

2018 NCEA and University Entrance Attainment Statistics

Date:	29 March 2019	NZQA Priority:	High
Security Level:	In confidence	Report No.	CR18938

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	It is recommended you: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> note that final 2018 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics are now available. note that these national statistics are still subject to further control checks prior to release on NZQA's website on 16 April 2019. note that communications for the release will be provided to your office. note that schools will also be able to access all final attainment statistics (national, and for their school and other schools) via their secure NZQA login from 16 April 2019. note that the Ministry of Education has been consulted on this briefing. 	Immediate

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes

Round Robin No

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cellphone	1 st Contact
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The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

Ministry of Education
 Tertiary Education Commission
 Other (specify)

Minister's Office to Complete:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Approved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | |

Referred to:

Comments:

2018 NCEA and University Entrance Attainment Statistics

Recommended Action

It is recommended you:

- a. **note** that final 2018 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics are now available.
- b. **note** that these national statistics are still subject to further control checks prior to release on NZQA's website on 16 April 2019.
- c. **note** that communications for the release will be provided to your office.
- d. **note** that schools will also be able to access all final attainment statistics (national, and for their school and other schools) via their secure NZQA login from 16 April 2019.
- e. **note** that the Ministry of Education has been consulted on this briefing.

Proactive Release Recommendation

NZQA recommends you:

note that this report will not be proactively released until after the attainment statistics are published on 16 April 2019.



Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive

29 March 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

NOTED/APPROVED

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2018 NCEA and University Entrance Attainment Statistics

Purpose of Report

1. The final 2018 NCEA and University Entrance (UE) attainment statistics are now available. This report provides a high-level overview of these statistics, broken down by ethnicity, gender and decile, and comment on trends. Next steps for the release of the national statistics on 16 April 2019 are also discussed.
2. These statistics are still subject to further control checks prior to release on 16 April 2019.
3. The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) has been consulted on this briefing.

Background

4. You were provided with a briefing on 16 January 2019 outlining the provisional 2018 NCEA and University Entrance Attainment statistics¹. A further follow up briefing on findings from the Ministry and NZQA's investigation into the possible reasons for the decrease in Year 11 NCEA Level 1 attainment was provided to you on 1 March 2019 (METIS 1178051 refers).
5. These statistics are reported using the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment. All attainment data going back to 2008 has been recast again for the final 16 April 2019 release as some adjustments had to be made to school-level reporting rules (principally the 70-day attendance rule start and end definitions). Due to the recast, both the 2018 data and the recast historical data show slight differences to that reported to you on 16 January 2019.
6. The statistics measure Year 11 Level 1, Year 12 Level 2, Year 13 Level 3 and Year 13 UE attainment. This is the typical NCEA attainment pathway for students however NCEAs are achieved in different patterns to this, e.g. NCEA Level 2 attainment over two years (Year 11 and Year 12), or NCEA Level 2 attainment by Year 13. NZQA and the Ministry are closely monitoring changes in the patterns of NCEA attainment by students.

Comment

Overall national attainment

7. The final 2018 attainment statistics are as follows:
 - a. 71.8% of Year 11 students attained NCEA Level 1 (43,033 of 59,941)
 - b. 77.4% of Year 12 students attained NCEA Level 2 (42,929 of 55,496)
 - c. 66.2% of Year 13 students attained NCEA Level 3 (31,849 of 48,082)
 - d. 49.1% of Year 13 students were awarded UE (23,615 of 48,082)
8. As anticipated, the final overall national attainment statistics have increased.²
9. The final 2018 attainment statistics show that 2018 Year 11 NCEA Level 1 attainment has decreased by 3.1 percentage points on 2017 figures. Year 11 NCEA Level 1

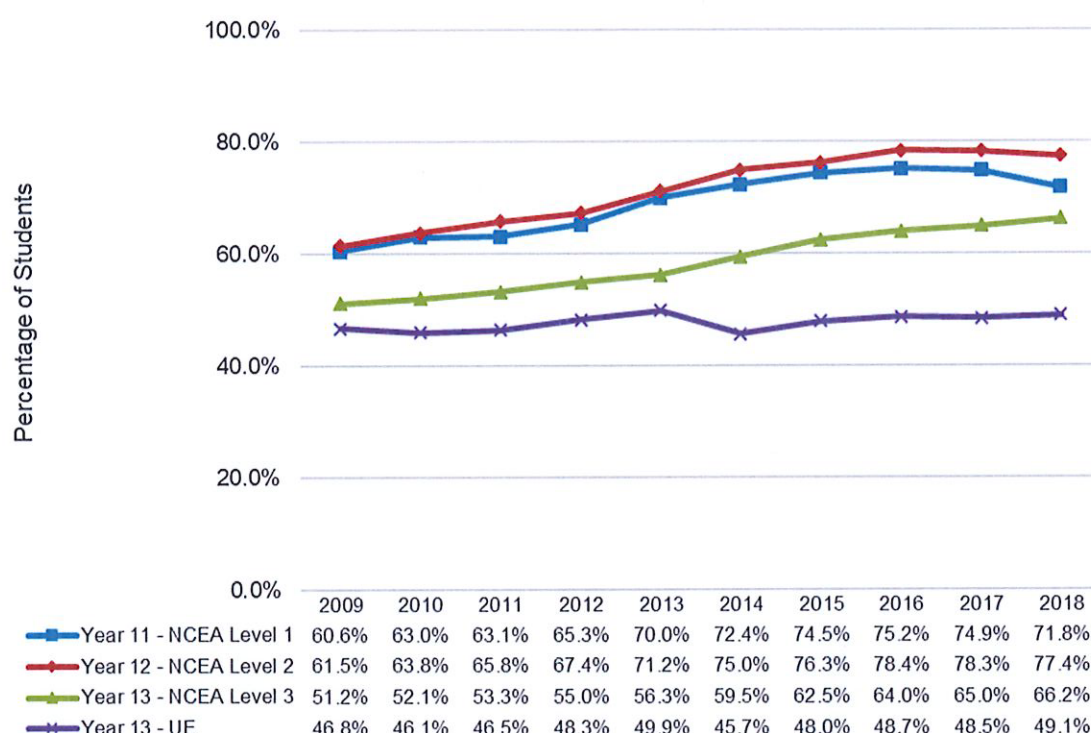
¹ Provisional 2018 NCEA and University Entrance Attainment Statistics, 16 January 2019, CR18480.

² This happens because some internally-assessed results are reported late by schools, and some students apply for a remark of some of their examination results which can result in further qualifications being awarded.

attainment first dropped in 2017 (by 0.3 percentage points on 2016). This downward trend has amplified somewhat in 2018.

10. The 2018 Year 12 NCEA Level 2 attainment has also decreased on 2017 figures, by 0.9 percentage points.
11. Year 13 NCEA Level 3 has continued to increase, up by 1.2 percentage points on 2017 figures. Year 13 University Entrance is relatively steady, increasing slightly, by 0.6 percentage points.
12. Figure 1 below gives a ten-year view of NCEA and UE attainment percentages³.

Figure 1: Enrolment-Based NCEA and University Entrance Attainment 2009-2018



National attainment by ethnicity, gender and decile band

13. Appendix 1 Tables 1 to 4 provide a more detailed breakdown of attainment for 2009 to 2018, including by ethnicity, gender and decile band.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1

14. The decline seen for the Year 11 NCEA Level 1 2018 attainment is reflected across the national statistics when broken down by decile band and by ethnicity, compared to the 2017 statistics. The percentage point drop is more pronounced for decile band 1 to 3 schools and for Māori and Pacific students than for higher decile schools and European and Asian students.

At the decile band

- a. A drop of 5.1 percentage points at Deciles 1-3 (58.1% - 6,565 of 11,299)
- b. A drop of 3.5 percentage points at Deciles 4-7 (74.5% - 19,301 of 25,924)
- c. A drop of 1.1 percentage points at Deciles 8-10 (80.6% - 17,000 of 21,102)

³ The drop in UE attainment in 2014 was a result of changes made to the requirements for the UE award.

By ethnicity

- a. A drop of 4.8 percentage points for Pacific students (62.1% - 4,634 of 7,458)
 - b. A drop of 4.8 percentage points for Māori students (57.9% - 8,460 of 14,603)
 - c. A drop of 3.0 percentage points for European students (77.3% - 29,431 of 38,068)
 - d. A drop of 0.5 percentage points for Asian students (76.4% - 5,680 of 7,431)
15. Investigations into the decrease in attainment for Year 11 Level 1 show that there has been a change in the pattern of assessment toward fewer Level 1 credits being assessed in Year 11 as well as a decline in attainment of literacy and numeracy credits. However, as reported to you, no single factor was found to be underpinning this change (METIS 1178051 refers). NZQA's ongoing discussions with schools in March have not revealed any additional insights at this stage. Nationally, student retention is steady. The Ministry and NZQA will continue to monitor the Year 11 2018 cohort closely, from both a retention and an achievement perspective.

Other trends

16. The slight decline seen for the 2018 Year 12 NCEA Level 2 attainment is reflected across the national statistics when broken down by decile band and by ethnicity, compared to the 2017 statistics. It is slightly more pronounced for Decile band 1 to 3 schools, and for Māori and Pacific students.
17. The increases seen for Year 13 NCEA Level 3 and UE attainment are similarly reflected across the national statistics when broken down by decile band and by ethnicity, compared to the 2017 statistics with the exception of Year 13 UE attainment for Pacific (a decrease of 0.3 percentage points) and Year 13 UE attainment for decile band 8 to 10 (a decrease of 0.8 percentage points).
18. These trends will be closely monitored.

Next steps

19. Final national 2018 NCEA, UE and Scholarship attainment statistics will be made available on NZQA's website on 16 April 2019.
20. NZQA and the Ministry have developed key messages and expected questions and answers to support the release of the statistics. These address the trends in attainment for 2018, and information about the enrolment-based measure.
21. NZQA will be publishing a communication on the website to coincide with the publishing of the 2018 statistics.
22. NZQA and the Ministry will work together and with your office in managing any communications requirements.
23. NZQA will publish an Annual Report on NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics at the end of May 2019. You will be provided with a briefing and a draft copy of the report by mid-May 2019.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Enrolment-Based National NCEA and University Entrance Attainment 2009-2018

	Year 11 - NCEA Level 1	Year 12 - NCEA Level 2	Year 13 - NCEA Level 3	Year 13 - UE
2009	60.6%	61.5%	51.2%	46.8%
2010	63.0%	63.8%	52.1%	46.1%
2011	63.1%	65.8%	53.3%	46.5%
2012	65.3%	67.4%	55.0%	48.3%
2013	70.0%	71.2%	56.3%	49.9%
2014	72.4%	75.0%	59.5%	45.7%
2015	74.5%	76.3%	62.5%	48.0%
2016	75.2%	78.4%	64.0%	48.7%
2017	74.9%	78.3%	65.0%	48.5%
2018	71.8%	77.4%	66.2%	49.1%

Table 2: Enrolment-Based National NCEA and University Entrance Attainment by Ethnicity 2009-2018

		Year 11 - NCEA Level 1	Year 12 - NCEA Level 2	Year 13 - NCEA Level 3	Year 13 - UE
Māori	2009	42.3%	43.4%	31.1%	25.0%
	2010	44.1%	47.4%	33.1%	24.6%
	2011	44.4%	50.6%	36.3%	26.4%
	2012	47.3%	52.5%	38.9%	28.3%
	2013	53.4%	58.2%	40.4%	30.1%
	2014	57.8%	63.5%	43.6%	25.0%
	2015	61.0%	66.8%	47.3%	27.6%
	2016	62.6%	70.5%	49.9%	28.0%
	2017	62.7%	70.2%	52.4%	29.3%
	2018	57.9%	68.1%	52.8%	29.4%
European	2009	68.6%	68.4%	57.5%	53.4%
	2010	71.4%	70.3%	58.2%	52.8%
	2011	70.9%	72.0%	59.1%	53.0%
	2012	73.3%	73.6%	60.0%	54.3%
	2013	76.8%	76.3%	61.0%	55.8%
	2014	78.7%	79.8%	64.4%	52.0%
	2015	80.1%	80.5%	67.1%	54.5%
	2016	80.5%	82.0%	68.1%	55.1%
	2017	80.3%	81.9%	68.4%	54.3%
	2018	77.3%	81.2%	69.9%	55.0%
Pacific Peoples	2009	42.7%	42.1%	27.4%	21.5%
	2010	44.2%	46.3%	32.3%	22.5%
	2011	46.4%	48.6%	34.2%	23.3%
	2012	49.8%	51.6%	39.5%	27.6%
	2013	58.2%	61.2%	42.9%	31.1%
	2014	61.8%	67.1%	46.8%	25.9%
	2015	66.3%	69.5%	51.5%	26.4%
	2016	66.4%	72.8%	53.9%	27.7%
	2017	66.9%	73.3%	58.4%	29.1%
	2018	62.1%	71.8%	58.9%	28.8%
Asian	2009	64.5%	66.3%	57.3%	54.6%
	2010	68.5%	66.5%	58.7%	55.8%
	2011	69.6%	69.0%	57.8%	54.4%
	2012	70.2%	70.3%	61.2%	58.0%
	2013	72.9%	72.5%	62.5%	59.7%
	2014	74.1%	74.1%	65.1%	55.8%
	2015	76.8%	74.4%	66.4%	57.4%
	2016	77.9%	77.2%	68.8%	58.8%
	2017	76.9%	77.6%	69.2%	59.2%
	2018	76.4%	76.8%	71.2%	60.8%

Table 3: Enrolment-Based National NCEA and University Entrance Attainment by Gender 2009-2018

		Year 11 - NCEA Level 1	Year 12 - NCEA Level 2	Year 13 - NCEA Level 3	Year 13 - UE
Female	2009	65.4%	67.1%	58.2%	52.8%
	2010	67.8%	69.0%	59.2%	52.6%
	2011	68.1%	70.9%	60.1%	52.8%
	2012	70.3%	72.0%	61.9%	55.1%
	2013	74.9%	75.2%	62.1%	55.4%
	2014	77.1%	79.2%	65.9%	52.1%
	2015	78.9%	80.1%	68.3%	54.3%
	2016	79.2%	81.8%	69.1%	54.8%
	2017	79.0%	81.2%	69.9%	54.7%
	2018	76.2%	80.8%	70.9%	55.1%
Male	2009	56.1%	56.0%	43.6%	40.3%
	2010	58.3%	58.6%	44.6%	39.3%
	2011	58.4%	60.7%	46.1%	39.9%
	2012	60.5%	63.0%	47.6%	41.0%
	2013	65.3%	67.2%	50.0%	44.0%
	2014	68.0%	70.9%	52.8%	38.9%
	2015	70.2%	72.6%	56.2%	41.3%
	2016	71.5%	75.1%	58.6%	42.2%
	2017	70.8%	75.4%	59.6%	41.8%
	2018	67.6%	74.0%	61.2%	42.7%

Table 4: Enrolment-Based National NCEA and University Entrance Attainment by School Decile Band 2009-2018

		Year 11 - NCEA Level 1	Year 12 - NCEA Level 2	Year 13 - NCEA Level 3	Year 13 - UE
Decile 1-3	2009	45.2%	44.7%	31.5%	25.1%
	2010	46.8%	48.7%	32.8%	23.4%
	2011	45.4%	51.8%	36.7%	25.5%
	2012	47.7%	53.8%	41.7%	29.5%
	2013	55.5%	59.9%	43.4%	31.3%
	2014	58.2%	65.0%	45.4%	24.0%
	2015	61.6%	67.9%	49.8%	26.3%
	2016	63.3%	70.8%	53.7%	28.1%
	2017	63.2%	71.1%	55.4%	27.3%
	2018	58.1%	69.3%	56.8%	27.8%
Decile 4-7	2009	61.9%	61.9%	50.4%	44.9%
	2010	63.7%	64.8%	51.3%	44.6%
	2011	64.8%	67.7%	52.7%	45.2%
	2012	66.7%	69.4%	55.1%	47.4%
	2013	71.1%	74.0%	57.7%	50.3%
	2014	74.5%	77.5%	59.6%	43.4%
	2015	77.1%	79.7%	64.3%	48.2%
	2016	78.0%	81.4%	65.1%	47.7%
	2017	78.0%	81.3%	66.0%	47.1%
	2018	74.5%	79.9%	66.6%	47.7%
Decile 8-10	2009	71.1%	72.6%	62.8%	59.9%
	2010	75.0%	74.2%	64.6%	60.3%
	2011	76.2%	75.8%	65.9%	61.4%
	2012	77.2%	77.5%	66.7%	62.7%
	2013	79.9%	79.8%	69.0%	65.6%
	2014	80.7%	81.8%	71.1%	61.4%
	2015	83.3%	82.8%	74.6%	64.8%
	2016	83.2%	85.0%	75.7%	66.3%
	2017	81.7%	84.6%	76.3%	66.1%
	2018	80.6%	83.9%	76.5%	65.3%