificate applied for, with a fee as set out in the [Fee Schedule](#) applying to further copies of NCEA Certificates requested.

16 Credit Inclusion for NCEA Certificates

- (1) NCEA has provision for recognition of Credit equivalents from other qualifications or awards that are quality assured and listed in clause 17(1).
- (2) Credit equivalents from Credit inclusion will not appear on the Record of Achievement, may be used only once, and do not contribute to the University Entrance NCEA Level 3 requirement in paragraph (a) of sub-clause 6(1) of this Schedule.
- (3) If a School or TEO wishes to access Credit inclusion for any students, it should complete the correct NZQA form and send it to NZQA with the applicable student results.
- (4) Credit equivalents from awards listed in clause 17(1) are only recognised if they were gained within two years prior to the year of application for Credit inclusion.

17 Approved List for NCEA Credit Inclusion

- (1) The following awards are Published on [the approved list](#):
 - (a) Asdan Youth Awards Scheme (*Silver, Gold, and universities/Platinum*):
 - (b) Certificate in Microsoft Office – Specialist Master:
 - (c) Cisco Certified Networking Associate:
 - (d) Young Enterprise Scheme:

- (e) Young Enterprise Examination:
- (f) Zayed College for Girls' – Arabic Course.

The provisions for credit inclusion will be reviewed following Cabinet decisions on the proposal to replace NCEA. No new applications for Credit Inclusion will be considered until then. The Published list of provisions applies until 1 April 2027.

Schedule 2

Candidate Derived Grade Processes

1 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the Derived Grade process is to provide for external assessment, access to a quality assured grade submitted by a School or TEO to an approved Candidate who is unable to carry out the assessment, or whose performance is impaired at the time of the assessment.

2 Principles

- (1) The principles of fairness and privacy underpin NZQA's decision-making process when reviewing applications for a Derived Grade.

Process

3 Initiating the process

- (1) The Derived Grade process is initiated when:
 - (a) a Candidate submits an application to the School or TEO; or
 - (b) a School or TEO notifies NZQA of an event that is likely to result in applications from a group of Candidates and NZQA invokes the process for Derived Grades at scale.
- (2) A Derived Grade is available for the following where NZQA marks them:
 - (a) an external examination:
 - (b) eligible submitted subject or portfolio:
 - (c) eligible Common Assessment Activity (CAA):
 - (d) eligible Tūmahi Aromatawai Pātahi (TAPā).
- (3) A Derived Grade is not available for:
 - (a) New Zealand Scholarship subjects:
 - (b) Standards specified and Published by NZQA as not being available for a Derived Grade:
 - (c) dedicated unit standards for literacy and numeracy (*being Standards 32403, 32405, and 32406*) and dedicated unit standards for te reo matatini me te pāngarau (*being Standards 32412, 32413, and 32415*):
 - (d) School or TEO marked student work for a portfolio submission that is verified by NZQA (*instead Schools and TEOs must follow their late assessment policy to determine if a student is eligible for an extension and must submit a result to meet NZQA timelines*).
- (4) An applicant for a Derived Grade must complete the relevant sections of the Published NZQA application form for a Derived Grade and submit this to the School or TEO by the Published date.

- (5) In exceptional circumstances NZQA may accept late applications, but no application for a Derived Grade can be accepted after results have been released for the Standard.
- (6) NZQA will provide advice to a School or TEO on managing any necessary Derived Grade process for a group of Candidates.

Evidence Requirements

- (7) Derived Grades are available where there is appropriate evidence that:
 - (a) the Candidate's performance or ability to undertake an external assessment is seriously impaired by an event at the time of assessment; or
 - (b) the Candidate's performance or ability to undertake an external assessment is prevented by being selected to represent a country at a sporting or cultural event for which the Candidate has, in advance, applied to NZQA for pre-approval of eligibility and NZQA has approved the application; or
 - (c) the Candidate considers that their performance or ability to undertake an external assessment was seriously impaired by exceptional circumstances beyond their control at the time of the assessment; or
 - (d) in the case of external Standards assessed by the submission of a portfolio of evidence or a digitally submitted report, the Candidate within 15 working days of the submission date, has suffered a temporary impairment, including a physical injury, temporary acute illness, or an emotional trauma, which has seriously impaired the Candidate's preparation for the submission.

4 Responsibilities of Schools and TEOs

- (1) Before commencement of external examinations in November or prior to the Published submission date for the standard for other eligible external assessment events during the school year, Schools and TEOs must submit to NZQA for external Standard entries, grades from quality assured Standard specific evidence so that the Derived Grades are available if required for consideration by NZQA.
- (2) The School or TEO must:
 - (a) submit all Derived Grade applications by the specified date;
 - (b) retain the application form and any supporting information for one year for audit purposes; and
 - (c) indicate whether they support the application.
- (3) The Derived Grade that the School or TEO submits to NZQA must be from quality assured, pre-existing, valid, authentic, Standard-specific evidence from a practice assessment of the Standard that matches the format and conditions of the external assessment.

5 What is the decision-making process and possible outcomes?

- (1) After considering the application, NZQA will either:
 - (a) request further information from the Candidate (*through the Nominee*) in order to make a decision; or

- (b) advise the Candidate in writing and the School or TEO (*through the Nominee*) of the decision to decline the application and the reasons it does not meet the eligibility criteria; or
- (c) approve the application, advise the School or TEO (*through the Provider Login*) after completion of the exam cycle in December, and award the better result for the Candidate based on either the submitted grade or the external assessment result as part of the release of external Results.

6 How to request an appeal or review of the decision

- (1) Schools or TEOs may through their Nominee appeal the Derived Grade decision in writing to NZQA's Manager of School Quality Assurance and Support within 15 working days of the date the notification of the NZQA decision under clause 5 of this Schedule, providing reasons for the appeal.
- (2) The Nominee may provide, and NZQA may request the Nominee to provide, any further evidence which supports the appeal.
- (3) In responding to the appeal NZQA will evaluate the Derived Grade decision together with any reasons and further evidence provided, then notify the Nominee of the appeal outcome within 15 working days.
- (4) Where the Nominee is not satisfied with the appeal outcome, the Nominee may request a review of the appeal outcome to NZQA's Deputy Chief Executive Assessment.
- (5) Requests for reviews of appeal outcomes must be sent to NZQA within 15 working days of the date the appeal outcome was sent to the Nominee.
- (6) The Deputy Chief Executive will consider the merits of the review and notify the Nominee of the Deputy Chief Executive's decision, which will conclude the process.

Schedule 3

Candidate Special Assessment Conditions Processes

1 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) process is to ensure that Candidates with recognised learning, medical or behavioural needs, capable of attaining a national qualification, receive approved NZQA provisions for assessment.

2 Principles

- (1) The principles of fairness, equity and privacy underpin NZQA's decision making process when reviewing applications for a SAC provision.

3 Process

Initiating the process

- (1) Schools and TEOs submit applications to NZQA on behalf of Candidates with eligible conditions under sub-clause 3(6), or notify NZQA under sub-clause 3(7) for Level 1 NCEA Candidates, where:
 - (a) the disability or disorder directly impacts on the Candidate's access to fair assessment for national qualifications; and
 - (b) the School or TEO has determined that the Candidate is otherwise capable of attaining a national qualification; and
 - (c) the special assessment conditions applied for reflect the Candidate's normal way of working; and
 - (d) the Candidate has consented to the application or notification being submitted.
- (2) The Nominee must manage applications and notifications from Schools or TEOs.
- (3) The School or TEO must hold a copy of the Candidate's consent to the application or notification being submitted.
- (4) The School or TEO must make applications or notifications using the Published process and timelines.

Evidence Requirements

- (5) The following disabilities or disorders are eligible conditions for applications or notifications to NZQA for the provision of special assessment conditions:
 - (a) permanent or long-term:
 - (i) sensory disability:
 - (ii) physical disability:
 - (iii) medical disability:
 - (iv) specific learning disorder:
 - (b) permanent or long-term combinations of such disabilities or disorders.

- (6) In making an application to NZQA for the provision of special assessment conditions on behalf of the Candidate using the Published approvals gateway, the School or TEO must supply either:
 - (a) appropriate documented evidence derived from testing undertaken by the School or TEO during the Candidate's time at secondary school or at the TEO; or
 - (b) a report from an appropriately qualified independent registered professional who recommends special assessment conditions to address the Candidate's specified assessment needs. Any report that predates the Candidate's time at secondary school or at the TEO may need to be supplemented with additional current evidence.
- (7) In notifying NZQA of the provision of special assessment conditions on behalf of the Candidate using the Published notifications gateway, the School or TEO must hold evidence in support of its notification and provide it to NZQA upon request by NZQA.

4 Responsibilities of Schools and TEOs

- (1) The School or TEO must attach the provisions to specific external standards using the Published process and timelines.
- (2) The special assessment conditions being applied for must allow entitled Candidates to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in assessment, without providing unfair advantage over other Candidates.
- (3) Special assessment conditions must not be used for assessment where the integrity of the assessment may be compromised such as where the assessment conditions:
 - (a) compromise the assessment objectives of the standard in question; or
 - (b) provide unfair advantage over other Candidates.
- (4) The School or TEO must ensure that any assessment assistant or examination assistant appointed to assist Candidates' access to assessment receives appropriate training.
- (5) The School or TEO must undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of the special assessment conditions approved for a Candidate prior to rolling these entitlements over into the subsequent year.

5 Decision-making process and possible outcomes

- (1) After considering an application submitted under sub-clause 3(6) NZQA will respond in one of the following ways:
 - (a) approve the application; or
 - (b) request further information from the Nominee; or
 - (c) advise the Nominee of the decision to decline the application and the reasons for that decision.
- (2) The following special assessment conditions may be provided:

Standard conditions

Reader assistance

Computer use

Writer/Typist assistance

Separate accommodation (*isolation or small group, depending upon need*)

Rest breaks

Extra writing time (*only available during time bound internal assessments and external examinations when the Candidate is entered for 3 Achievement Standards or Scholarship within an examination session*)

Enlarged papers (*to A3 only*)

Special papers including braille translations and digital pdf

Signer for deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH)

Signing supervisor for pre-examination instructions and emergency management

6 How to request an appeal or review of the response

- (1) Schools or TEOs may through their Nominee appeal a SAC response made under sub-clause 5(1) to NZQA's Manager of School Quality Assurance and Support, within 15 working days of the date of the response, providing reasons for the appeal.
- (2) A Nominee may provide, and NZQA may request a Nominee to provide any further cogent evidence in its possession which supports the appeal.
- (3) In responding to the appeal, NZQA will evaluate the decision together with any reasons and further cogent evidence provided, then notify the Nominee of the appeal outcome as soon as reasonably possible.
- (4) Where the School or TEO is not satisfied with the appeal outcome, the Nominee on behalf of the School or TEO may request a review of the appeal outcome by NZQA's Deputy Chief Executive Assessment.
- (5) Reviews of appeal outcomes must be sent to NZQA within 15 working days of the date the review outcome was sent to the Nominee.
- (6) The Deputy Chief Executive will consider the merits of the review and notify the Nominee of the Deputy Chief Executive's decision, which will conclude the process.

Schedule 4

Moderation Processes

1. Purpose

- (1) External Moderation for internally assessed Standards listed on the Directory is a process intended to provide assurance that assessment decisions in relation to Assessment Standards are consistent nationally.

2. Principles

- (1) The principles of validity, reliability, and authenticity of Candidates' work underpin Internal Assessment by Schools and TEOs, and NZQA's decision-making process when reviewing submissions for External Moderation.

3. Internal moderation process

- (1) Each School and TEO must:
 - (a) establish an internal moderation process that meets NZQA's requirements and which is applied each year to every internally assessed Standard being assessed, to ensure that judgements are consistent with the Assessment Standard;
 - (b) have monitoring systems that ensure the results they report have been subject to an internal moderation process; and
 - (c) retain until the end of the following academic year evidence of internal moderation and the School's monitoring of internal moderation.

4. External Moderation Process

- (1) For **Initiating the External Moderation process** NZQA will annually notify Schools and TEOs of the dates and information for moderation of internally assessed Assessment Standards from across curriculum areas.
- (2) The following are the **Evidence Requirements**:
 - (a) Each School and TEO (*where applicable*) will submit assessment material to NZQA in the Published timeframe. Samples of student work must be selected according to NZQA's selection process. Schools are required to ensure that teachers have no opportunity to re-mark the sample of student work after it has been selected.
 - (b) All samples submitted must clearly distinguish each student's work, be in the Published format, be easy to read, and account for any privacy issues (*for example known protection orders or by using a unique identifier in a way that is permissible under Information Privacy Principle 13 of the Privacy Act 2020*).
 - (c) Where it is not practicable or possible for assessment to be sent for external moderation by the Published timeframe, Schools may negotiate with NZQA for a time extension.

5. Report

- (1) NZQA will carry out External Moderation and will provide an External Moderation report for each Standard selected to the School or TEO.

6. Schools or TEOs to address issues that are identified in the report

- (1) Before the School or TEO next assesses against the standard they must address issues that are identified in the External Moderation report, including (*without limitation*) where there is any use of invalid tasks or lack of agreement by the moderator with assessor judgements and issues related to academic integrity.
- (2) If the issues referred to in sub-clause 6(1) are not adequately addressed, NZQA may require additional out-of-cycle external moderation and/or impose limitations on reporting results for internally assessed standards. This may include, but is not limited to, measures such as requiring additional external moderation to confirm assessor grade judgements prior to the reporting of results, or taking steps to remove the relevant standard from a School's or TEO's Consent to Assess.

7. How to request an appeal or review of the decision

- (1) The School or TEO may, in writing to NZQA, appeal the components of a report by:
 - (a) completing the NZQA External Moderation application process for an appeal within 15 School days of providing the External Moderation report to the School or TEO;
 - (b) providing reasons for the appeal; and
 - (c) providing the original moderation material.
- (2) Where the School or TEO is not satisfied with the appeal outcome, the School or TEO may request a review of that outcome to NZQA's Deputy Chief Executive Assessment.
- (3) A request for a review of an appeal outcome must be sent to NZQA within 15 working days of the date the appeal outcome was sent to the School or TEO.
- (4) The Deputy Chief Executive will consider the merits of the request for a review appeal and notify the School or TEO of the Deputy Chief Executive's decision, which will conclude the process.

Schedule 5

Process for Candidate Breaches of External Assessment

1. Purpose

- (1) The purpose of the process for Candidate Breaches of External Assessment is to confirm the credibility of an External Assessment. Assessment is credible when student work is authentic and their conduct for an assessment meets requirements of the assessment. External Assessment for this purpose does not apply to Visual Arts Level 1 or 2, for which a School's or TEO's breaches process for Internal Assessment must be used.

2. Principles

- (1) The principles of natural justice and privacy underpin NZQA's decision-making process when investigating possible Candidate Breaches of External Assessment.

3. What triggers the process for possible Candidate Breaches of External Assessment?

- (1) The process for a possible Candidate breach of external assessment (*'an alleged breach'*) occurs where it has been reported to NZQA, or NZQA otherwise considers, the credibility of the assessment has been compromised by conduct of any of the following kinds:
 - (a) failure to follow instructions, procedures or rules – a Candidate has failed to follow the instructions, procedures or rules of NZQA, or has failed to follow any requirements of the Rules and/or Instructions to Candidates, the examination supervisor's instructions or procedures, or instructions or rules on the Candidate's admission slip, whether knowingly or unwittingly;
 - (b) influencing or assisting a Candidate – a Candidate has been influenced or assisted by another Candidate or person, whether knowingly or unwittingly;
 - (c) hindering or disrupting other Candidates – a Candidate's conduct has hindered or otherwise disrupted other Candidates in an external assessment, whether knowingly or unwittingly;
 - (d) dishonest or inappropriate practice - a Candidate has knowingly or unwittingly:
 - (i) accessed, or attempted to access, information, materials, or help from another Candidate or person;
 - (ii) altered returned materials prior to seeking a review or reconsideration;
 - (iii) used any document or certificate produced by NZQA in a way that provides them with an advantage (*monetary or otherwise*);
 - (e) submission of inauthentic material - a Candidate has submitted material for assessment that is not their own, whether knowingly or unwittingly;
 - (f) impersonation of a Candidate - a person has impersonated or dishonestly claimed to be a Candidate entered for an externally assessed standard;

- (g) conduct of others which gives a Candidate an advantage over other Candidates – a Candidate has been provided with an advantage over other Candidates through the conduct of a School or Examination Centre worker (*being a worker within the meaning of worker in section 19 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015*).
- (2) Reports to NZQA under sub-clause 3(1) are most commonly from teachers, supervisors, other Candidates or NZQA personnel. Information is required to be provided either physically or digitally and to be factual, clear and detailed.

4. Investigation initiation process

- (1) An alleged breach is reviewed by NZQA nominated personnel to decide whether or not to initiate an investigation.
- (2) Where an investigation is initiated:
 - (a) the nominated personnel may consult with the Nominee from the Candidate's school(s) or TEO(s) or any other person able to provide relevant information that helps to clarify the alleged breach.
 - (b) the decision-making process will allow the person alleged to be in breach:
 - (i) the opportunity to provide an explanation;
 - (ii) the right of appeal to a designated person;
 - (iii) clear and fair timelines.
 - (c) the person alleged to be in breach will be sent a letter with copies of any relevant information or reports, indicating the:
 - (i) conduct that may have been in breach;
 - (ii) process that will be followed;
 - (iii) entries and any results that may be withheld until the investigation is completed and a decision is reached; and
 - (iv) timeline for making written comment to NZQA about their conduct, which is within 15 working days of the date of the letter.

5. Decision-making process

- (1) After any written comment is received from the person alleged to be in breach within the 15 working days, or on or after the expiry of the 15 working days if no written communication is received, -
 - (a) a decision will be made by NZQA on the alleged breach, taking into consideration all the information received, when NZQA reasonably believes there is sufficient information upon which to make the decision; then
 - (b) the person alleged to be in breach will be informed in writing of the decision by NZQA, and, if a breach is found, the penalties (*if any*) to be imposed.
- (2) Where NZQA considers a formal face-to-face meeting would assist in eliciting information upon which an informed decision can be made:
 - (a) the person alleged to be in breach will be invited to the meeting and may bring a support person with them.

- (b) the meeting will be chaired by an independent appointee of the Deputy Chief Executive Assessment and the following procedure will apply:
 - (i) the person alleged to be in breach will be given reasonable notice of the date of any face-to-face meeting, will be given copies of any relevant new reports or information held by NZQA, and may provide written submissions prior to the meeting;
 - (ii) the person alleged to be in breach may choose to provide written submissions and not attend the face-to-face meeting;
 - (iii) the person alleged to be in breach may choose not to provide written submissions nor attend a face-to-face meeting.
- (3) Where the person alleged to be in breach chooses not to do any of the following, the decision-making process will be as provided for in sub-clauses 5(5) and 5(6) -
 - (a) provide written submissions; or
 - (b) accept the offer of a face-to-face meeting; or
 - (c) reply to the offer of a face-to-face meeting; or
 - (d) attend the face-to-face meeting after accepting the offer of a meeting.
- (4) Where the person alleged to be in breach attends the face-to-face meeting, the independent appointee chairing the meeting will:
 - (a) outline to that person the nature of the alleged breach and the possible penalties; and
 - (b) take into account, discuss and clarify:
 - (i) any relevant issues and any relevant views of NZQA and the person in relation to the alleged breach; and
 - (ii) any issues in respect of penalties.
- (5) The independent appointee will make one or more recommendations on whether a breach has been found, and if a breach is found, on relevant penalties.
- (6) The recommendation will be given to NZQA and NZQA will proceed to make a breach decision with reasons.
- (7) NZQA will, within 15 working days of the decision being made (*unless there is good reason not to*) notify the person of that decision.

6. Penalties

- (1) While NZQA investigates an alleged breach it may suspend the release of all or part of the results of any Candidate who is believed to be involved, until a decision is made as to whether or not the breach has been found.
- (2) If, at any stage of the investigation, NZQA receives written comment from the person alleged to be in breach which explains their conduct and satisfies NZQA that a breach has not occurred or is not proven, any entries and results which may have been withheld will be released and no further action will be taken.

- (3) Where the person alleged to be in breach has been found to be in breach, the person will be given a formal warning and any one or more of the following actions may be taken:
- (a) permanent withholding of the entries and results of the person in relation to the externally assessed standard/s directly related to the breach (*note that this will not include results in other externally assessed standards from the current or previous years unless justified by the investigation outcome*);
 - (b) conditions placed on the person when entering further external assessments including, but not limited to, an agreed code of conduct;
 - (c) disqualification of the person from entering further New Zealand Scholarship or external assessment for national or New Zealand qualifications in specified assessments and / or for a specified period of time;
 - (d) NZQA may refer any breach to relevant authorities (*including the Police where criminal behaviour is believed to have occurred, for example in the case of impersonation*) for consideration by those authorities.

7. How to request an appeal or review of the breach decision

- (1) A person who is the subject of a breach decision, and who believes the decision was incorrect, may appeal in writing to NZQA's Manager of School Quality Assurance and Support, within 15 working days of the date the notification of the decision was sent to the person.
- (2) The request for an appeal must include the reasons why the person believes the decision is incorrect.
- (3) The person will be notified of the Manager's decision within 15 working days of the receipt of the appeal request.
- (4) In the appeal, the Manager will review the both the process followed and the decision (*including the investigation material and reasoning*) and any further cogent evidence that may be made available.
- (5) A person whose appeal has not been upheld may apply for a review of the appeal decision, including any penalties imposed, in writing to NZQA's Deputy Chief Executive Assessment within 15 working days of the date the notification of the appeal decision was sent to the person.
- (6) The request for review must include the reasons why the person believes the appeal decision should be further reviewed, and whether or not the person wishes to be heard in person or online.
- (7) A review by the Deputy Chief Executive is to confirm, on the balance of probabilities, whether or not the original breach decision was correct.
- (8) The Deputy Chief Executive may adopt any procedure for the review they believe reasonable in the circumstances.
- (9) The Deputy Chief Executive will ensure that all involved parties have a copy of any new information and allow sufficient time for consideration of and any comment on that information.

- (10) Where the person requesting a review does not wish to be heard in person, the Deputy Chief Executive may proceed to make a decision on the basis of the information provided to the Deputy Chief Executive.
- (11) Where the person wishes to be heard, it will be at their own expense and the meeting will be held at NZQA offices in Wellington.
- (12) The Deputy Chief Executive will correspond with the person to set a mutually convenient date for the hearing. If, after reasonable attempts, a mutually convenient date cannot be found, the Deputy Chief Executive will set and specify a date for the hearing.
- (13) In carrying out the review and making a decision the Deputy Chief Executive may, at the Deputy Chief Executive's discretion, and whether or not a hearing has been requested, do any or all of the following:
 - (a) ask for further relevant information from any party:
 - (b) receive any new information from any party that is relevant, whether or not the Deputy Chief Executive has asked for that information:
 - (c) obtain any advice or expertise from third parties that may assist the decision, which for the avoidance of doubt may include handwriting, scientific, or forensic advice or expertise:
 - (d) allow sufficient time for parties to consider any new information, advice or expertise:
 - (e) decide to refer the matter back to the original decision-maker for reconsideration:
 - (f) confirm or change any decision.
- (14) Where the person has appealed the decision to the Manager or has applied for a review by the Deputy Chief Executive of the decision, and the decision being appealed or reviewed involves the penalty of disqualification from entering further externally assessed standards, pending the outcome of the appeal or review the person may make an entry for those externally assessed standards in any year to which the disqualification would otherwise apply.
- (15) If the review confirms the original breach decision, any penalties will be reapplied, and the person's entry for externally assessed standards may be withdrawn.
- (16) The Deputy Chief Executive's review decision concludes the breach process and takes effect the day after the day it is made.

Made by:

Board Chair signature: 

Date: 19 December 2025

City or town where signed: Wellington

Kevin Jenkins
Chairperson
Board of NZQA

Explanatory note

This note is not part of these Rules but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These Rules provide for:

- (a) Nominees of Schools and TEOs:
- (b) Student entries in standards for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship:
- (c) Assessment Requirements:
- (d) Extended opportunities for internally assessed standards:
- (e) Reporting and recording of internal assessment results:
- (f) Administrative Guidelines for particular administrative processes:
- (g) Schedules with processes for:
 - (i) NCEA, Endorsements, New Zealand Scholarship, University Entrance, and Vocational Pathways:
 - (ii) Derived Grades:
 - (iii) Special Assessment Conditions:
 - (iv) External Moderation for internally assessed standards:
 - (v) Breaches of External Assessment.

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019 .	
Title	Assessment and Examination for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Rules 2026
Principal or amendment	Principal
Consolidated version	No
Empowering Act and provisions	Education and Training Act 2020, section 452(1)(m)
Replacement empowering Act and provisions	Not applicable
Maker name	Board of NZQA

Administering agency	New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)
Date made	19 December 2025
Publication date	22 December 2025
Notification date	Not applicable
Commencement date	1 February 2026
End date (when applicable)	31 January 2027
Consolidation as at date	Not applicable
Related instruments	Not applicable