

Myth 9

Derived grades

FACT 1



Derived grades are for external assessments

Derived grades can only be used for external assessments because they provide a result for a student who:

- couldn't attend an external exam or assessment
- couldn't submit a portfolio for external assessment
- attended an external assessment but their performance was significantly impaired.

PTO for more facts and myths

Facts

- Schools must collect evidence for derived grades in a way that mirrors how NZQA assesses an external standard. The format and conditions should be similar, for example, formal practice assessments.
- Sufficiently modifying past NZQA assessments and keeping commercially produced practice assessments secure helps to maintain authentic evidence.
- Students should sit their exams and assessments whenever possible because NZQA will award the higher of the exam grade and the derived grade.
- NZQA approves derived grades. If a school does not support a student's application, they must still submit it to NZQA.
- Students can appeal to NZQA when derived grade applications are declined.
- Students selected for national representation in a sport, cultural or academic event must apply for derived grade pre-approval.
- Like all external assessment results, derived grades are provisional until confirmed by NZQA.
- The derived grade process is not available for New Zealand Scholarship as it's a competitive award.

Myths

- Results from internally assessed standards can be submitted as derived grades.
- Evidence for derived grades can be partial and naturally occurring in learning activities.
- A teacher can collect a derived grade after a student misses an NZQA exam.
- Derived grades from practice assessments do not need to be quality assured.
- I can predict the grade based on my professional judgement.
- Unmodified NZQA exam papers can be used to generate a derived grade.
- A student cannot apply for a derived grade if they sat the examination.

More points about derived grades

- Senior management is responsible for ensuring that derived grades are based on valid, authentic evidence that's been quality assured.
- A student making an individual application doesn't have to apply for a derived grade if the reported grade would be Not Achieved.
- Derived grades are for events at the time of the external assessment, for example, temporary illness, injury, bereavement or misadventure.
- Students suffering from long-term or recurring conditions may be entitled to Special Assessment Conditions. They may be eligible for a derived grade if there is a sudden or significant change to their condition just before an external assessment, but they may have to accept that results from practice assessments may be affected by their conditions and that derived grades wouldn't be appropriate.