

Introducing the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools: Update on implementation planning

Date:	23 March 2018	NZQA Priority:	High
Security Level:	In confidence	Report No.	CR 17158

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	<p>a. note that the Ministry of Education and NZQA have made progress with implementation planning for the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools.</p> <p>b. note that the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure to the sector and to schools will occur from late May 2018 to align with other engagement activities with schools.</p> <p>c. note that at a national level, the reporting population for the new enrolment-based measure includes all students who are enrolled at a school during the reporting year for more than one day.</p> <p>d. note that the Ministry of Education and NZQA have reviewed the way school level NCEA attainment will be reported in the new enrolment-based measure, and that it will only include students who have been enrolled at that school for 70 or more days.</p> <p>e. note that the way school level attainment is reported will be consulted on with the sector and with schools.</p> <p>f. note that the Ministry of Education and NZQA advises that the contents of this briefing are not released at this time as consultation with the sector and schools will commence from late May 2018.</p>	Immediate

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes

Round Robin No

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cellphone	1 st Contact
Kristine Kilkelly	Deputy Chief Executive Assessment Division, NZQA	(04) 463 3379	redacted s9(2)(a)	√
Dr Craig Jones	Deputy Secretary Evidence, Data and Knowledge Ministry of Education	(04) 463 8654	redacted s9(2)(a)	

The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

Ministry of Education

Tertiary Education Commission

Other (specify)

Noted

Seen

Approved

Needs change

Withdrawn

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's comments

Declined

Referred to:

Comments:

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Recommended Action

It is recommended you:

- a. **note** that the Ministry of Education and NZQA have made progress with implementation planning for the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools.
- b. **note** that the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure to the sector and to schools will occur from late May 2018 to align with other engagement activities with schools.
- c. **note** that at a national level, the reporting population for the new enrolment-based measure includes all students who are enrolled at a school during the reporting year for more than one day.
- d. **note** that the Ministry of Education and NZQA have reviewed the way school level NCEA attainment will be reported in the new enrolment-based measure, and that it will only include students who have been enrolled at that school for 70 or more days.
- e. **note** that the way school level attainment is reported will be consulted on with the sector and with schools.
- f. **note** that the Ministry of Education and NZQA advises that the contents of this briefing are not released at this time as consultation with the sector and schools will commence from late May 2018.



Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive



Craig Jones (Dr)
Deputy Secretary
Evidence, Data and Knowledge

23/03/18

23 / 03 / 2018

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

NOTED/APPROVED

...../...../.....

Introducing the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools: Update on implementation planning

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides an update on planning for the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools, including how implementation aligns with other sector engagement activities schools are involved with.
2. It also updates you on further developments by the Ministry and NZQA in the reporting of NCEA attainment at the school level. We intend to consult with the sector and schools on school level reporting from late May 2018.

Background

3. The Ministry and NZQA provided you with a detailed briefing about the development of an enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment in November 2017 (METIS 1091110 refers).
4. The new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment will replace the current roll-based measure. The new measure gives a more complete picture of the attainment of all senior secondary students who are enrolled at schools, rather than just those enrolled on 1 July of the reporting year. It is also an opportunity to modernise NZQA's legacy reporting methodologies. The student population used for the new enrolment-based measure includes all students enrolled during the reporting year. If a student was enrolled for more than one day they are included in the student population. The focus of the new measure is on the achievement of New Zealand domestic students in Years 11 to 13, aged less than 19 years on 1 January of the reporting year.
5. The development of the new enrolment-based measure for reporting NCEA attainment has been guided by four principles:
 - more precision and consistency in constructing the student population and the measure;
 - following best practice to report by ethnicity using "total response" methodology (as recommended by Statistics New Zealand);
 - providing transparency for schools on which students' attainment is included in the measure; and
 - every learner counts at the national level.
6. Statistics New Zealand undertook a review of the new enrolment measure (October 2017) and agreed that it is best practice.
7. The proposed implementation date for the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment is January 2019, when the first reporting on 2018 NCEA attainment is provided to schools.

Reporting on school-level NCEA attainment

8. At the national level, the reporting population for the new enrolment-based measure includes all students who are enrolled at a school during the reporting year for more than one day.

9. The Ministry and NZQA have been considering what is fair and reasonable for reporting school-level NCEA attainment using the new enrolment-based measure.
10. We have also completed some analysis using enrolment data to understand how many students attended their last school for only a short period of time. In 2017, 4,880 students were enrolled at their last school for less than 70 days (which equates roughly to a term). Approximately one third of the 4,880 students were NZ European, and a third were NZ Māori.
11. The breakdown by school of the 4,880 students who were enrolled at their last school for less than 70 calendar days shows (as expected) that those schools most impacted are schools that:
 - work with 'second chance' students or students experiencing serious challenges (e.g. health and youth justice schools)
 - have a number of transient students or draw students from areas of known socio-economic deprivation
 - have small rolls
 - are dealing with broad systemic issues that are known to the Ministry, ERO and NZQA.
12. The Ministry and NZQA agree that it would not be fair or reasonable to include students who have only attended a school for a short period in an academic year in that school's attainment statistics. The school would not have had sufficient opportunity to engage the student in meaningful learning and assessment. Furthermore, including these students' attainment in schools they have attended for a short time would discourage schools from accepting enrolments from second chance learners. The agencies are exploring a range of reporting options to highlight this group of students, including creating a national level report on the attainment of these students.
13. The Ministry and NZQA are currently making the changes to the enrolment-based measure dataset to reflect this rule for school level reporting. We consider a 70-day time period as a reasonable time period within which meaningful learning and assessment can take place. This also aligns with the other main schooling attainment measure published at a school level - the School Leavers measure. This means that school level statistical reports of NCEA attainment will be consistent in the inclusion of students who have been enrolled at that school for 70 or more days.

Introducing the new enrolment-based measure to the sector and to schools

14. The introduction of the new enrolment-based measure to the sector and to schools will occur in two stages.
15. The first stage will occur just prior to the release of the 2017 final NCEA and University Entrance ("UE") attainment statistics on 11 April 2018. At this stage, the sector and schools will be advised that 2017 is the last year for which NZQA will be reporting NCEA and UE attainment using the current roll based measure, and that a new enrolment-based measure will be used from January 2019 to report on NCEA attainment for the 2018 school year. The sector and schools will be advised that detail about the new measure and its impact will be provided to them from late May onwards (CR17155 refers). A short item signalling the change will be included in the 4 April 2018 edition of the Ministry's Education Bulletin to school principals.
16. The second stage will outline the nature of the change. The Ministry and NZQA have rescheduled the date for this to start in late May 2018. This takes account of the other change activity underway in April and in May that will be occupying the attention of

secondary schools, for example the release of the NCEA Review discussion documents in April, and the Education Summits in May.

17. A timeline for the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools is attached as Appendix 1 to this briefing.
18. When the new measure is introduced to the sector and to schools in late May, the Ministry and NZQA will consult the sector and schools and seek their feedback on how school-level NCEA attainment is reported. We will be seeking their feedback on any unintended consequences from the way school level reporting is presented, particularly relating to the choice of the 70-day rule.
19. Following feedback from schools, the agreed rules for reporting on school-level attainment will be confirmed with Peak Bodies and schools by September 2018.

Next steps

20. The Ministry and NZQA will provide you with a joint briefing on the final 2017 NCEA and UE attainment statistics for 2017 on 5 April 2018.
21. A communications and engagement plan related to the new measure is currently being finalised and will be provided to your office by 11 April 2018.

Timeline for the introduction of the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment to the sector and to schools

Date	Item
27-28 March 2018	NZQA will contact the Peak Bodies to advise them that the 2017 final attainment statistics for NCEA and UE will be the last year for which NZQA uses the roll-based measure, and that this change will be signalled in the public release of the final 2017 statistics on 11 April 2018.
3 April 2018	NZQA will send letters to principals advising them that the 2017 final attainment statistics for NCEA and UE will be released on 11 April 2018, and that the 2017 statistics is the last year for which NZQA uses the roll-based measure. Our intention is to consult on the school based measure and how this will work at a school level.
4 April 2018	The 4 April edition of the Education Bulletin will include a brief item advising the change outlined above.
5 April 2018	Joint NZQA/MOE report to you on 2017 final NCEA and UE attainment statistics using the current roll-based attainment measure.
11 April 2018	<p>NZQA issues a press release on the final NCEA and UE statistics.</p> <p>NZQA to signal in the press release that 2017 is the last year for which NZQA will be reporting NCEA and UE attainment using the roll-based measure.</p>
End of May 2018	<p>The Peak Bodies will be briefed face to face.</p> <p>School principals will receive a letter about the new enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment, including an invitation to provide feedback on specific questions about how school-level NCEA attainment is reported. Follow up contact with every school will be made by NZQA's School Relationship Managers to answer any questions they may have regarding the consultation.</p>
First two weeks of June 2018	<p>NZQA provides schools online access to their school's statistics reports showing their statistics with the new measure applied.</p> <p>NZQA provides guidance material to assist schools in understanding the measure and the changes to their school-level statistics reports. NZQA School Relationship Managers and the Ministry's Directors of Education support schools to understand the changes.</p> <p>NZQA invites schools to feedback on specific questions about how school-level NCEA attainment is reported, focusing on the 70-day attribution rule.</p>
Mid-July 2018	NZQA receives and considers feedback from Peak Bodies and schools.
Late-July 2018	NZQA and the Ministry consider feedback and any changes that are required to how school-level NCEA attainment is reported using the new measure.

August – September 2018	The agreed rules for reporting on school-level attainment are confirmed with Peak Bodies and schools.
January 2019	2018 NCEA attainment is reported using the new enrolment -based measure of NCEA attainment.