

Information Update: **Literacy - Reading Assessment Event 2 2025 – Results Update**

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Cc:			
Date:	6 October 2025	Priority:	Medium
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Update

This update provides the results of the Literacy - Reading assessment from the second NCEA co-requisite event for 2025, ahead of their release to students and schools on Thursday 9 October.

Event 1 was held over two weeks in May 2025, and event 2 took place from 1 to 12 September 2025. Separate assessment activities were provided in weeks 1 and 2 to protect the integrity of the assessments.

Key messages are attached as Appendix 1.

Key points

- The Reading achievement rate for event 2 of 2025 is **57.6%**. This is lower than the Reading achievement rate for event 1 of 2025 (61.2%), but similar to the rate for event 2 of 2024 (58.7%).
- The decrease in achievement (between event 1 and event 2) was expected due to a higher proportion of students resitting in event 2. Students who resit do achieve, but at a lower rate than first time candidates.

Participation

45,647 students attempted the reading assessment in event 2 (of the 49,177 entered for the assessment by their schools). This is a slight decrease from 2024 event 2 when 48,124 students attempted the reading assessment. This change is an indicator of evolving entry patterns between event 1 and event 2 of each year, including schools' strategic decisions regarding the timing of assessments and student readiness.

59% of the participants (27,086 students) were in Year 10.

44% of the participants (19,874 students) were resitting the assessment (i.e. they had attempted previously, either in event 1 of 2025 or prior). Students resitting are more common

in the second event of each year, for example 50% of students resat in event 2 of 2024 compared with 26% of students who resat in event 1 of 2025.

Table 1 shows participation by year level and whether a first attempt or resitting the assessment in event 2.

Table 1

Year level	First attempt	Resit	Total participants
Year 9 and below	2,032	328	2,360
Year 10	19,700	7,412	27,112
Year 11	2,687	8,647	11,334
Year 12	1,021	2,717	3,738
Year 13 and above	306	797	1,103
All years	25,746	19,901	45,647

Achievement

Across all year levels, 57.6% of students achieved the reading assessment in event 2. This represents a slight decrease from the 61.2% achievement rate recorded in event 1.

- This decrease (between event 1 and event 2) was expected due to a higher proportion of students resitting in event 2.
- A similar pattern was observed in 2024 where achievement in the first event was slightly higher than in the second event:
 - 58.7% achieved in May 2024
 - 56.0% achieved in September 2024.

65.6% of Year 10 students achieved the reading assessment.

43.8% of students resitting the assessment achieved. Students who are resitting do achieve, but at a lower rate than students attempting the assessments for the first time.

Table 2 shows achievement by year level, overall, for those attempting for the first time, and for those resitting in event 2.

Table 2

Year level	First attempt	Resit	Overall achievement
Year 9 and below	70.0%	34.8%	65.1%
Year 10	70.8%	51.6%	65.6%
Year 11	48.9%	41.3%	43.1%
Year 12	63.7%	35.8%	43.4%
Year 13 and above	68.0%	30.1%	40.6%
All years	68.0%	43.8%	57.6%

Non-Achievement

Table 3 shows numbers of students not achieving (first attempt and resit) in event 2 by year level.

Table 3

Year level	First attempt students not achieving	Resit students not achieving	Total not achieving
Year 9 and below	612 of 2,032	215 of 328	827 of 2,360
Year 10	5,746 of 19,700	3,590 of 7,412	9,326 of 27,112
Year 11	1,374 of 2,687	5,066 of 8,647	6,441 of 11,334
Year 12	371 of 1,021	1,745 of 2,717	2,116 of 3,738
Year 13 and above	98 of 306	557 of 797	655 of 1,103
All Years	8,298 of 25,746	11,054 of 19,901	19,352 of 45,647

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show that the overall achievement rate is predominantly negatively impacted by Years 11 and 12 non-achievement rates.

Socio-economic barriers to attainment (School EQI Group)

Analysis by socio-economic barriers to attainment (School EQI Group) continues to show a large gap in achievement between broad school EQI groups.

Table 4 presents the achievement rates for Event 2 of 2024, and Event 1 and 2 of 2025, by School EQI group.

Table 4

School EQI Group	Event 2 2024	Event 1 2025	Event 2 2025
Fewer	71.1%	71.7%	74.1%
Moderate	58.0%	61.6%	54.3%
More	34.8%	41.2%	42.0%
Unassigned	76.7%	87.3%	77.2%

Results release for other co-requisite assessments

The co-requisite assessment results for Writing, Numeracy, Te Reo Matatini (Te Reo Torohū) and Pāngarau will be released on 20 October.

We will provide you with a briefing on all results for Event 2 on Thursday 16 October. National results will be published on our website on Monday 20 October, including demographic breakdowns by School EQI Group, gender, and ethnicity.

The briefing will include overall 2025 achievement for the co-requisite standards¹.

¹ Where a student was assessed in both event 1 and event 2 of 2025, only the last result is counted when determining the overall result for the year.

It will also include an assessment of the impact on 2024 co-requisite and NCEA Level 1 achievement rates, taking into account students who were in Year 11 in 2024, who didn't achieve, but have achieved subsequently in 2025.

We will also provide data on the number of students enrolled in 2025, by year level who have met the overall co-requisite requirement², and those who have yet to meet it.

² This will include meeting the co-requisite requirement through the co-requisite assessments or through the additional list of literacy and numeracy rich achievement standards.

Key messages – Reading results for assessment event 2, 2025

- On 9 October, NZQA will release results for the Reading assessments students attempted in September.
- Reading results are released earlier than other NCEA co-requisite standards because the Reading assessment is a multiple-choice assessment, and all digital scripts are machine marked. This allows faster processing and quality assurance.
- The Reading achievement rate for September is 57.6%. This is lower than the Reading achievement rate from May 2025 (61.2%), but similar to achievement in the September 2024 rate.
- The decrease in achievement between May and September assessments was expected, as almost half the September candidates were resitting the assessment after not achieving it previously. Students who resit do achieve, but at a lower rate than students attempting the assessment for the first time.
- The achievement rate for students resitting the assessment in September was 43.8%.
- Year 10 students made up nearly two-thirds of those assessed with an achievement rate of 65.8%.
- Results for other co-requisite standards (Writing, Numeracy, Te Reo Matatini and Pāngarau) will be released on 20 October.