

# NCEA to new national secondary school qualifications

## Current

### NCEA Level 1

60 credits at Level 1 or above  
10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits  
10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits

**NCEA Level 2** (60 credits at Level 2 or above)  
**NCEA Level 3** (60 credits at Level 3 or above)

Inconsistent assessment and a wide range of standards

NCEA standards drive what is being taught in classrooms

Qualifications achieved through attaining a minimum number of credits

## New

### Foundational Award

Assessment of students' achievement in literacy or te reo matatini and numeracy or pāngarau at a Year 11 curriculum level.

Starting in 2028

**Year 12 subject-based assessment**  
**Year 13 subject-based assessment**

Year 12 starting in 2029

Year 13 starting in 2030

Clear, consistent Ministry and industry-led subjects integrated into senior secondary school curriculum and qualifications

Curriculum underpins teaching and learning  
All Year 11 students study English/Te Reo Rangatira and Mathematics/Pāngarau

## Decisions to come

What students need to do to achieve the Year 12 and Year 13 qualifications

# Curriculum and qualification system changes

Students taught new knowledge-rich curriculum for English | Te Reo Rangatira and Mathematics & Statistics | Pāngarau†

Students taught new knowledge-rich curriculum

**2026**

Year 9 students

Tracking the first cohort

**2027**

Year 10 students

**2028**

Year 11 students

**2029**

Year 12 students

**2030**

Year 13 students

Our senior secondary school curriculum and qualifications are being updated so that everyone can access the same important knowledge and skills through Year 9-10 learning areas and Y11-13 subjects. The new system is clearer, credible, and more consistent.

\* Science is still being considered as a compulsory subject

† In 2027, Year 9 students will be taught the full knowledge-rich curriculum

Curriculum underpins teaching and learning

All students take English | Te Reo Rangatira and Mathematics | Pāngarau\*

Students choose several other subjects from across the curriculum

Students taught new knowledge-rich Ministry and industry-led subjects

Students choose curriculum subjects to support their future pathways from the range of subjects offered by their school

Some subjects may be provided in partnership with tertiary providers

Students taught new knowledge-rich curriculum across all their subjects

Year 11 Foundational Award assesses literacy or te reo matatini and numeracy or pāngarau drawn from English | Te Reo Rangatira and Mathematics & Statistics | Pāngarau

New subject-based qualification for Year 12, each subject is assessed consistently

New subject-based qualification for Year 13, each subject is assessed consistently

One qualification pathway

Two qualification levels, Year 12 and Year 13