

ANNUAL REPORT
NCEA, UNIVERSITY
ENTRANCE AND NZ
SCHOLARSHIP DATA
AND STATISTICS

2020

MAY 2021



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

NZQA's external examinations

144,222 from **499**
students schools

1,078,199
external entries
(NCEA and NZ Scholarship)

140 held at **415**
examination centres
sessions

1,563
markers

6,547
examination centre
managers and supervisors

58
digital
examinations in

21 subjects

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Introduction

The Annual Report on NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2020) summarises the results of New Zealand's senior secondary students achieving the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) and New Zealand Scholarship in 2020.

The statistics in this Annual Report were produced from data that was finalised on 2 April 2021. Graphs of the statistics include information from previous years to show trends, generally covering the ten years 2011 to 2020.

This Annual Report reflects on a year considerably disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The outstanding commitment of schools, students and whānau is reflected in increased levels of attainment and deserves to be recognised.



Andrea Gray
Deputy Chief Executive
Assessment Division
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Despite these improvements, attainment amongst Māori and Pasifika students is still proportionately lower than for other groups. This is particularly marked in attainment of NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance, a situation which needs to be comprehensively and strongly addressed if New Zealand's communities and economy are to reach their potential.

Electronic copies of this report and most of the data used in this report can be found on the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/statistics

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority is pleased to present the statistics contained in this report.



Dr Grant Klinkum
Chief Executive
New Zealand Qualifications Authority



**Purpose
of this Report**

This report provides information about the attainment of secondary-school qualifications administered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). Its primary focus is the main New Zealand secondary school qualifications, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) at Levels 1, 2, and 3. It also reports on the attainment of Literacy and Numeracy, Certificate Endorsement, Course Endorsement, University Entrance, and New Zealand Scholarship.¹

Specific notes about 2020 attainment

In 2020, teaching, learning and assessment were disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 threat including four weeks of school closure over the March/April period, and further restrictions of two weeks in August in the Auckland region.

To recognise the disruption, changes were made to the NCEA and University Entrance award criteria for 2020.

For New Zealand students the following changes were made:

- For every 5 credits a student achieved towards their NCEA through internal or external assessment, they were awarded an additional 1 credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 were eligible for up to a maximum of 10 additional credits while those at Levels 2 or 3 were eligible for up to a maximum of 8 additional credits. These are known as Learning Recognition (LR) credits.
- Students were awarded a certificate endorsement if they achieved 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50.
- Students achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course – rather than 14 – were awarded a course endorsement.

The report also provides information and statistics related to the processes used to administer NCEA. These include:

- Reviews and reconsiderations of examination results
- External moderation of internal assessments
- Breaches of examination rules, and
- Special Assessment Conditions (SAC).

- Current University Entrance requirements were reduced to 12 credits in three University Entrance-approved subjects, from 14 credits in each of three approved subjects. Students still needed to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet the literacy and numeracy requirement to be awarded University Entrance.

Additional changes for Auckland region students:

- For every 4 credits a student achieved towards their NCEA through internal or external assessment, they were awarded an additional 1 credit. Students at NCEA Level 1 were eligible for up to a maximum of 16 additional credits while those at Levels 2 or 3 were eligible for up to a maximum of 12 additional credits.
- Students were awarded a certificate endorsement if they achieved 44 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50.

In addition, dates for external examinations and portfolio submissions were delayed, providing students with more teaching and learning time in term 4.

Caution should be exercised when comparing 2020 attainment data with previous years.

¹ Some students pursue non-NCEA qualifications (e.g. Cambridge Assessment International Education or International Baccalaureate). These non-NCEA qualifications are not included in this report.

Attainment statistics are reported for three types of student cohorts

Attainment statistics are used for multiple purposes. These include monitoring of standards, of student attainment, and of the quality of assessment(s). This diversity of purpose requires different types of statistics. There are three types of percentage statistics presented in this report. Each type is distinguished by the underlying denominator used to compute the percentages. The denominators used are based on cohorts.

The three types of cohorts are:

- Enrolment-based cohort
- Tracked Year 11 cohort
- All NZQA secondary students' cohort.

Each cohort is explained in this section. Further information about cohorts is found in **Appendix I**.

Enrolment-based cohort

The Enrolment-based cohort consists of New Zealand domestic students in Years 11 to 13 (aged less than 19 years on 1 January) with a Ministry of Education recorded enrolment of one day or more in the academic year concerned.

In 2020, there were 163,936 students in the enrolment-based cohort. In addition, there were 14,349 international students and 3,703 adult students enrolled in Years 11 to 13 who are not included in the enrolment-based cohort.

Each year there are students at secondary school who undertake courses which are not assessed using standards administered by NZQA such as Accelerated Christian Education (ACE), Cambridge Assessment International Education, or International Baccalaureate. These students are included in the Enrolment-based cohort, but their attainment of these alternative awards is not included.

Tracked Year 11 cohort

The Tracked Year 11 cohort is formed from the Enrolment-based Student cohort. More formally, it is Year 11 students from the Enrolment-based Student cohort. Students in a Tracked Year 11 cohort are monitored from the beginning of their Year 11 year for three years of schooling for attainment of NCEA qualifications. For example, the 2018 Tracked Year 11 cohort is made up of the Year 11 students from the Enrolment-based Student cohort of 2018. This cohort's attainment rates of NCEA qualifications are reported as at the end of 2020. If a student leaves secondary schooling before the end of three years, they are still in the tracked cohort; however, any tertiary attainment is not included. If a student is a Year 11 in multiple years, their progress is tracked from the first year they are in Year 11.

'All NZQA secondary students' cohort

The 'All NZQA secondary students' cohort includes every student result reported to NZQA, including New Zealand international fee-paying students, students from the Cook Islands and Niue, adult students, and students outside years 11-13.

The following sections use this cohort:

- New Zealand Scholarship
- Results by Standard Type
- NCEA Administrative processes and data.

Summary

The Enrolled Student cohort consists of New Zealand Year 11-13 domestic students with a Ministry of Education recorded enrolment of one day or more. The Tracked Year 11 cohort consists of Year 11 students from the Enrolled Student cohort, and tracks their NCEA attainments from Year 11 for up to three years of secondary schooling. The 'All NZQA secondary students' cohort includes all secondary students reported to NZQA.

**NCEA and University
Entrance Attainment**

Introduction

This section reports NCEA qualification and University Entrance attainment statistics. It utilises two types of attainment statistics:

- Enrolment-based cohort statistics
- Tracked Year 11 cohort statistics.

Enrolment-based Cohort Statistics

The statistics are presented as a percentage of the number of students who attain NCEA qualifications out of the total number of students enrolled at a New Zealand secondary school.

A brief description of the data used in producing the statistics in this section follows.

Number of students who achieve NCEA qualifications or University Entrance

The number of students who attain NCEA qualifications is defined as the number of students who attain NCEA Levels 1, 2, or 3, in Year 11, Year 12, and Year 13, respectively. That is, the number of students who attain:

- NCEA Level 1 by the end of Year 11
- NCEA Level 2 by the end of Year 12
- NCEA Level 3 by the end of Year 13.

The Enrolment-based cohort statistics show attainment as a percentage of the number of students reported to the Ministry of Education as being enrolled at a New Zealand secondary school. The Tracked Year 11 cohort statistics quantify attainment over the three years of senior secondary schooling.

For the University Entrance award it is the number of students in Year 13 awarded University Entrance by the end of Year 13.

A cumulative attainment percentage is used.

This definition includes students in that year who achieved the qualification concerned in an earlier year. For example, a student who is in Year 10 in 2019 and achieved level 1 in that year and is in Year 11 in 2020 would be included as a Year 11 having achieved level 1 in 2020.

Total number of students from the Enrolment-based cohort

The total number of students in the Enrolment-based cohort refers to the total number of New Zealand domestic students in Years 11 to 13 (aged less than 19 years on 1 January).

Statistics related to University Entrance

New University Entrance requirements came into effect from 1 March 2014. The impact of the change was a reduction in the 2014 University Entrance attainment rates from those in 2013. The reduction was an expected outcome from the change in University Entrance requirements.

Figures 1-13 show Enrolment-based attainment rates, between genders, ethnicities, and school decile bands for the three levels of NCEA qualification and University Entrance.

Enrolment-based Year 11 Students Attaining NCEA Level 1, Year 12 Students Attaining NCEA Level 2, Year 13 Students Attaining NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance

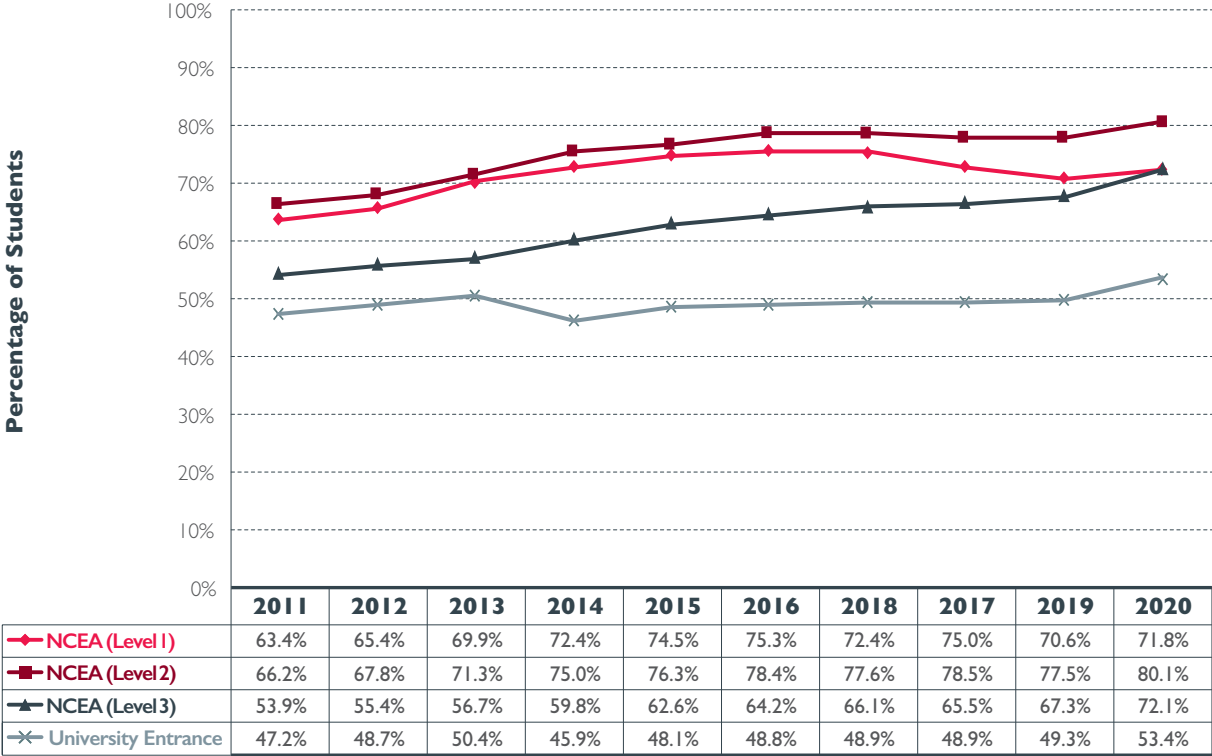


Figure 1. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 11 to 13 students attaining NCEA Levels 1-3 and University Entrance.

Statistics by Gender

Figures 2-5 show Enrolment-based attainment rates of male and female students. Students with "unknown gender" have been omitted from these tables.

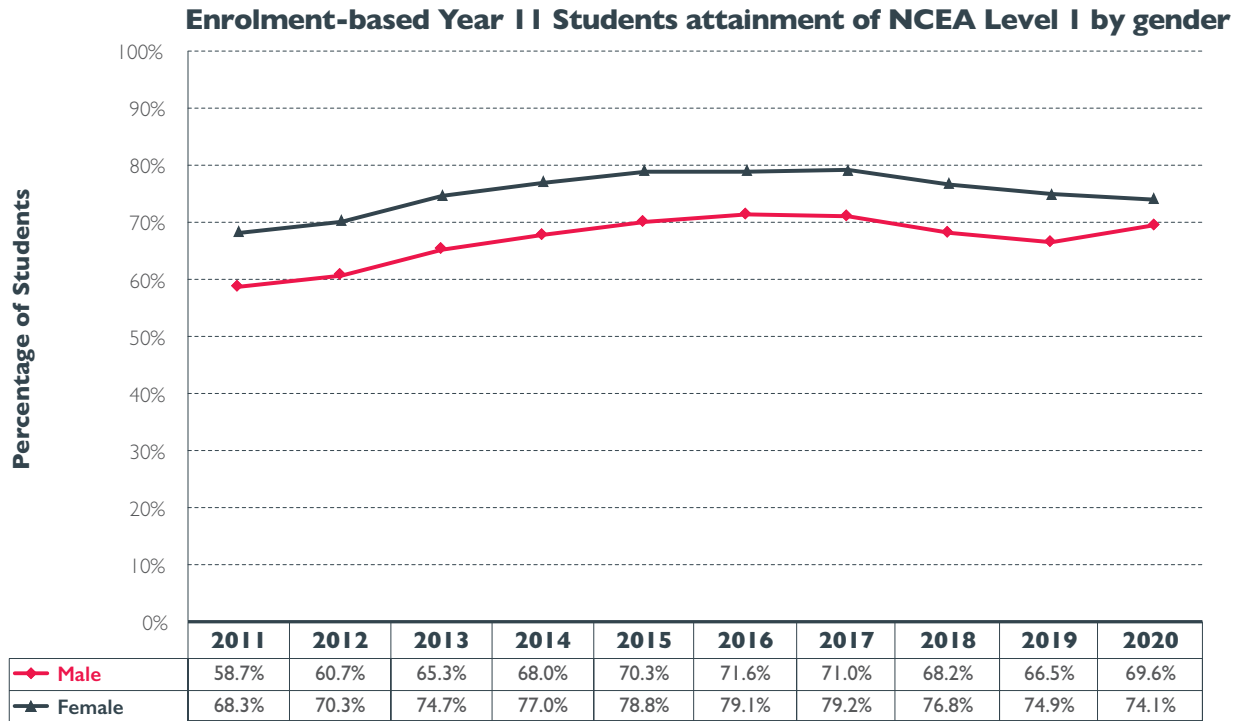


Figure 2. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 11 students attaining NCEA Level 1 by gender.

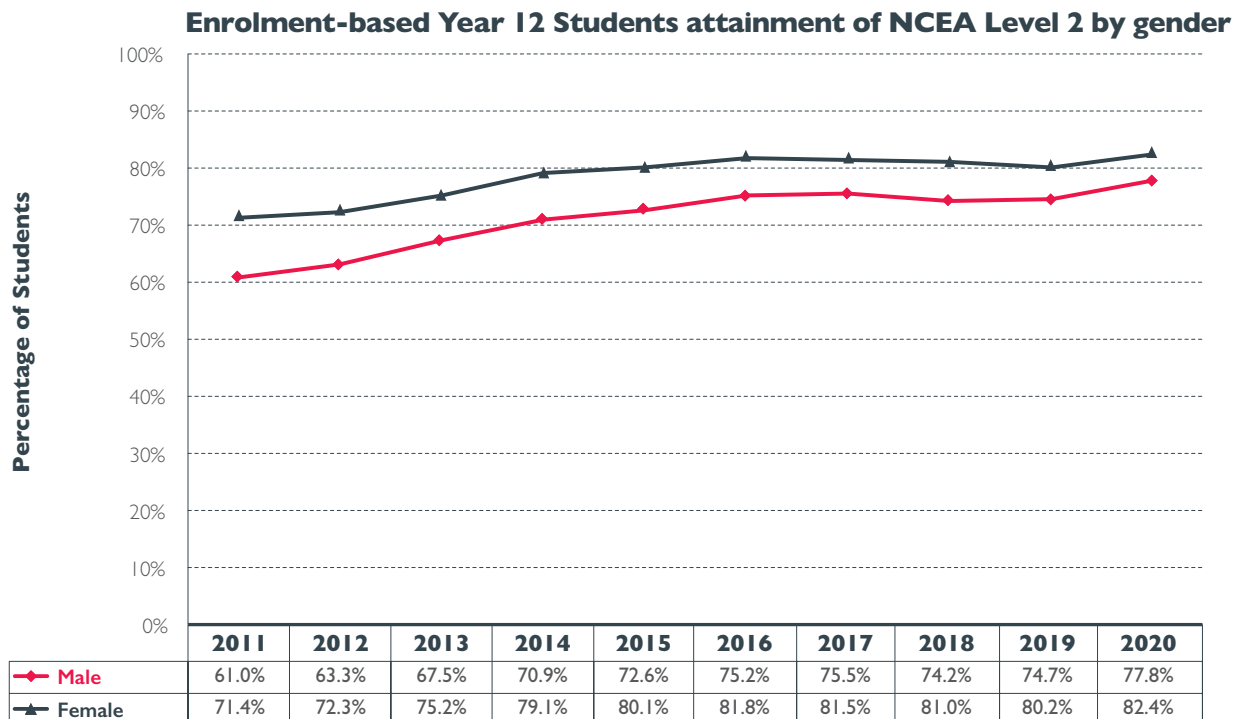


Figure 3. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 12 students attaining NCEA Level 2 by gender.

Enrolment-based Year 13 Students attainment of NCEA Level 3 by gender

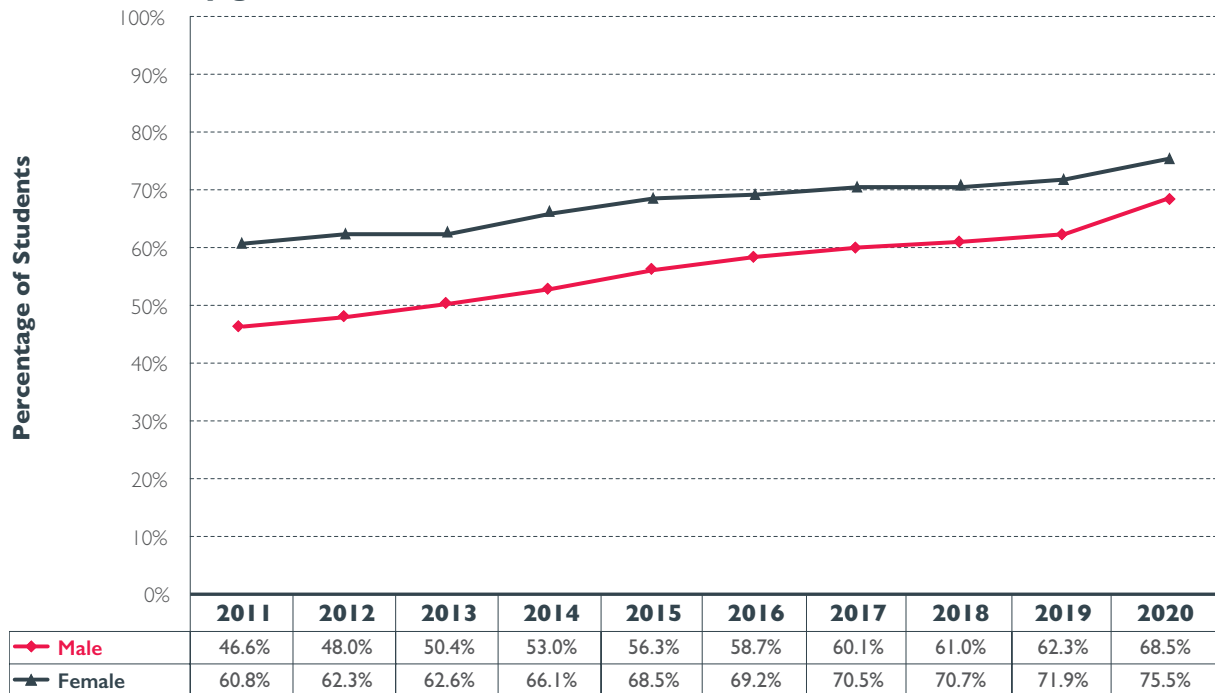


Figure 4. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 13 students attaining NCEA Level 3 by gender.

Enrolment-based Year 13 Students attainment of University Entrance by gender

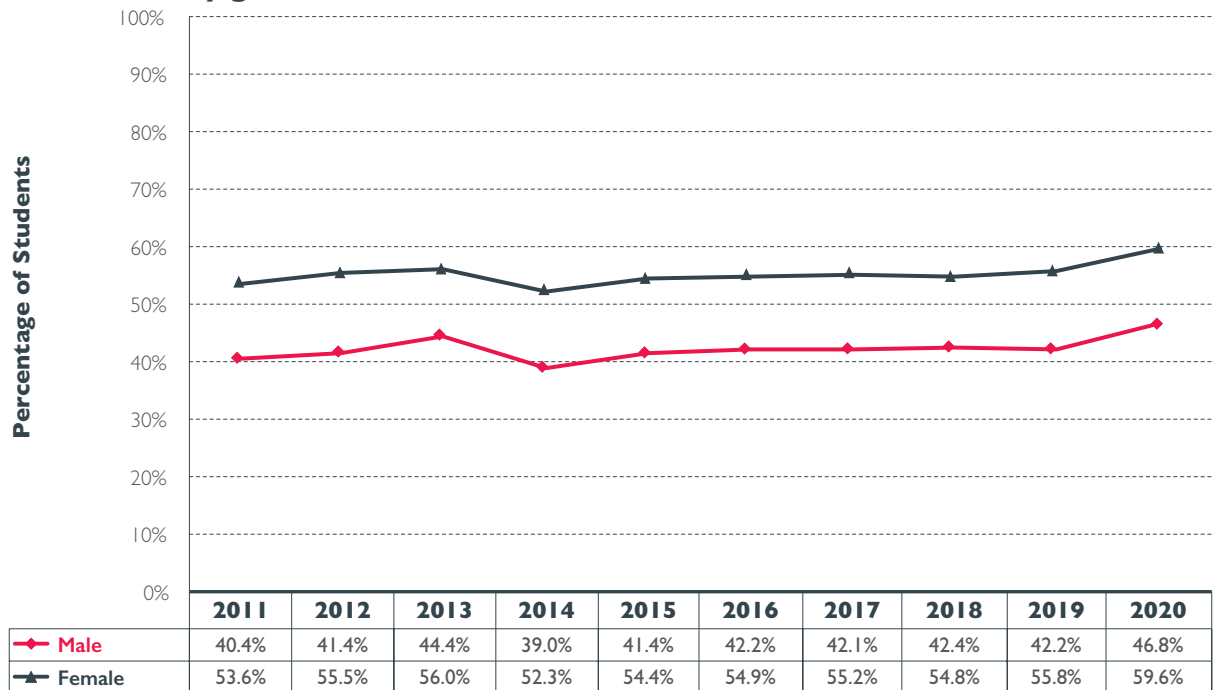


Figure 5. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 13 students attaining University Entrance by gender.

Statistics by Ethnicity

Figures 6-9 show Enrolment-based attainment rates for Asian, European, Māori, and Pacific students.

Students from the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) grouping are omitted from the graphs. For data used in this report with the MELAA ethnic group included please refer to the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/statistics

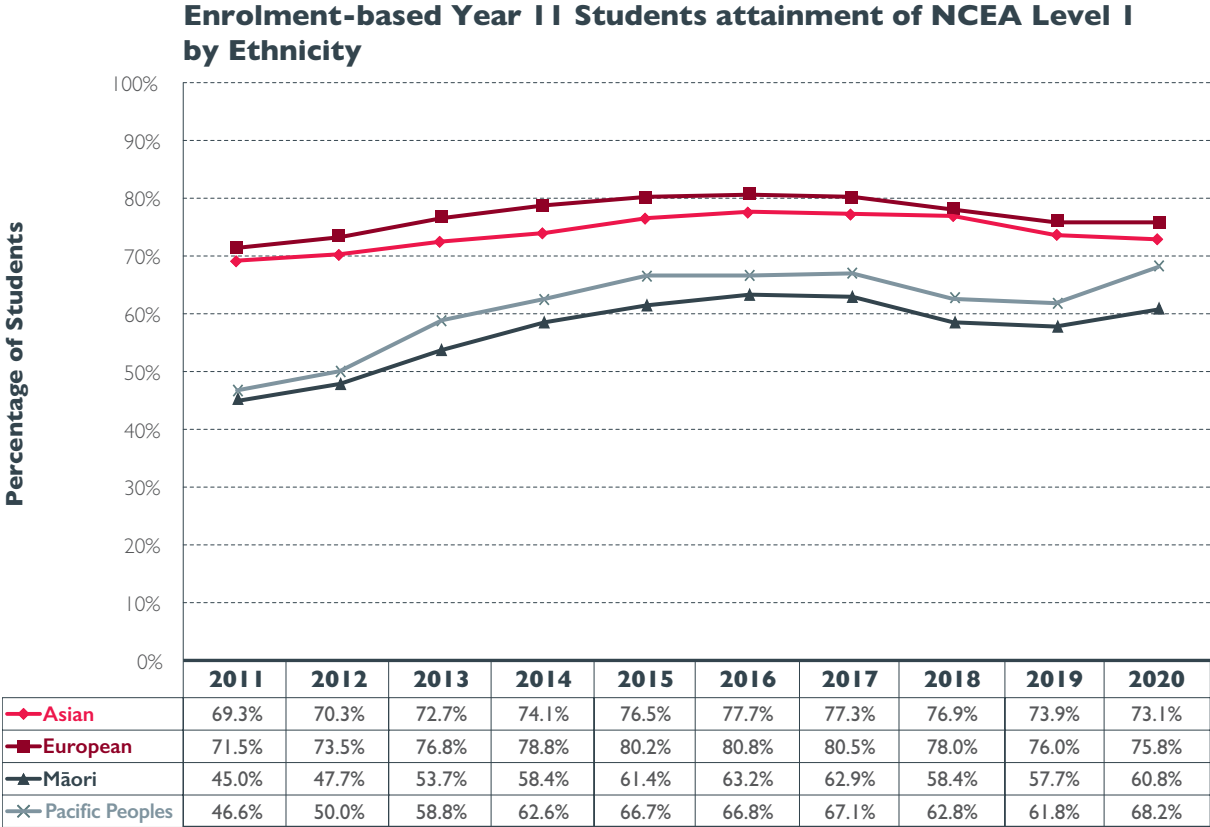


Figure 6. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 11 students attaining NCEA Level 1 by ethnicity.

Enrolment-based Year 12 Students attainment of NCEA Level 2 by Ethnicity

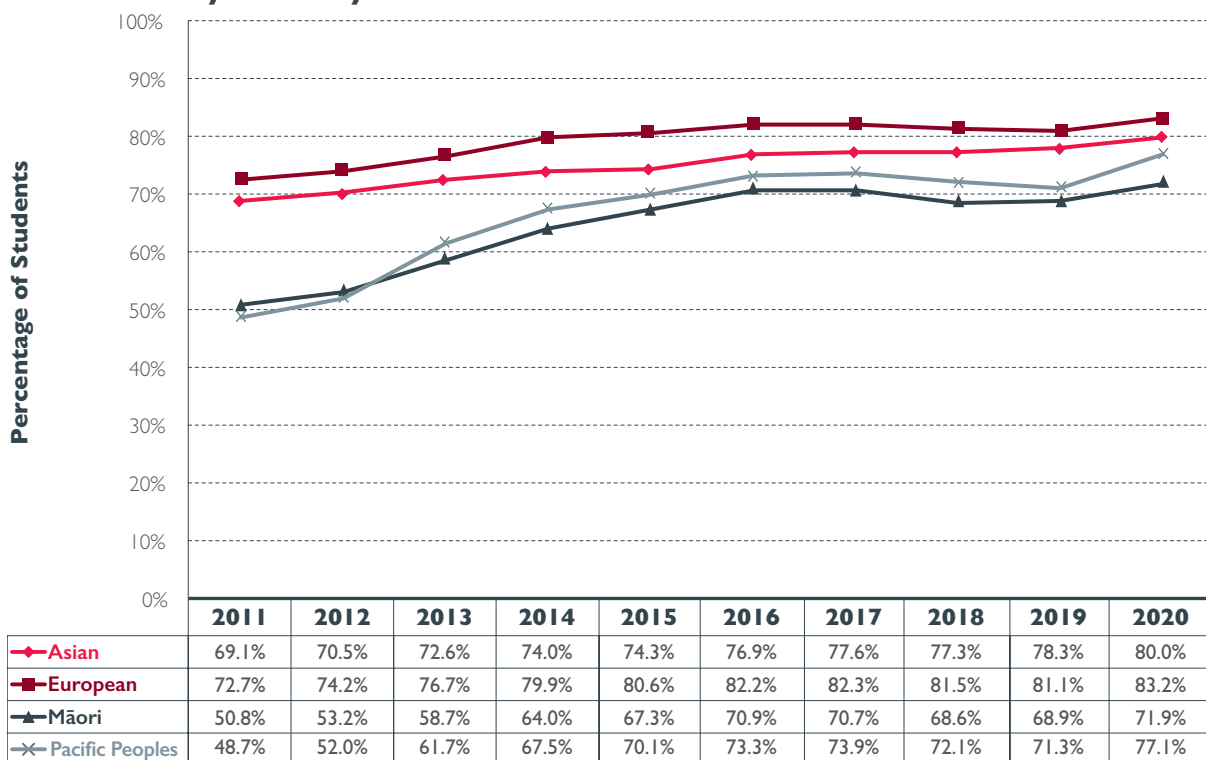


Figure 7. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 12 students attaining NCEA Level 2 by ethnicity.

Enrolment-based Year 13 Students attainment of NCEA Level 3 by Ethnicity

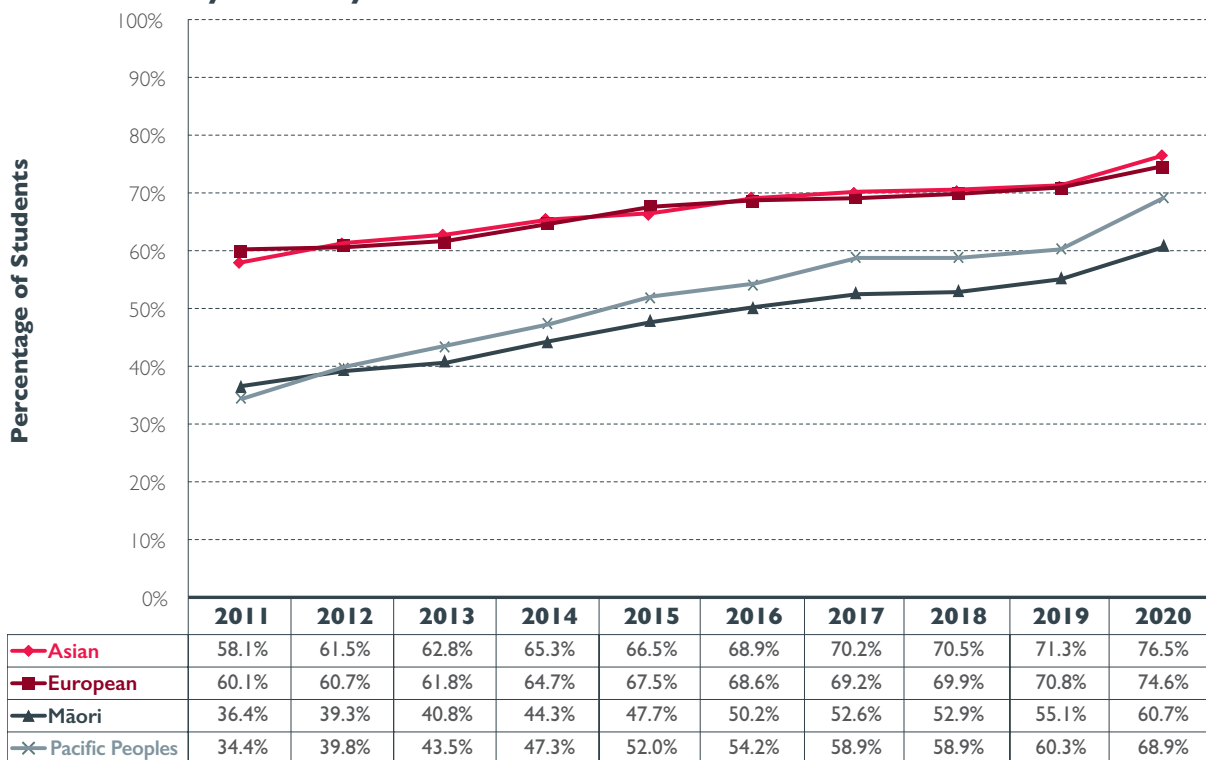


Figure 8. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 13 students attaining NCEA Level 3 by ethnicity.

Enrolment-based Year 13 Students attainment of University Entrance by Ethnicity

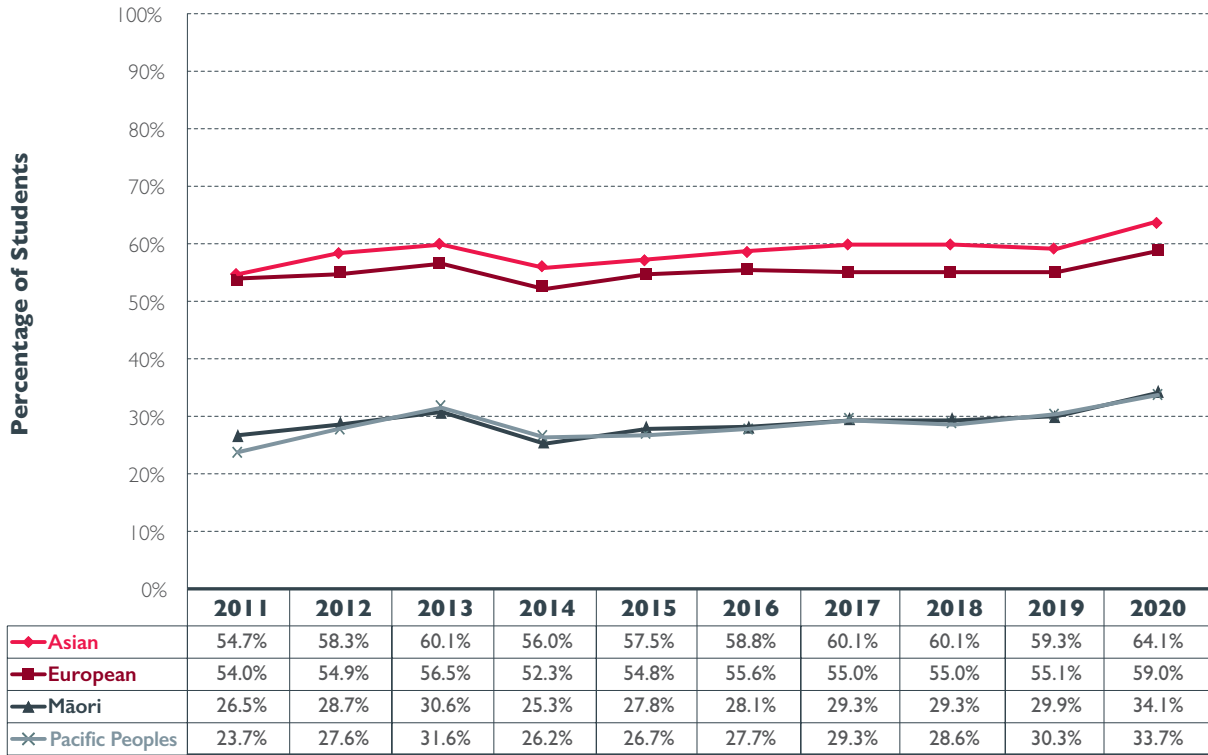


Figure 9. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 13 students attaining University Entrance by ethnicity.

Statistics by School Decile Band

Figures 10-13 show Enrolment-based attainment rates between School Decile Bands 1-3, 4-7, and 8-10.

There are a few schools with no specified decile, and their data have been omitted from these statistics.

A school's decile rating gives an indication of the average socio-economic level of students at the school, but it does not necessarily reflect the circumstances of particular students.

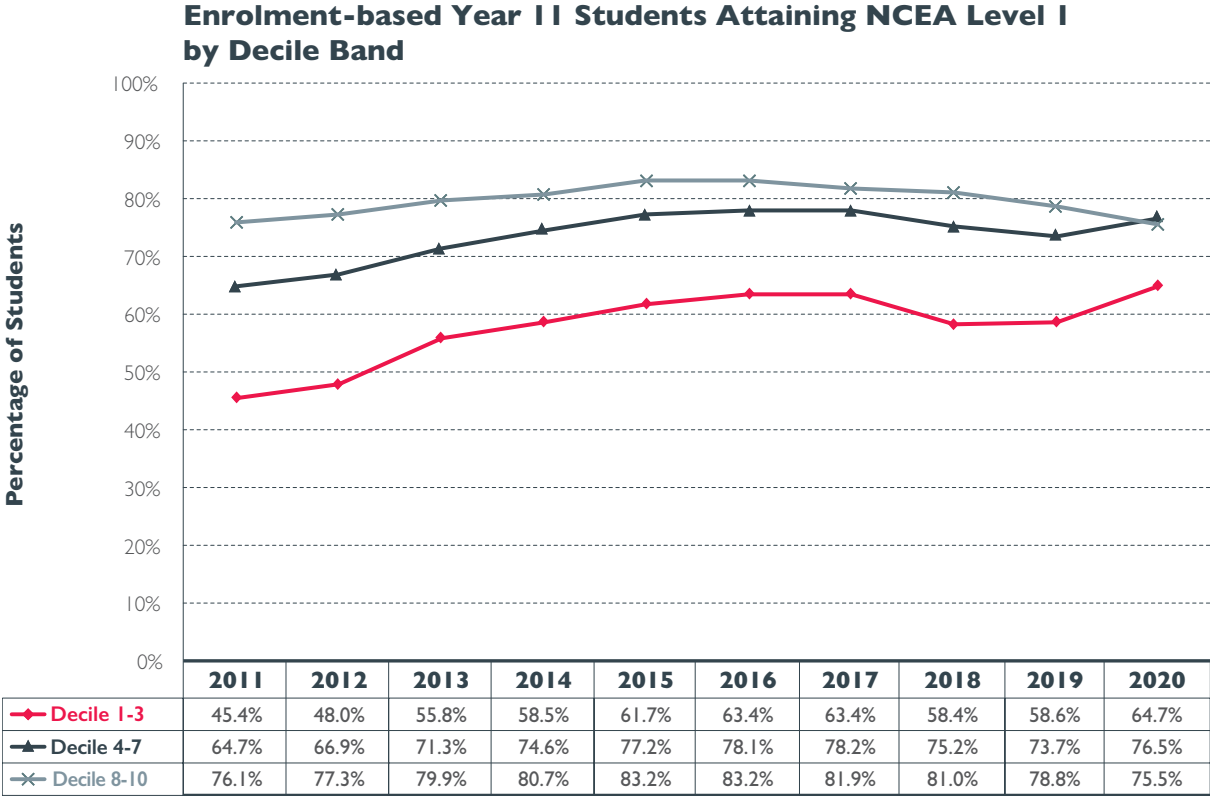


Figure 10. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 11 students attaining NCEA Level 1 by school decile band.

Enrolment-based Year 12 Students Attaining NCEA Level 2 by Decile Band

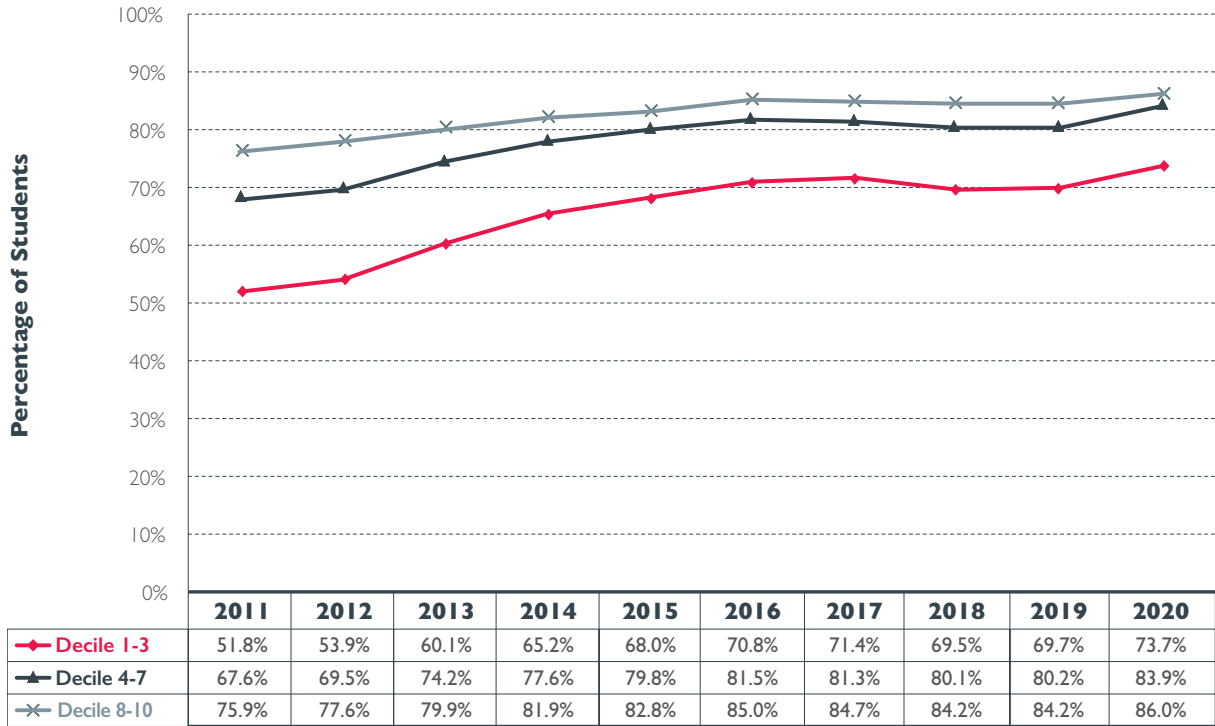


Figure 11. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 12 students attaining NCEA Level 2 by school decile band.

Enrolment-based Year 13 Students Attaining NCEA Level 3 by Decile Band

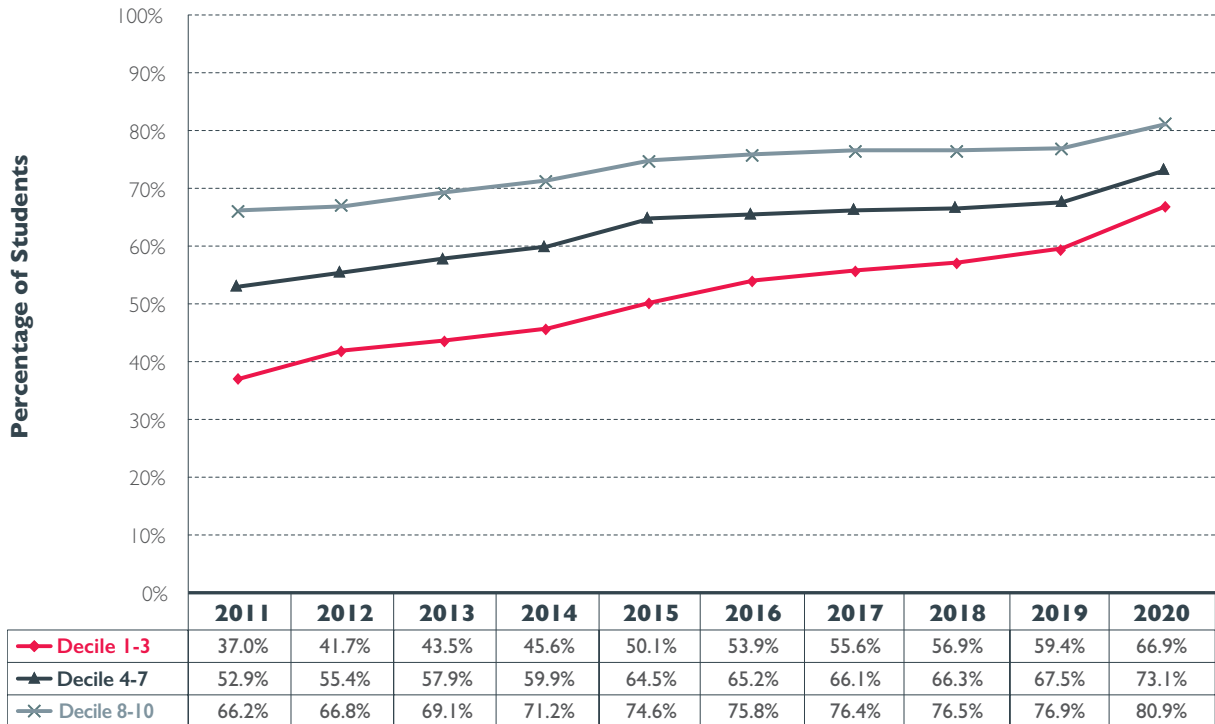


Figure 12. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 13 students attaining NCEA Level 3 by school decile band.

Enrolment-based Year 13 Students Attaining University Entrance by Decile Band

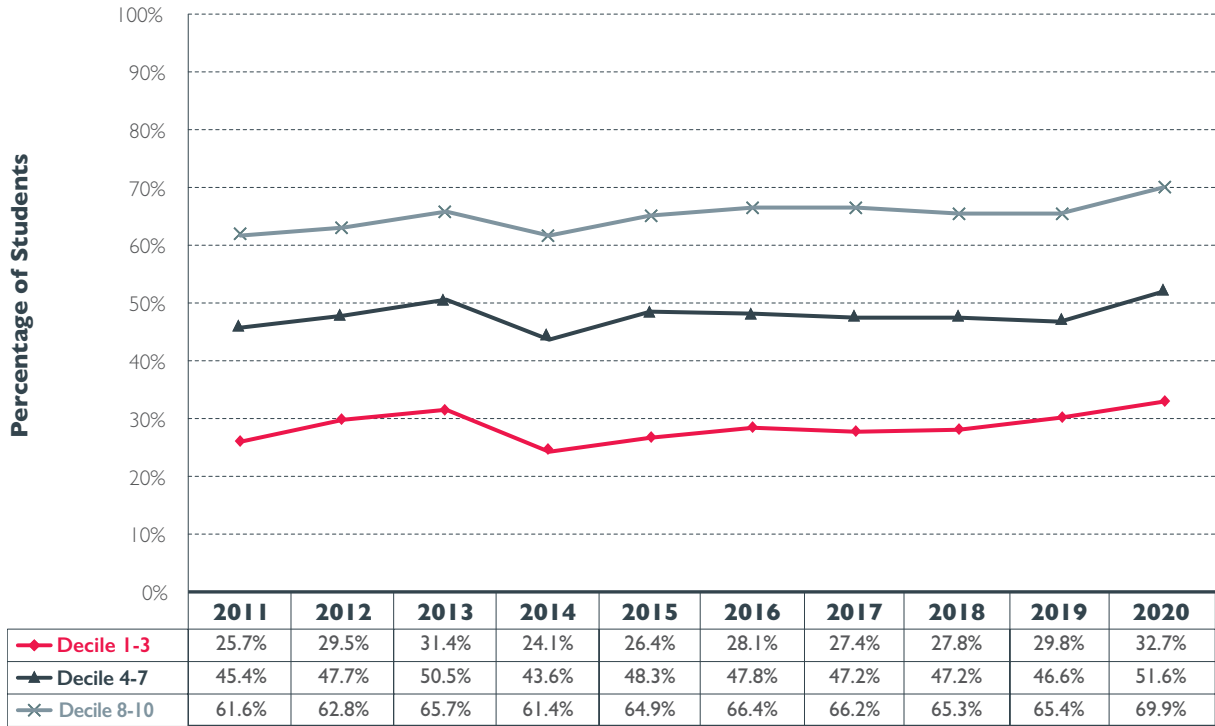


Figure 13. Enrolment-based attainment rates of Year 13 students attaining University Entrance by school decile band.

Tracked Year 11 Cohort Statistics

The Tracked Year 11 cohort statistics quantify attainment over the three years of senior secondary schooling. For example, the Tracked 2018 Year 11 cohort is formed from the students in the 2018 Enrolled Students cohort who are Year 11 students. Students who leave school before the end of 2020 remain a part of the cohort, and their attainments up to their departure from schools are still included. The tracked cohort statistics are also presented by gender and ethnicity.

Some students pursue non-NCEA qualifications (e.g. Accelerated Christian Education, Cambridge Assessment International Education, or International Baccalaureate). These attainments are not included in the tracked cohort figures.

Figure 14 shows the attainment rates of NCEA Level 1, NCEA Level 2, NCEA Level 3, and University Entrance for the Tracked Year 11 cohort for the years 2009 to 2018.

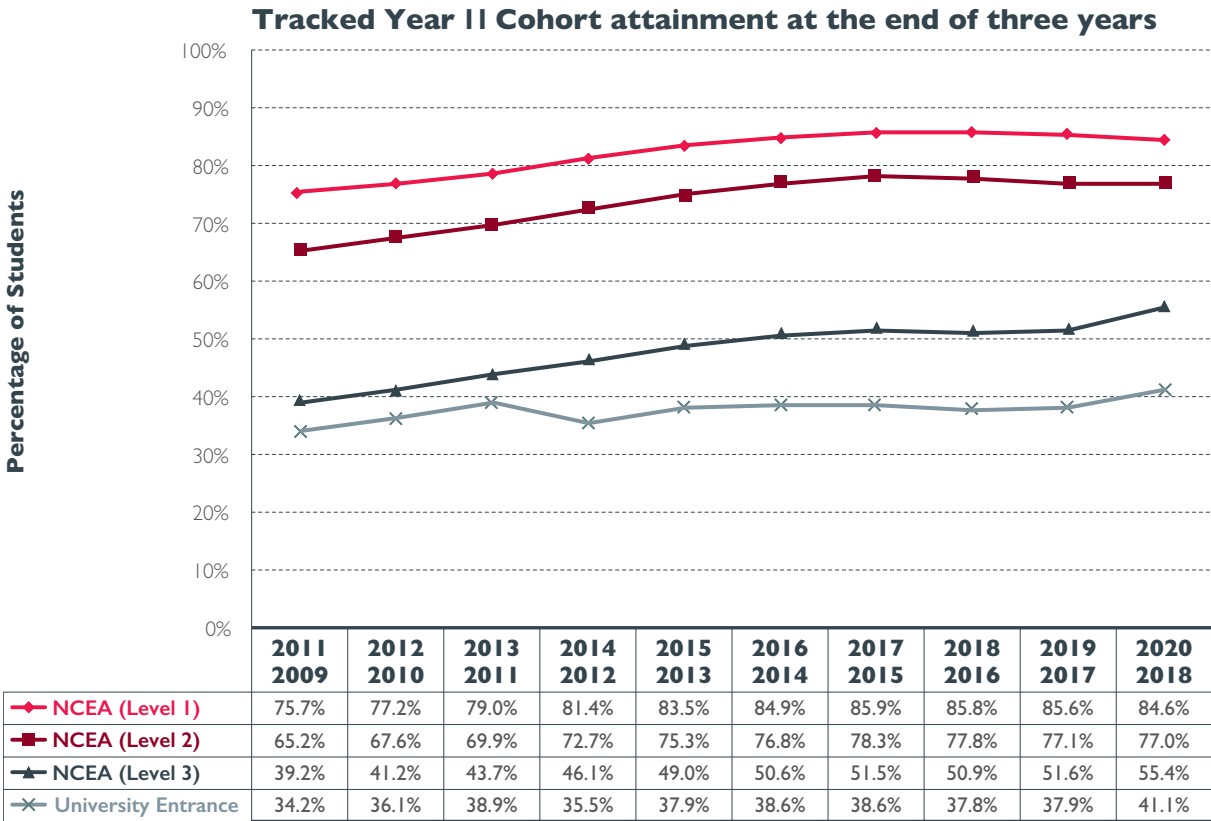


Figure 14. Attainment rates of tracked Year 11 cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Statistics by Gender

Figures 15-18 show the male and female attainment rates of NCEA Level 1, NCEA Level 2, NCEA Level 3, and University Entrance for the Tracked Year 11 cohort, for the years 2009 to 2018. Students with “unknown gender” have been omitted from this table.

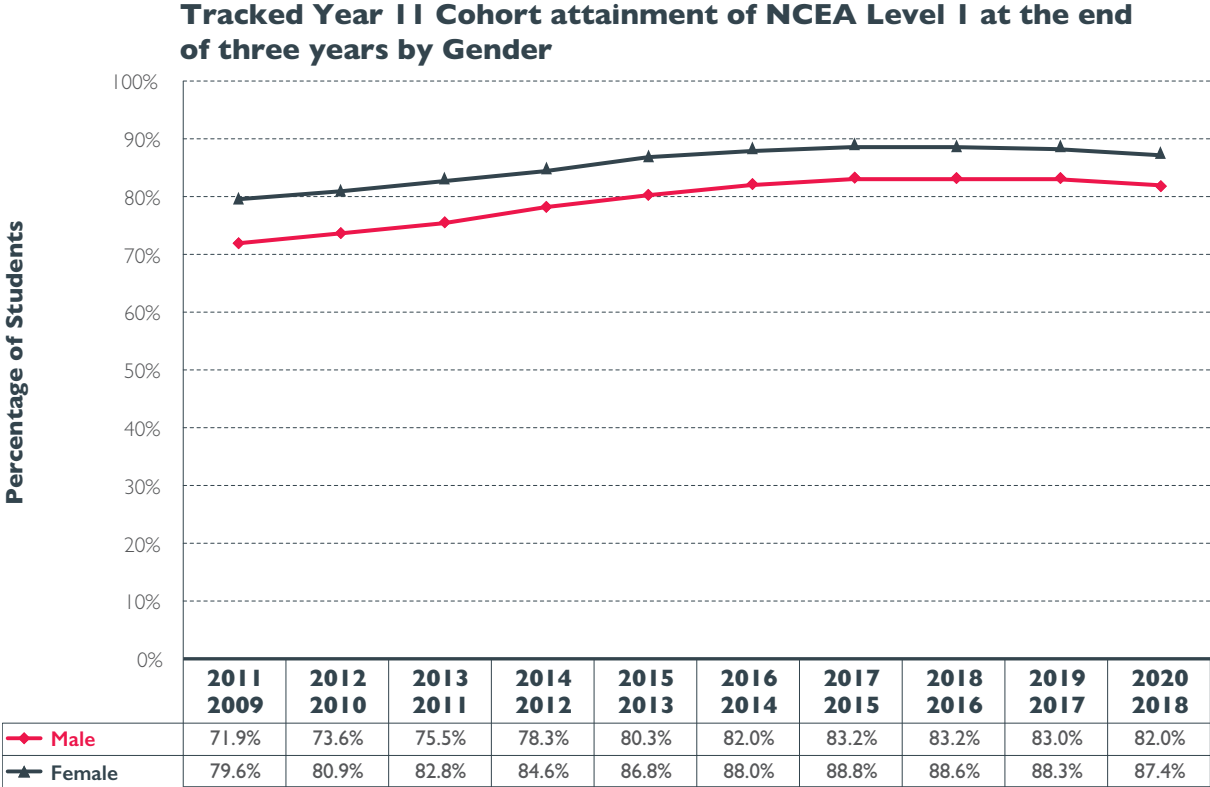


Figure 15. NCEA Level 1 attainment rates by gender for the tracked Year 11 cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Tracked Year II Cohort attainment of NCEA Level 2 at the end of three years by Gender

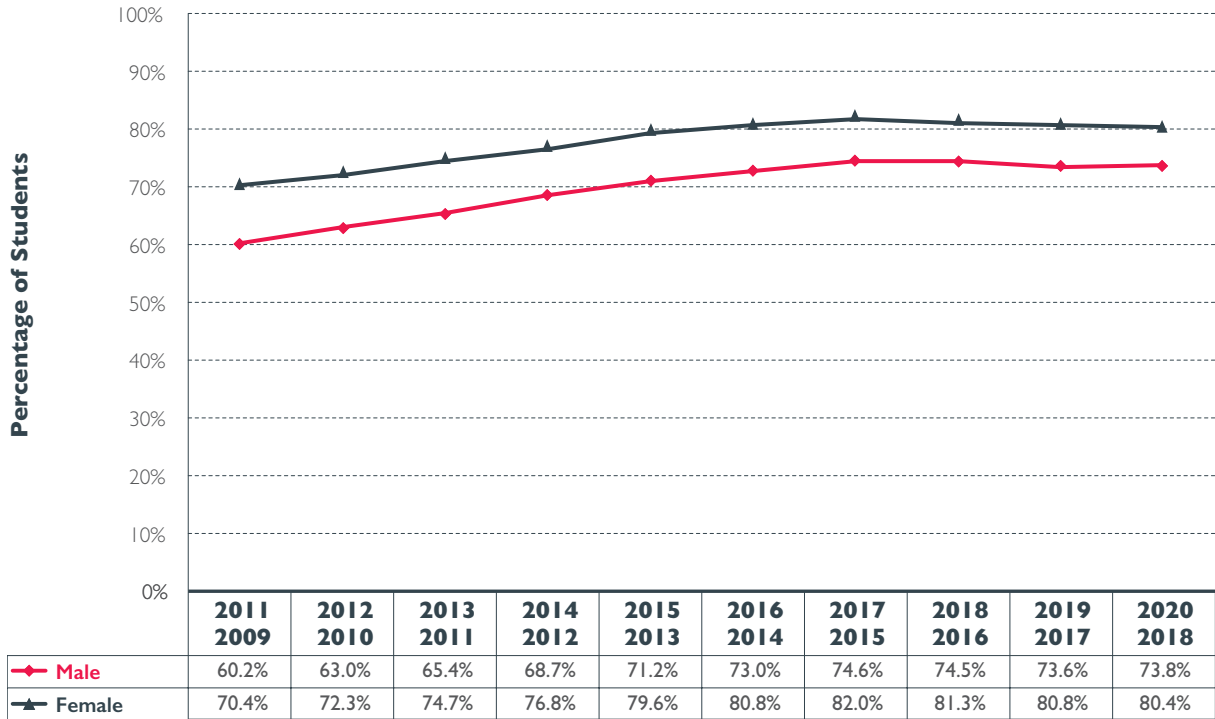


Figure 16. NCEA Level 2 attainment rates by gender for the tracked Year II cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Tracked Year II Cohort attainment of NCEA Level 3 at the end of three years by Gender

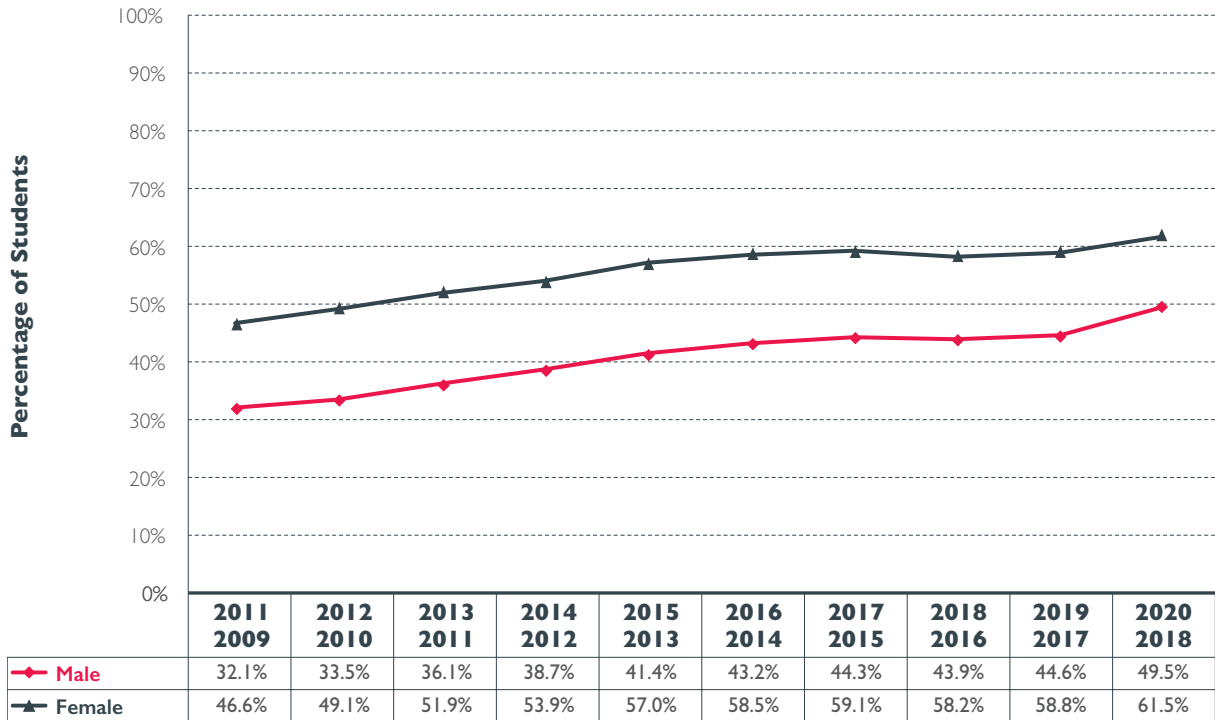


Figure 17. NCEA Level 3 attainment rates by gender for the tracked Year II cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Tracked Year II Cohort attainment of University Entrance at the end of three years by Gender

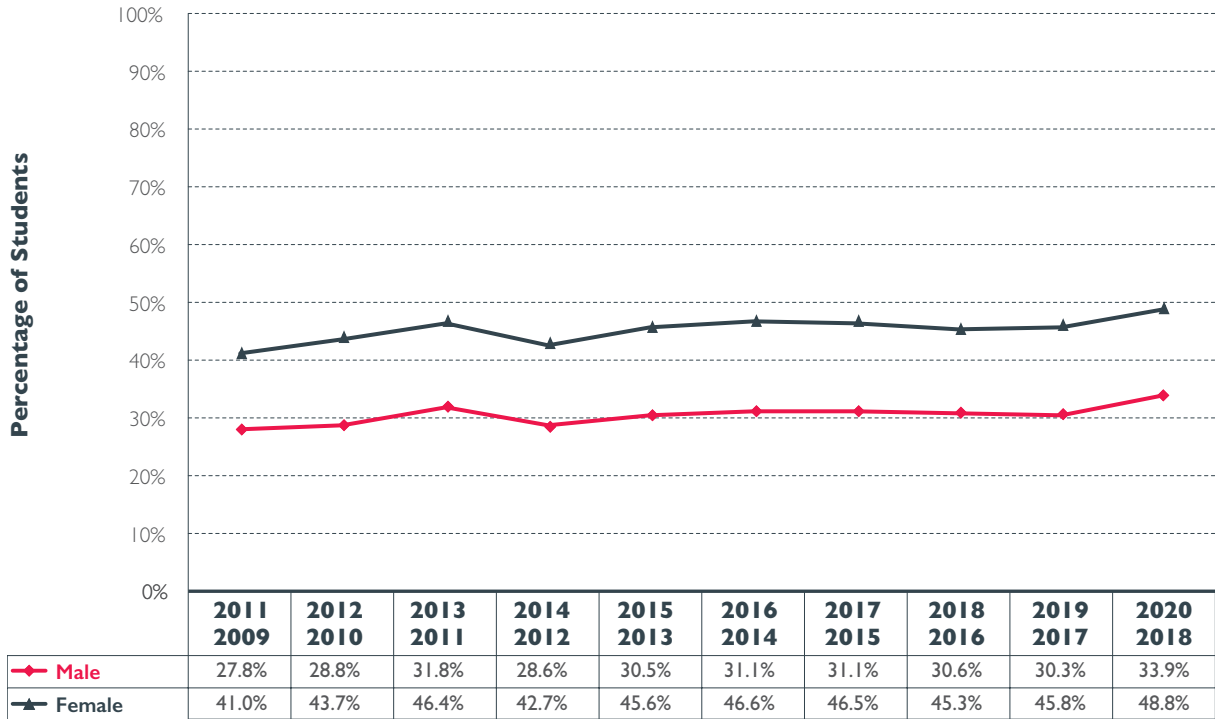


Figure 18. University Entrance attainment rates by gender for the tracked Year II cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Statistics by Ethnicity

Figures 19-22 show attainment rates by ethnicity for NCEA Level 1, NCEA Level 2, NCEA Level 3, and University Entrance using the Tracked Year 11 cohort for the years 2009 to 2018. The ethnicity stated in 2009 to 2018 when the student became a member of the cohort is maintained throughout, even though the student may subsequently alter their ethnicity. Students from Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) grouping are omitted from the graphs.

Tracked Year 11 Cohort attainment of NCEA Level 1 at the end of three years by Ethnicity

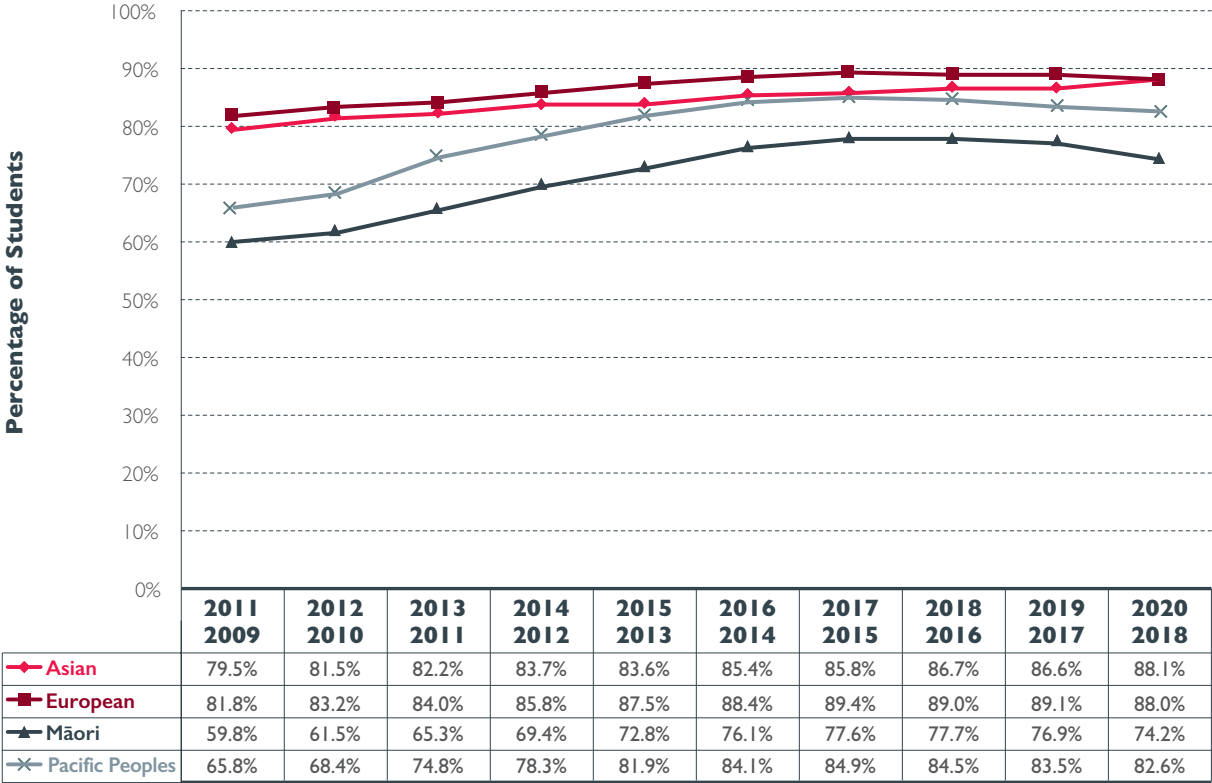


Figure 19. NCEA Level 1 attainment rates by ethnicity for the tracked Year 11 cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Tracked Year 11 Cohort attainment of NCEA Level 2 at the end of three years by Ethnicity

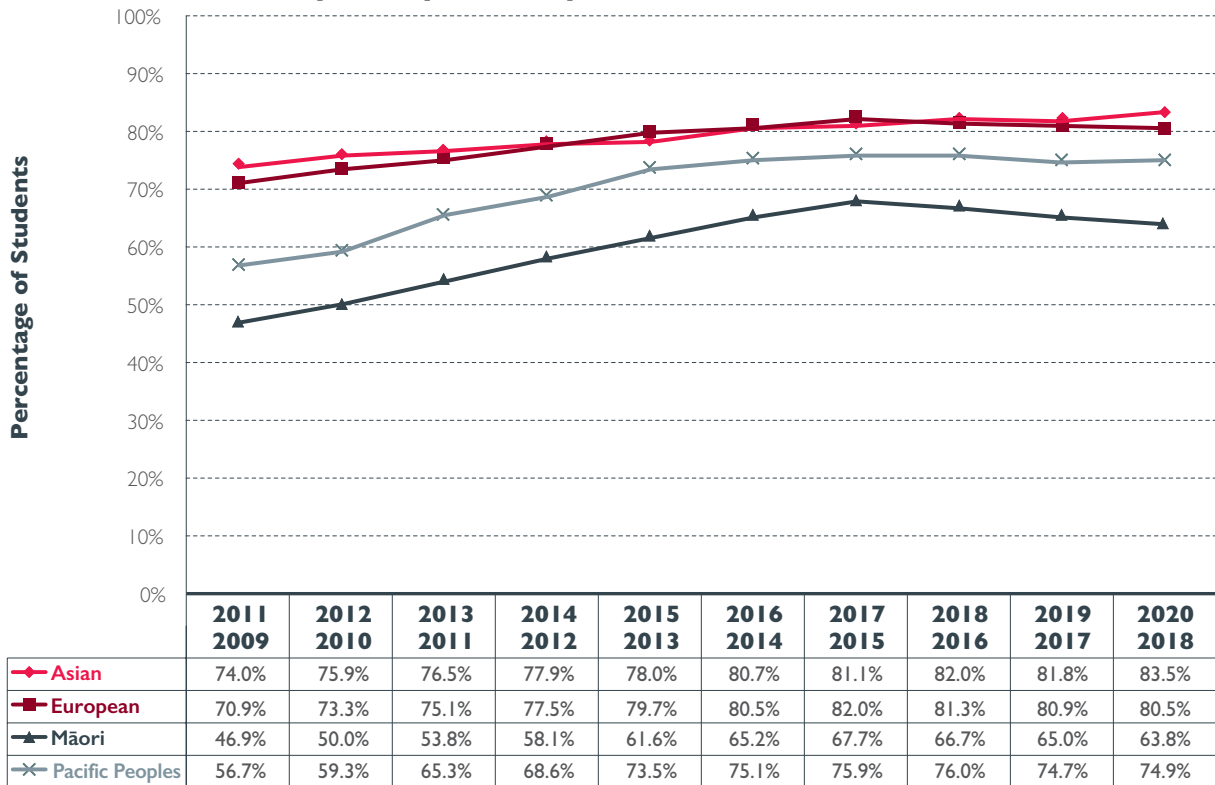


Figure 20. NCEA Level 2 attainment rates by ethnicity for the tracked Year 11 cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Tracked Year 11 Cohort attainment of NCEA Level 3 at the end of three years by Ethnicity

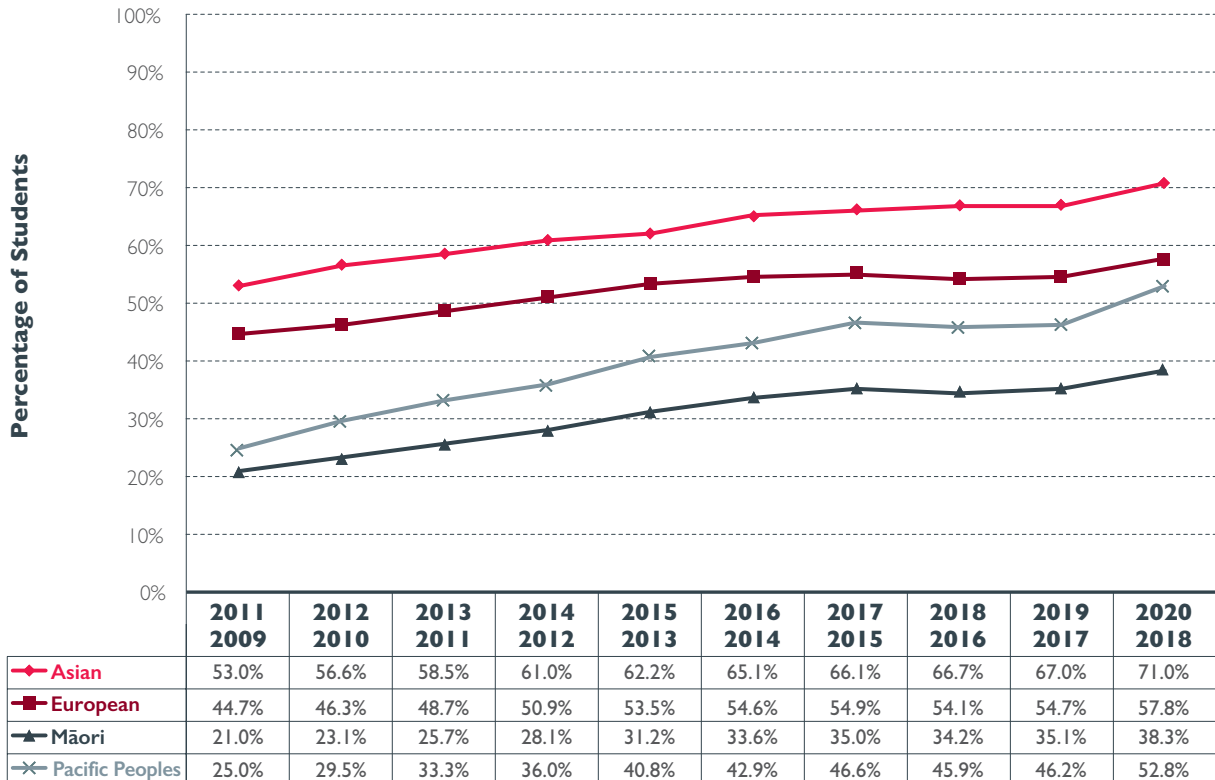


Figure 21. NCEA Level 3 attainment rates by ethnicity for the tracked Year 11 cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.

Tracked Year II Cohort attainment of University Entrance at the end of three years by Ethnicity

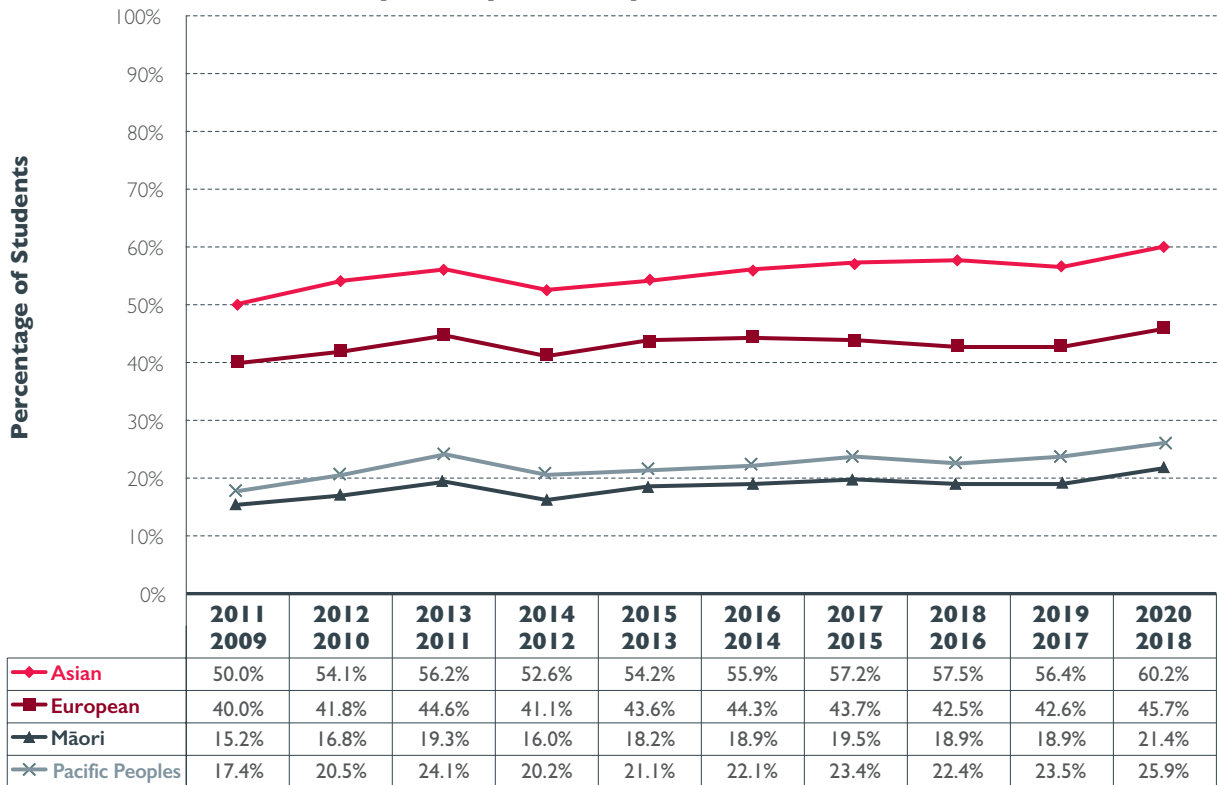



Figure 22. University Entrance attainment rates by ethnicity for the tracked Year II cohort 2009 to 2018 at the end of three years.



**Literacy and
Numeracy**

In addition to the attainment of literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA Level 1, attainment for the literacy and numeracy requirements for University Entrance are also reported.

The literacy and numeracy statistics of NCEA Level 1 are based on the Year 11 Enrolment-based cohort.

The literacy and numeracy statistics for University Entrance are based on the Year 13 Enrolment-based cohort.

Literacy requirements

For NCEA Level 1, the requirement for Literacy is a minimum of 10 credits. This requirement can either be met by:

- Achieving all three literacy unit standards; or by
- Achieving 10 or more credits from the approved list of assessment standards and the three English for Academic Purposes unit standards.

For University Entrance, the requirement is a minimum of 10 credits at Level 2 or above, made up of:

- At least 5 credits from approved reading standards
- At least 5 credits from approved writing standards.

Numeracy requirements

For both NCEA Level 1 and University Entrance, the requirement is a minimum of 10 credits. This requirement can either be met by:

- Achieving all three literacy unit standards; or by
- Achieving 10 or more credits from the approved list of Achievement Standards.

Alignment of Standards

Changes to standards as a result of the Alignment of Standards with the New Zealand Curriculum Project (from 2011 to 2013) had an impact on literacy and numeracy attainment. These changes altered both the standards and the range of subjects from which credits could be derived towards the literacy and numeracy requirements.

For further information on literacy and numeracy requirements, please refer to the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/literacy-requirements

Literacy and Numeracy for NCEA Level I

Table I shows the percentage of Year 11 students attaining NCEA Level I Literacy and Numeracy by the end of each year.

Year	Literacy	Numeracy
2011	79.3%	82.4%
2012	82.4%	80.4%
2013	83.9%	81.1%
2014	85.3%	82.9%
2015	86.4%	84.6%
2016	86.5%	85.1%
2017	87.1%	85.5%
2018	86.2%	84.4%
2019	85.5%	83.4%
2020	85.1%	83.6%

Table I. Overall cumulative percentage of Year 11 students attaining NCEA Level I Literacy and Numeracy.

Literacy and Numeracy for University Entrance

Table 2 shows the percentages of Year 13 students achieving the literacy and numeracy requirements for the University Entrance award. For University Entrance, the numeracy percentages are not comparable to the numeracy percentages for NCEA Level 1 reported earlier (refer to Table 1), as the cohorts used are different, i.e. these University Entrance statistics use the Year 13 Enrolment-based Student cohort, whereas the Level 1 numeracy statistics used a Year 11 Enrolment-based Student cohort.

Year	Literacy	Numeracy
2011	67.3%	90.9%
2012	69.0%	91.1%
2013	71.8%	91.0%
2014	73.8%	91.7%
2015	73.4%	92.7%
2016	69.9%	93.1%
2017	70.2%	93.7%
2018	70.5%	93.8%
2019	70.4%	94.0%
2020	70.7%	93.7%

Table 2. Overall cumulative percentage of Year 13 students attaining University Entrance Literacy and Numeracy.



NCEA Certificate
Endorsement

Certificate Endorsement with Merit or Excellence for NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 was introduced in 2007 to motivate students toward higher attainment. To be awarded an Excellence endorsement, students must achieve 50 or more credits at Excellence. To be awarded a Merit endorsement, students must achieve 50 or more credits with Merit or above.

The attainment rate of certificate endorsement is the percentage of students who achieved an NCEA certificate with an endorsement in the same year.² The denominator for these percentages is the number of students who achieved the qualification.

Figures 23-25 show the percentages of students who achieved NCEA Levels 1, 2, or 3 with a Merit or Excellence endorsement.

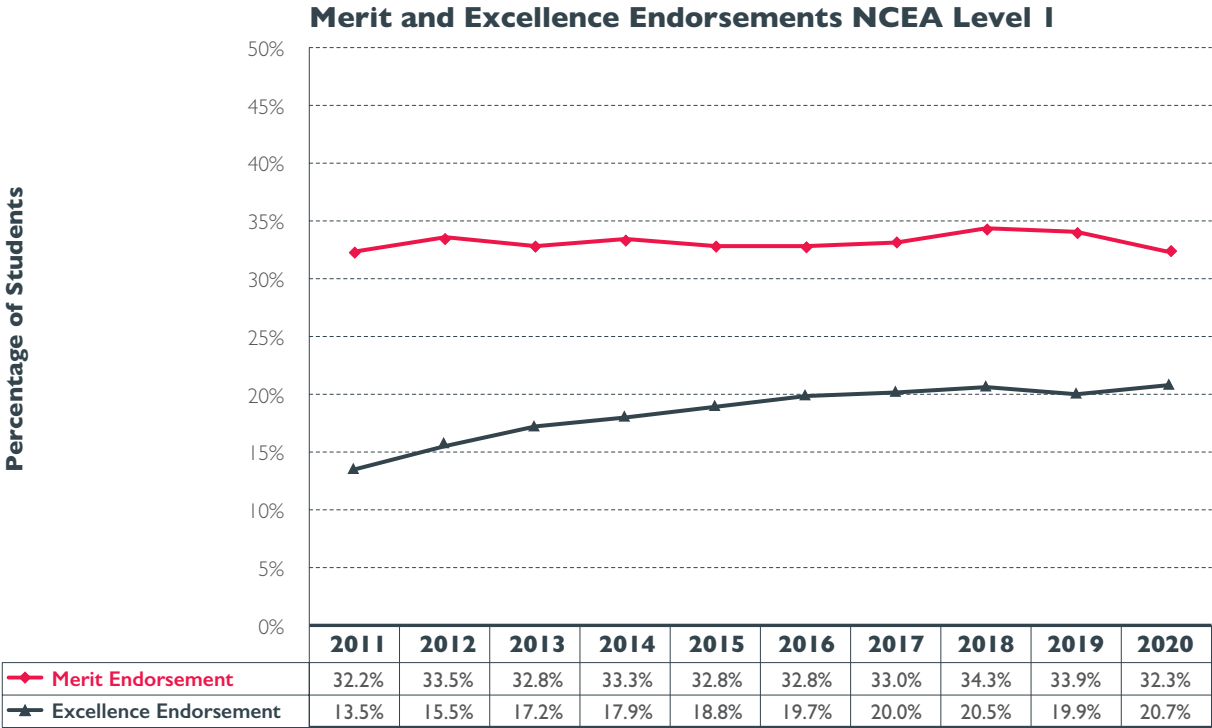


Figure 23. NCEA Level 1 Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level 1.

² Only endorsements gained in the same year as the qualification are included in this report. The number of credits required to gain an endorsement may be accumulated over a number of years. This makes it possible for candidates to add an endorsement to an NCEA Certificate that was achieved in a prior year(s).

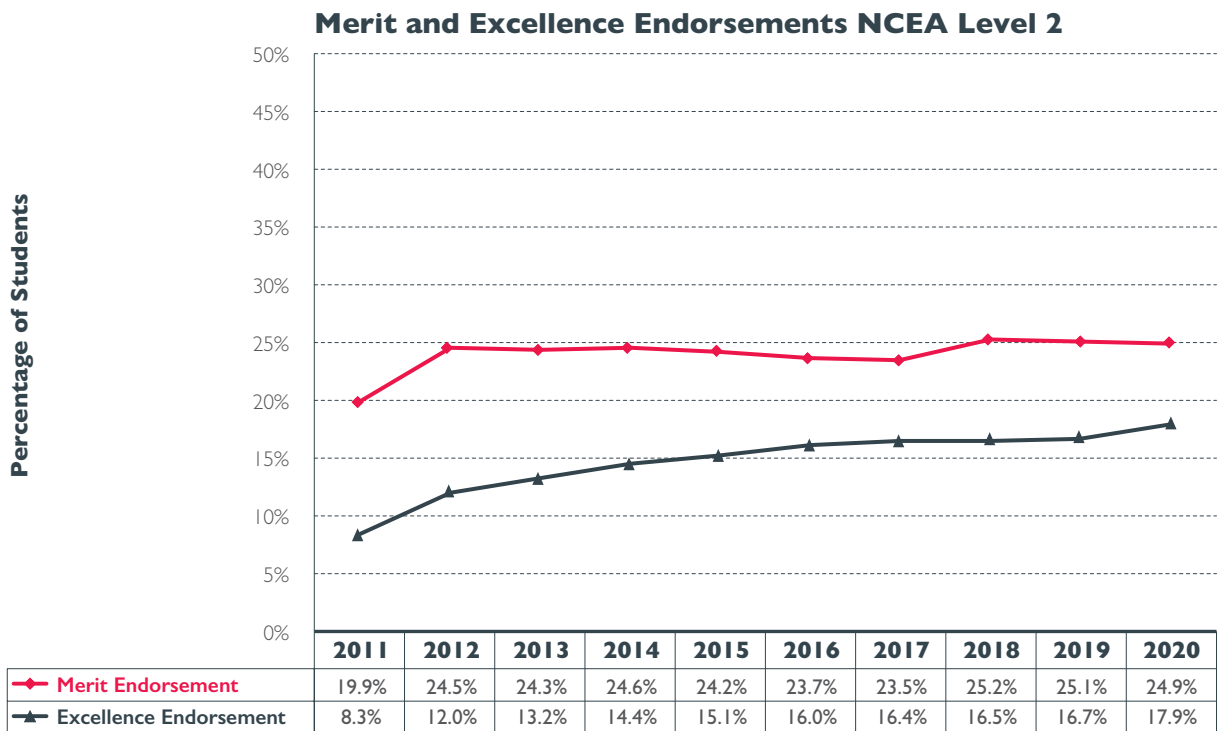


Figure 24. NCEA Level 2 Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2.

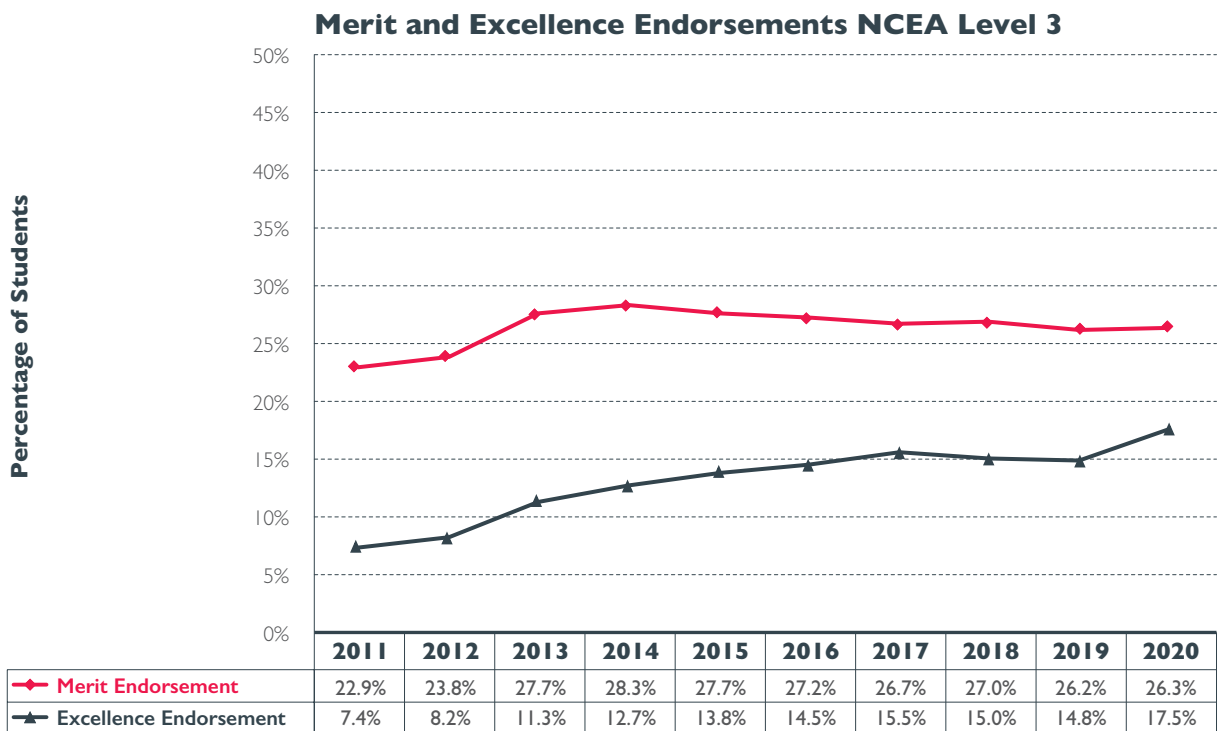


Figure 25. NCEA Level 3 Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3.

Statistics by Gender

Figures 26-31 show the percentages of male and female students who achieved either Merit or Excellence Endorsement at each NCEA level. Students with “unknown gender” have been omitted from these tables.

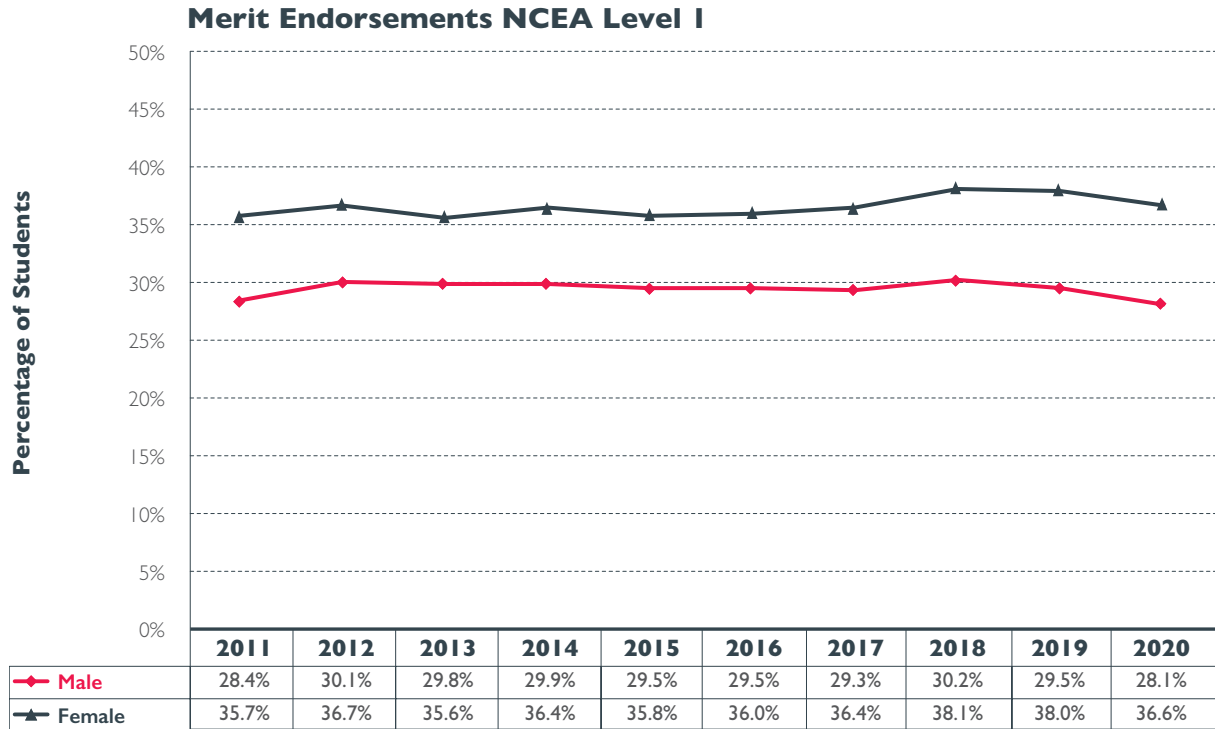


Figure 26. NCEA Level I Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level I by gender.

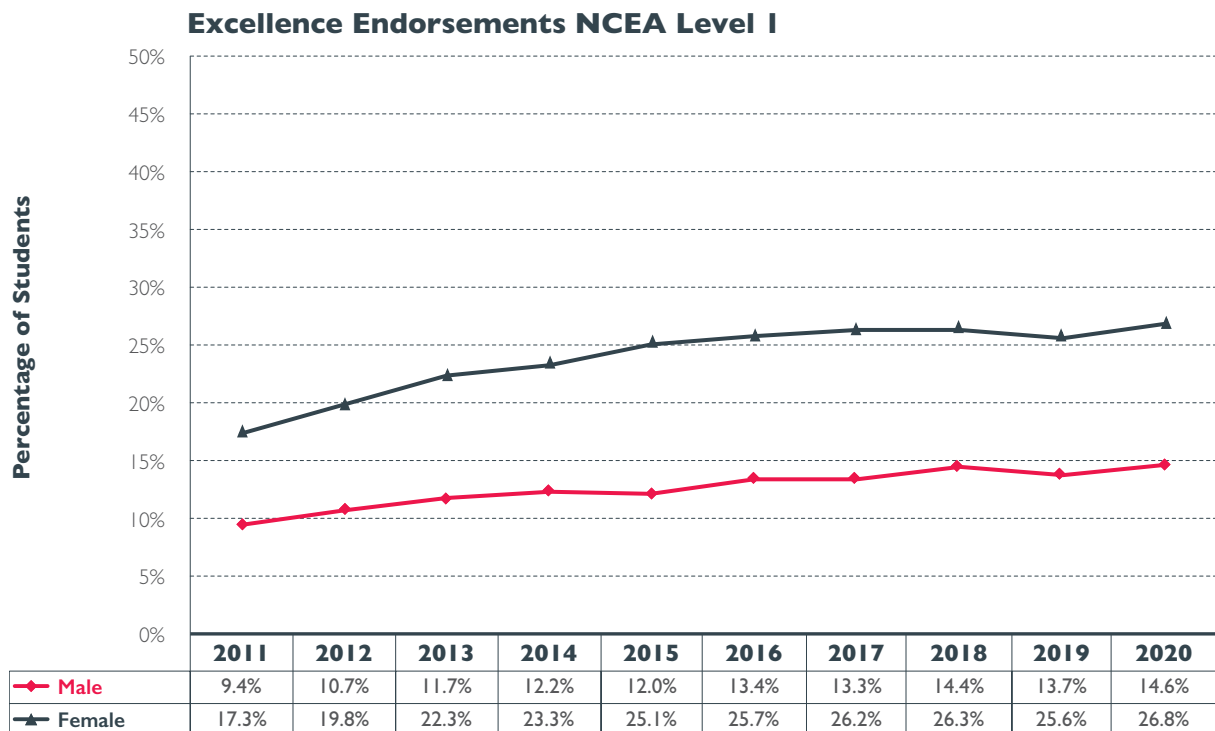


Figure 27. NCEA Level I Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level I by gender.

Merit Endorsements NCEA Level 2

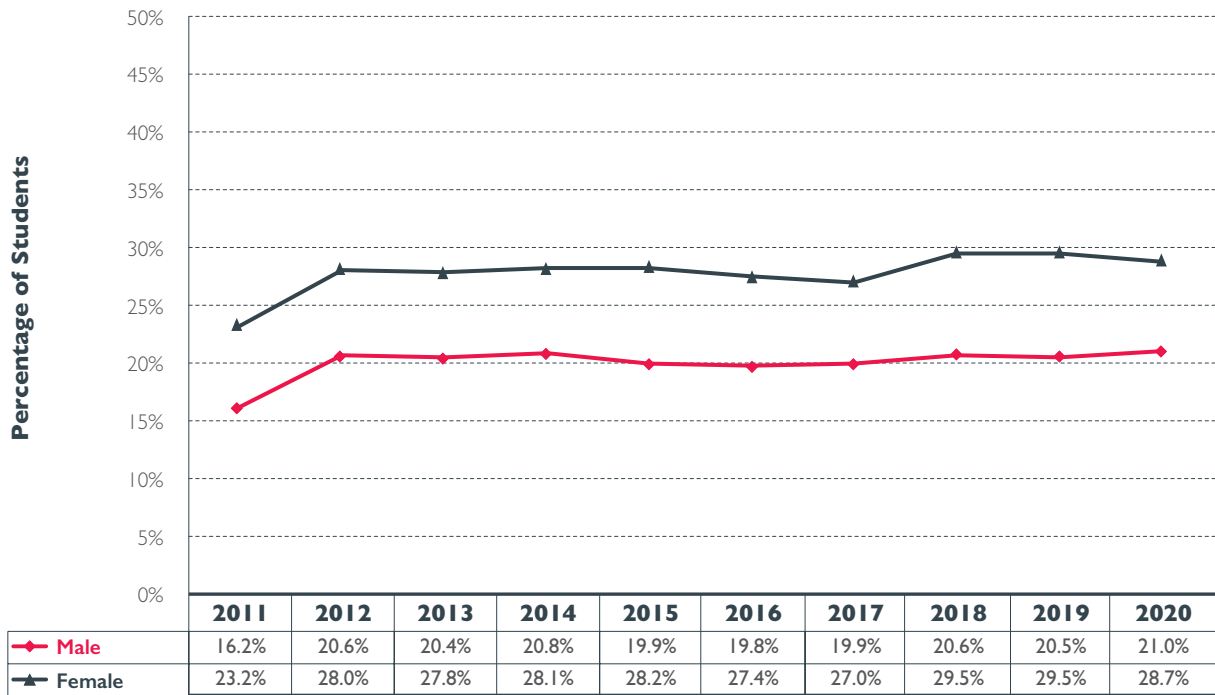


Figure 28. NCEA Level 2 Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 by gender.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level 2

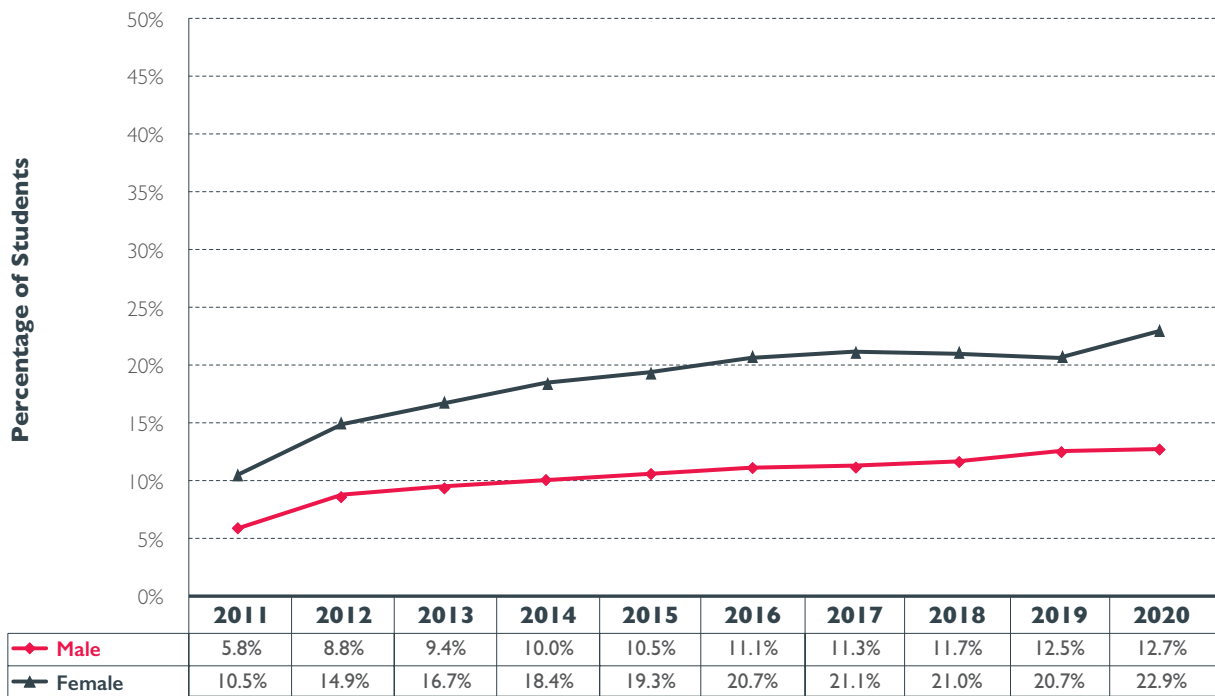


Figure 29. NCEA Level 2 Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 by gender.

Merit Endorsements NCEA Level 3

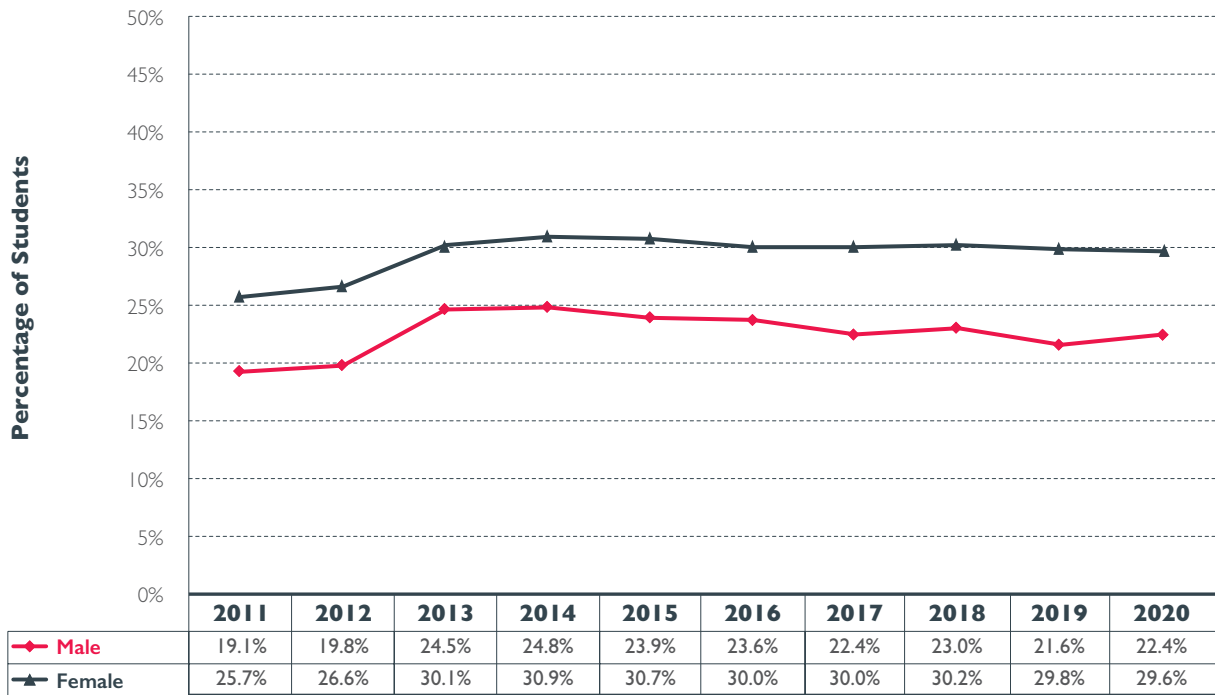


Figure 30. NCEA Level 3 Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 by gender.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level 3

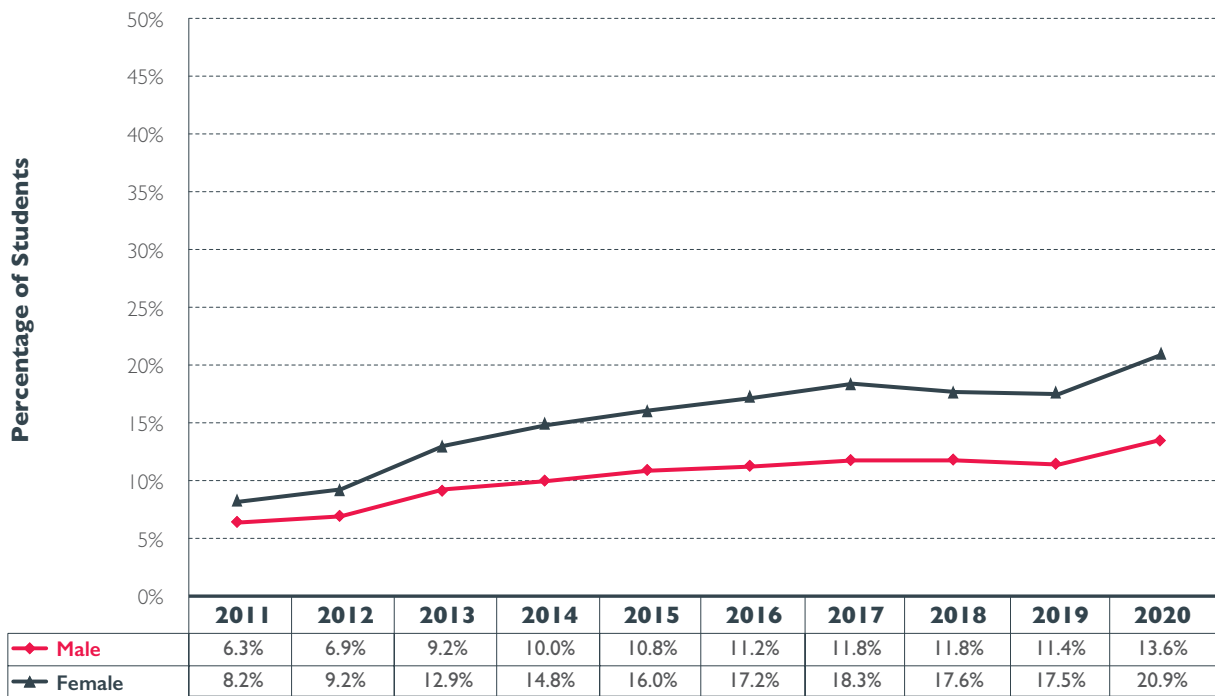


Figure 31. NCEA Level 3 Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 by gender.

Statistics by Ethnicity

Figures 32-37 show the percentage of Asian, European, Māori, and Pacific students who achieved Merit or Excellence Endorsements at each level of NCEA. Students from Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) grouping are omitted from the graphs. For data used in this report with all ethnicities included please refer to the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/statistics

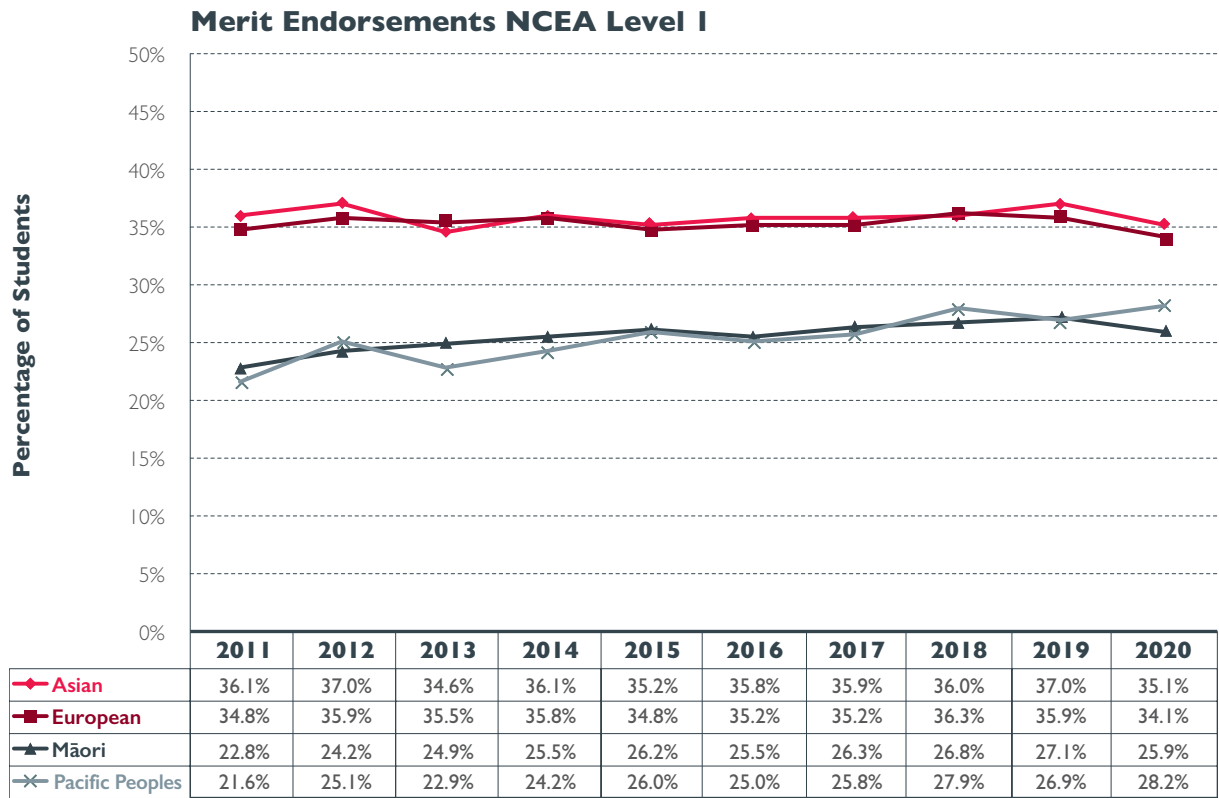


Figure 32. NCEA Level I Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level I by ethnicity.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level I

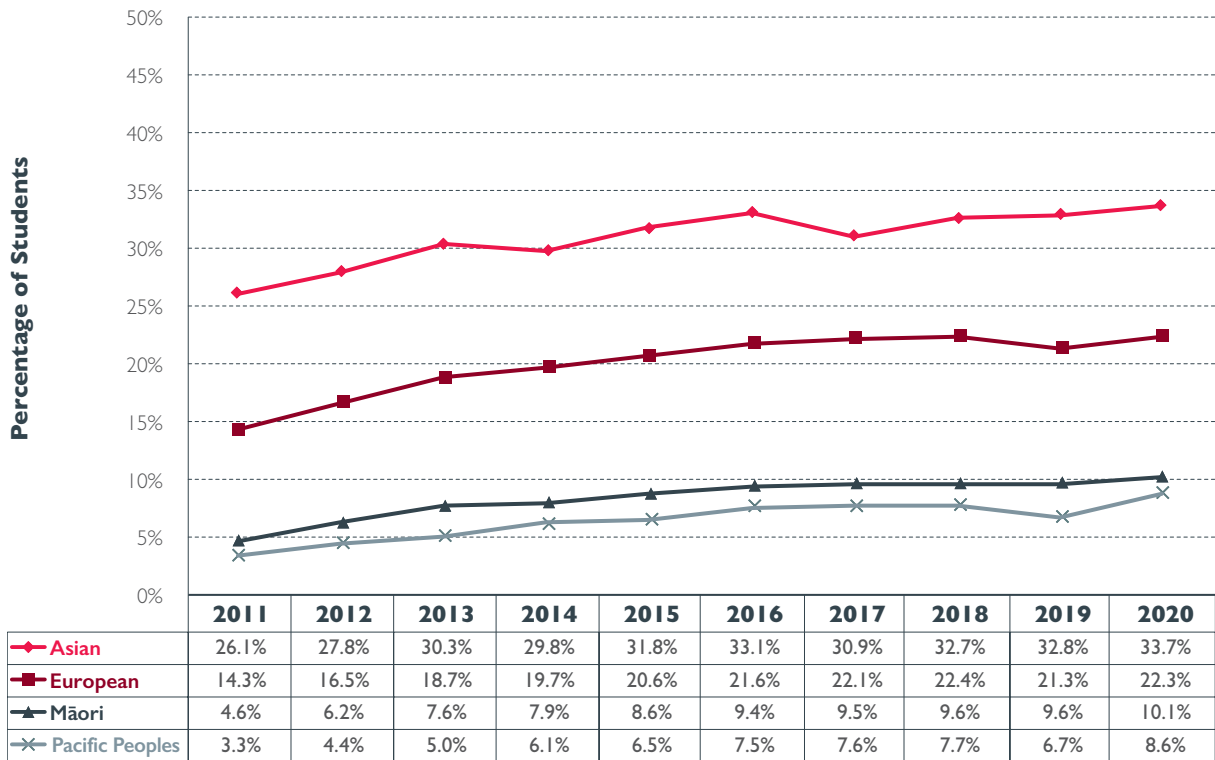


Figure 33. NCEA Level I Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level I by ethnicity.

Merit Endorsements NCEA Level 2

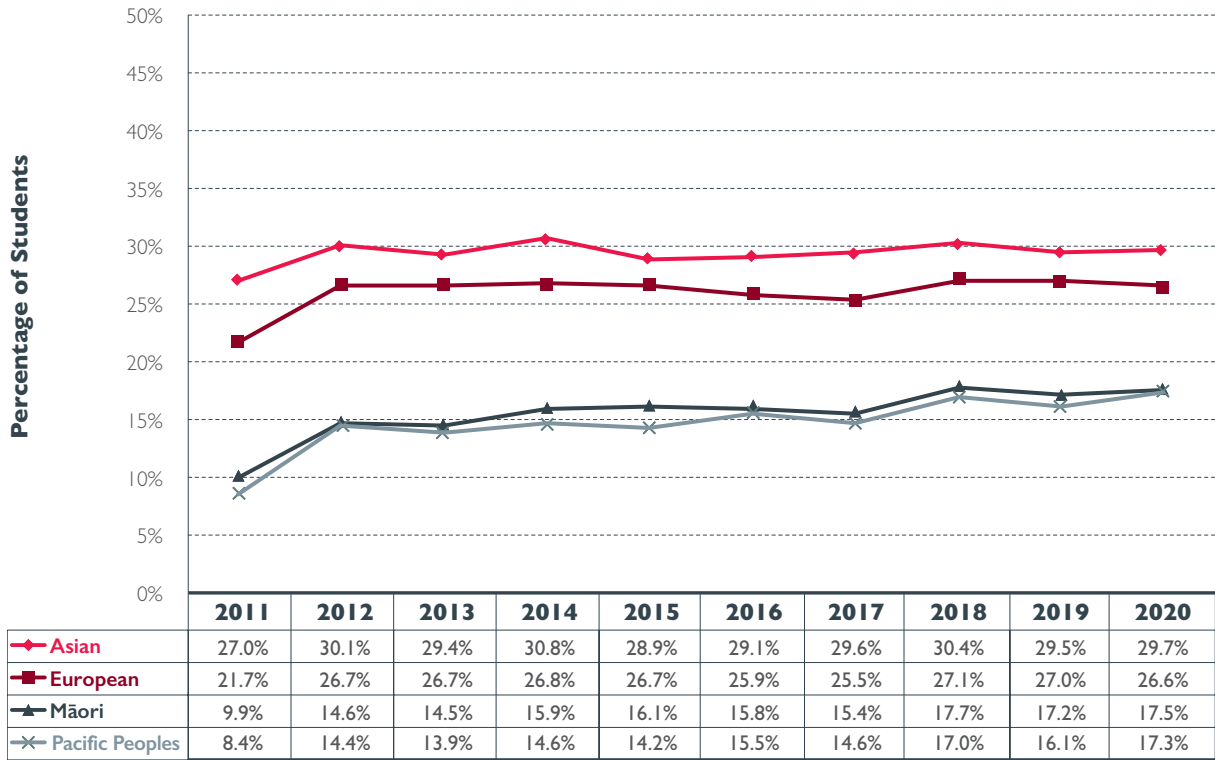


Figure 34. NCEA Level 2 Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 by ethnicity.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level 2

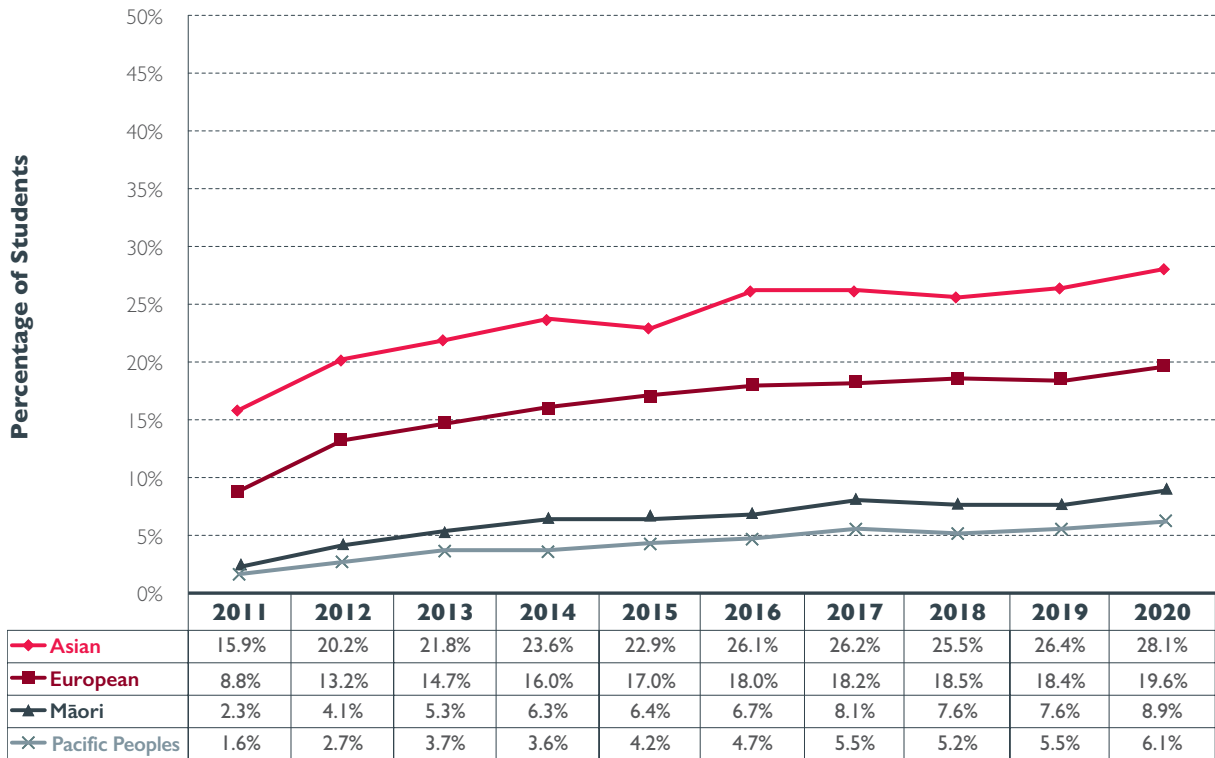


Figure 35. NCEA Level 2 Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 by ethnicity.

Merit Endorsements NCEA Level 3

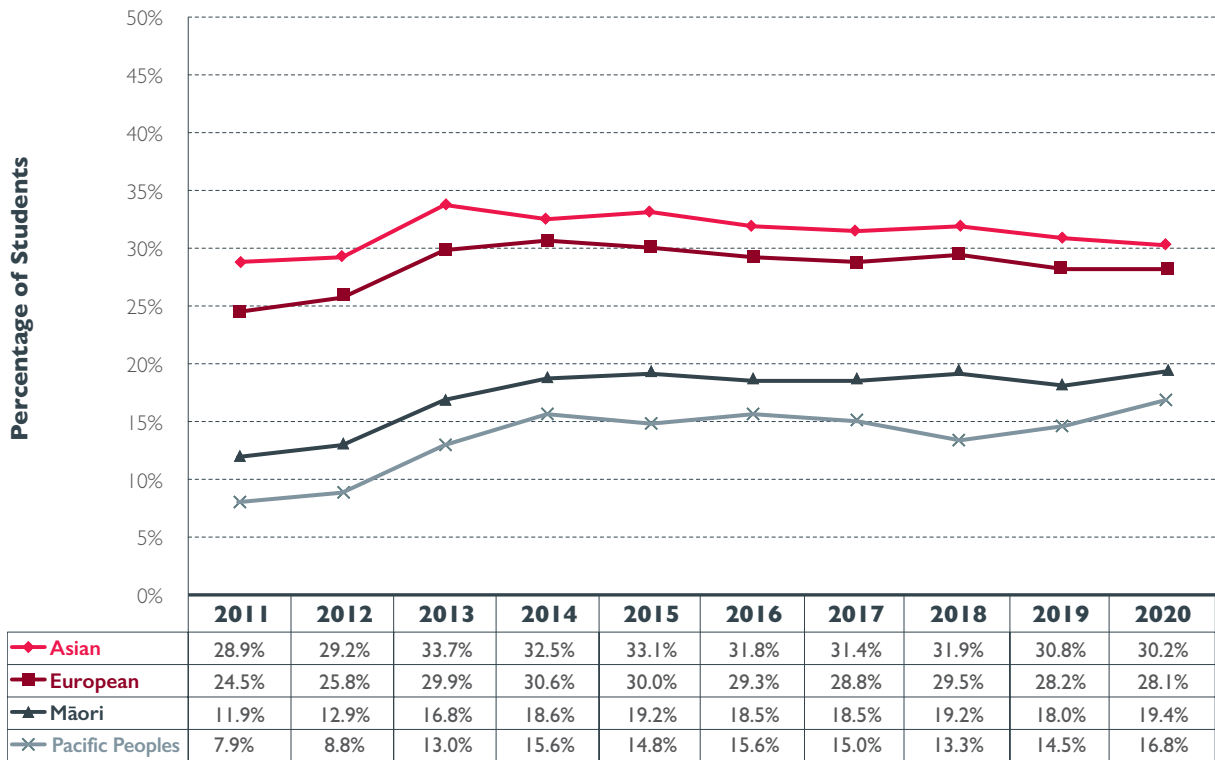


Figure 36. NCEA Level 3 Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 by ethnicity.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level 3

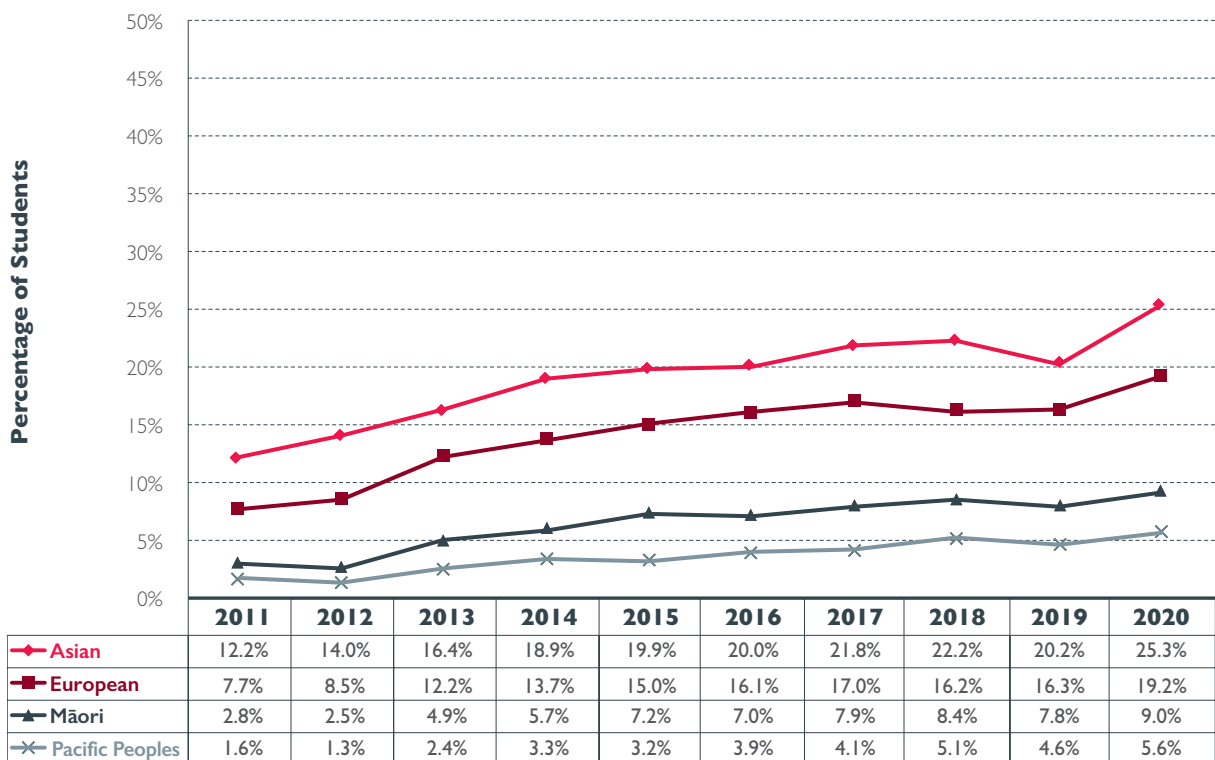


Figure 37. NCEA Level 3 Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 by ethnicity.

Statistics by School Decile Band

Figures 38-43 show the percentages of students in School Decile Bands 1-3, 4-7 and 8-10 who achieved Merit or Excellence Endorsements at each NCEA level.

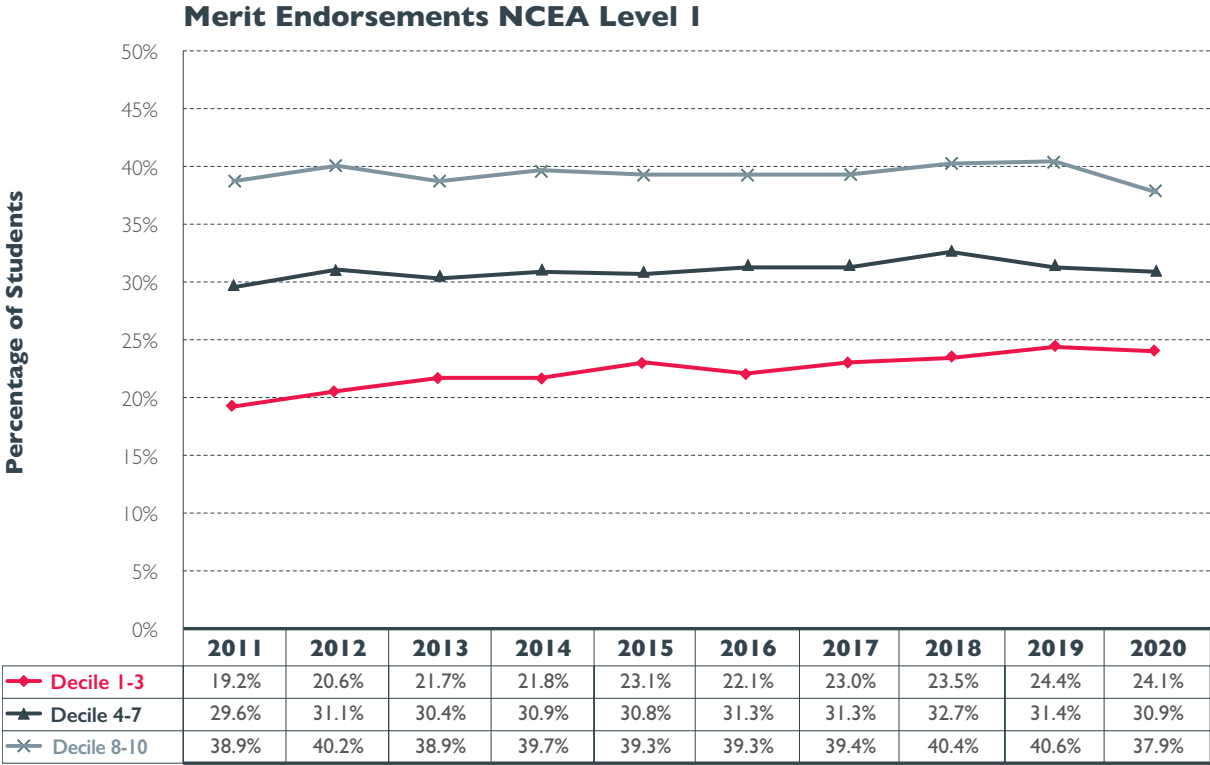


Figure 38. NCEA Level I Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level I by school decile band.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level I

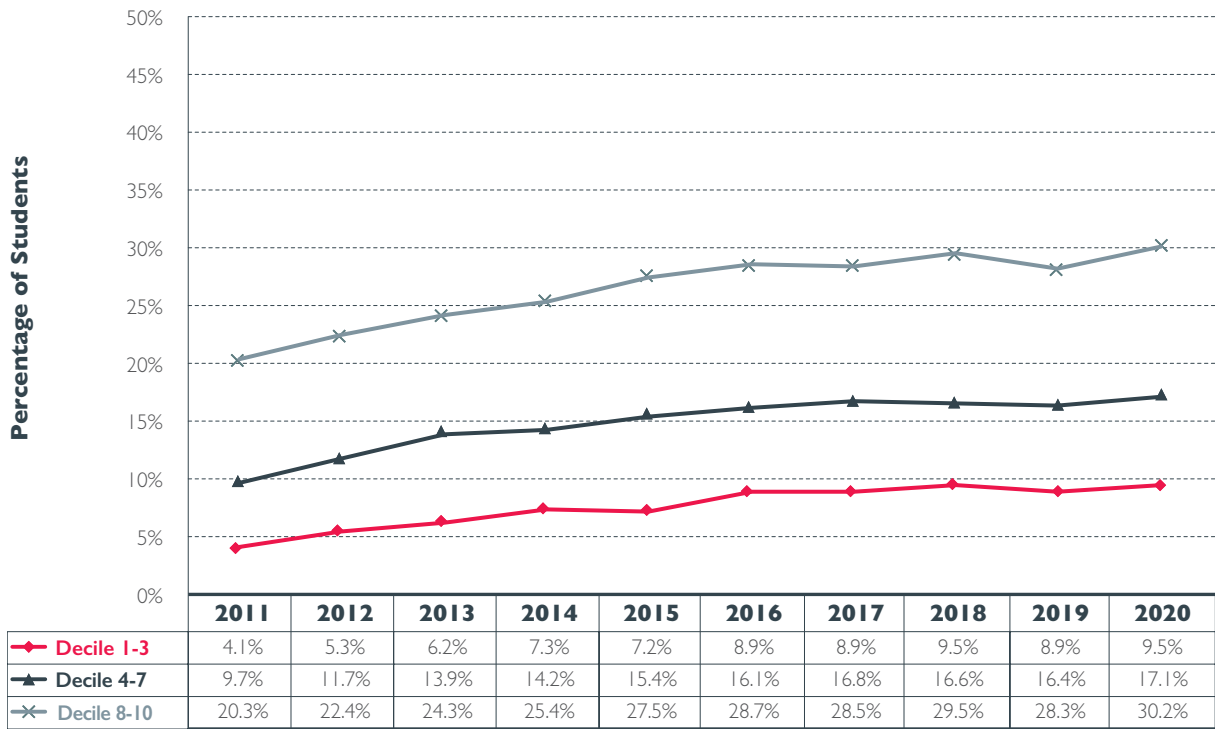


Figure 39. NCEA Level I Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 11 students with NCEA Level I by school decile band.

Merit Endorsements NCEA Level 2

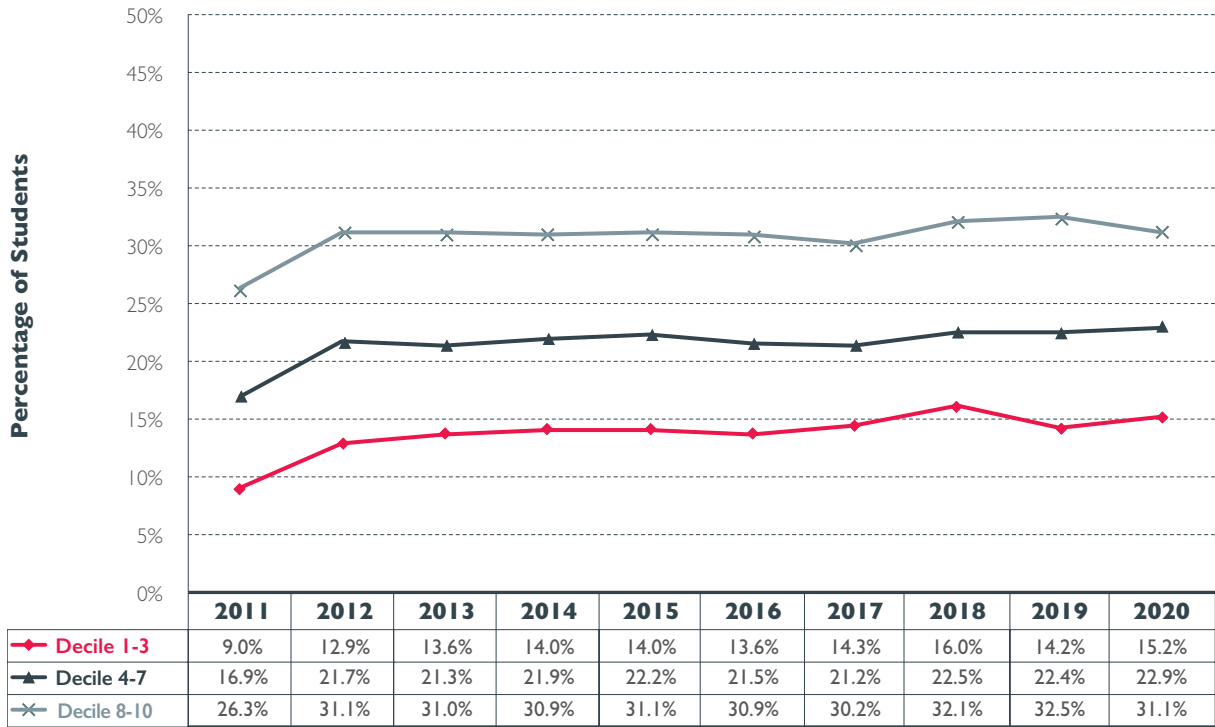


Figure 40. NCEA Level 2 Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 by school decile band.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level 2

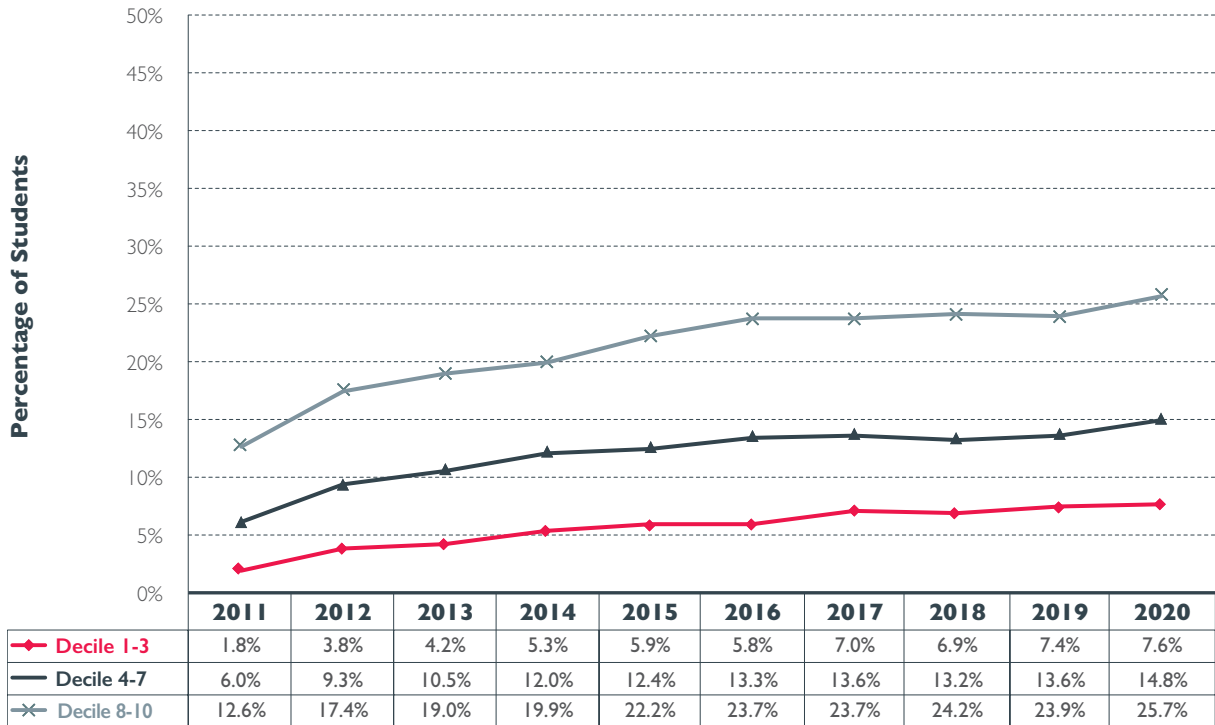


Figure 41. NCEA Level 2 Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 by school decile band.

Merit Endorsements NCEA Level 3

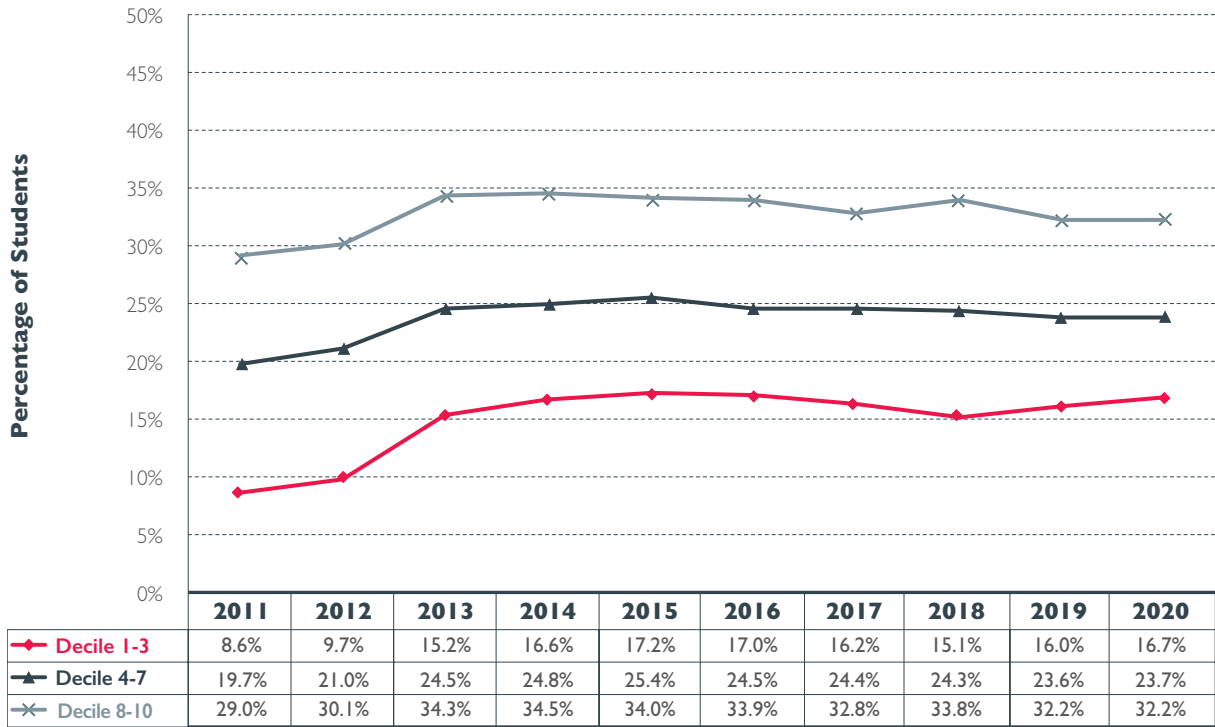


Figure 42. NCEA Level 3 Merit Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 by school decile band.

Excellence Endorsements NCEA Level 3

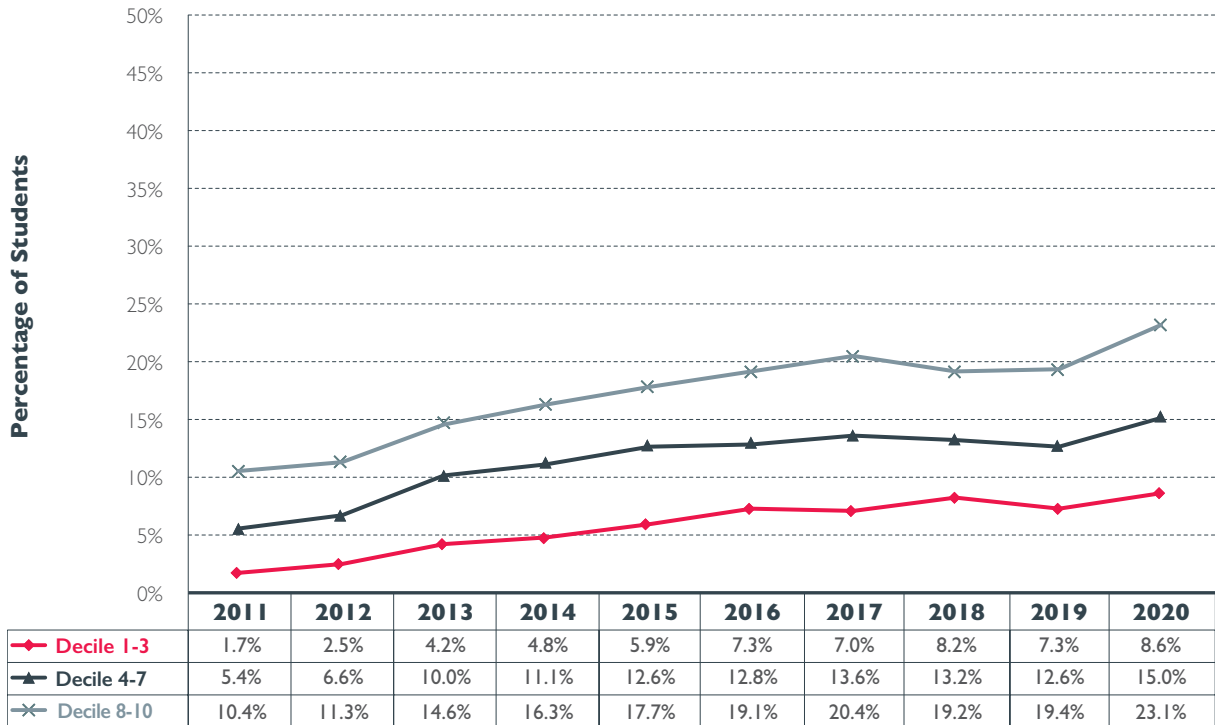


Figure 43. NCEA Level 3 Excellence Endorsements achieved by Year 13 students with NCEA Level 3 by school decile band.



Course

Endorsement

Schools create courses based on the New Zealand Curricula. The courses, in turn, are constructed from a series of standards.

Course Endorsement recognises a student's academic strength in an individual course.

There are two types of Course Endorsements:

- Endorsement with Excellence
- Endorsement with Merit.

To receive a Course Endorsement, a student must gain 14 credits or more at Excellence or Merit in standards linked to that course. For most courses there is a further requirement that at least 3 of these credits must be gained from externally assessed standards, and 3 credits from internally assessed standards.³

A Course Endorsement with Excellence is gained when at least 14 credits have a result of Excellence, including the required credits for externally assessed and internally assessed standards.

A Course Endorsement with Merit is gained when at least 14 credits have a result of Merit or above, including the required credits for externally assessed and internally assessed standards.

A course may be assessed using a series of standards at different levels. The level at which a course is endorsed is determined by the lowest level standard included in the course. For example, a student who takes a course assessed by a mix of Level 1 and Level 2 standards and receives Excellences in all the standards will gain a Course Endorsement with Excellence at Level 1 rather than at Level 2.

A course offered at one school may differ from that offered at another. For example, two schools may offer Year 11 Physical Education. One school may assess the course using standards from the traditional subject area of Physical Education. The other may prepare its students for Sports Medicine, so the course includes standards from Health and Biology. Although both courses are Year 11 Physical Education, they differ in content. For this reason NZQA does not provide any statistics based on course comparisons between schools.

All percentages of students shown in this section (Figures 44-47) are based on the number of students in the Enrolment-based Cohort.

³ This does not apply to Physical Education, Religious Studies and Level 3 Visual Arts.

Merit and Excellence Endorsements

Figures 44-47 show the number of Merit and Excellence Endorsements expressed as a percentage of the total number of endorsable courses. Note that these percentages are based on the total count of endorsable courses and not the count of students. For example, if a student has five endorsable courses and attains a Merit for two courses and an Excellence for one course, then

five is included in the total count of endorsable courses, two is included in the count of Merit endorsements, and one is included in the count of Excellence endorsements.

Added together, the 2020 Merit and Excellence endorsement percentages give an overall endorsement percentage for Year 11 of 34.9%, Year 12 of 32.6%, and Year 13 of 29.5%.

Merit and Excellence Endorsements by Year 11, Year 12, and Year 13 students

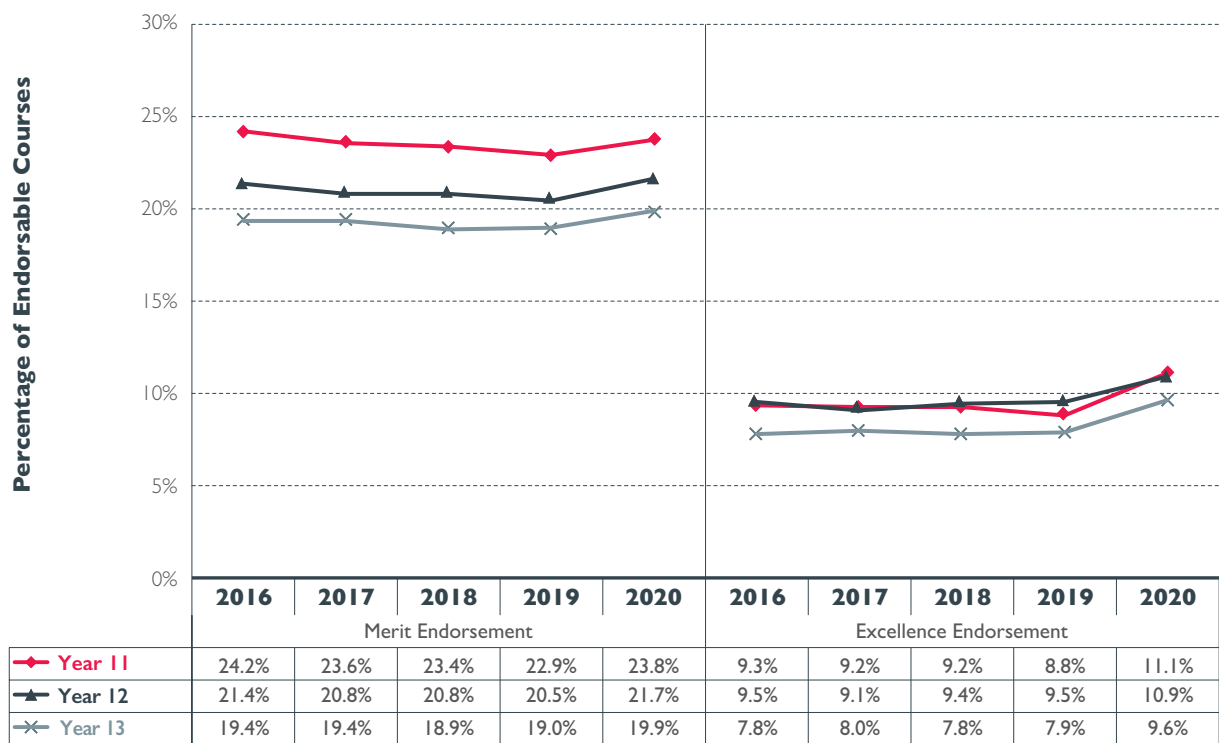


Figure 44. Course Endorsement attainment rates attained by Years 11 to 13 students.

Figures 45-47 show the percentages of Merit and Excellence course endorsements by gender, by ethnicity, and by school decide bands.

Statistics by Gender

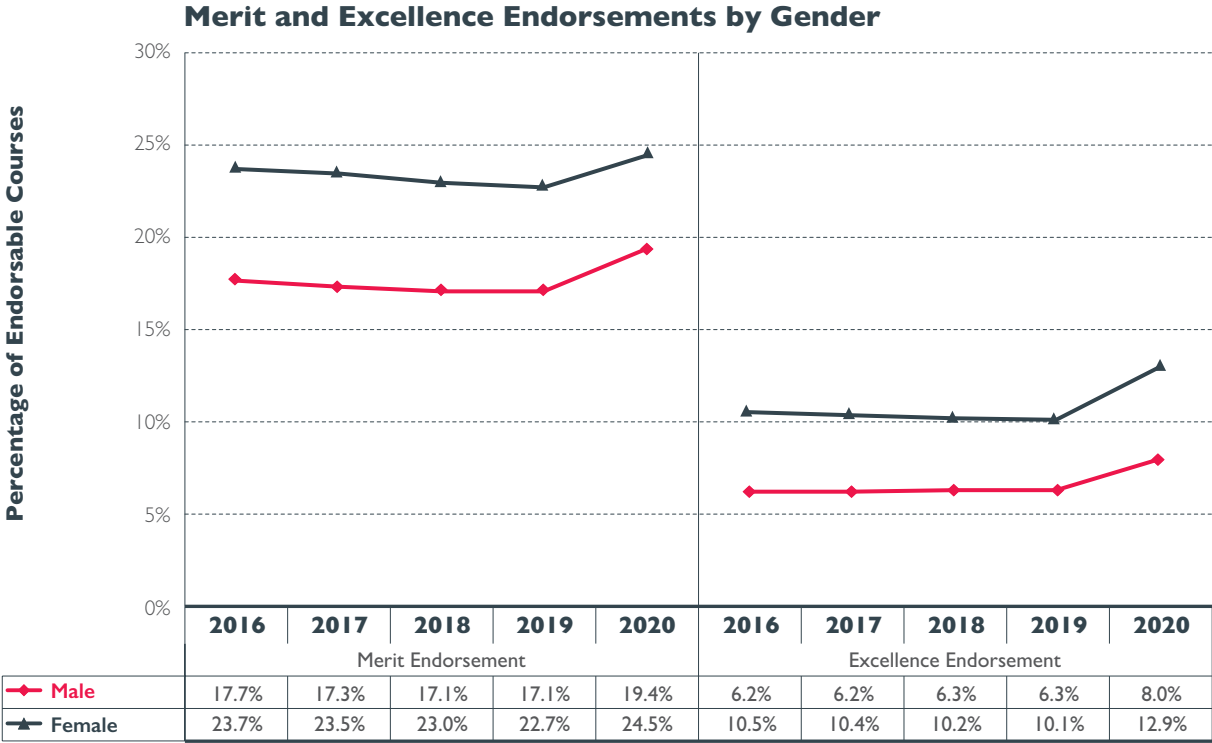


Figure 45. Course Endorsement attainment rates attained by Years 11 to 13 students by gender. Students with “unknown gender” have been omitted from this table.

Statistics by Ethnicity

Merit and Excellence Endorsements by Ethnicity

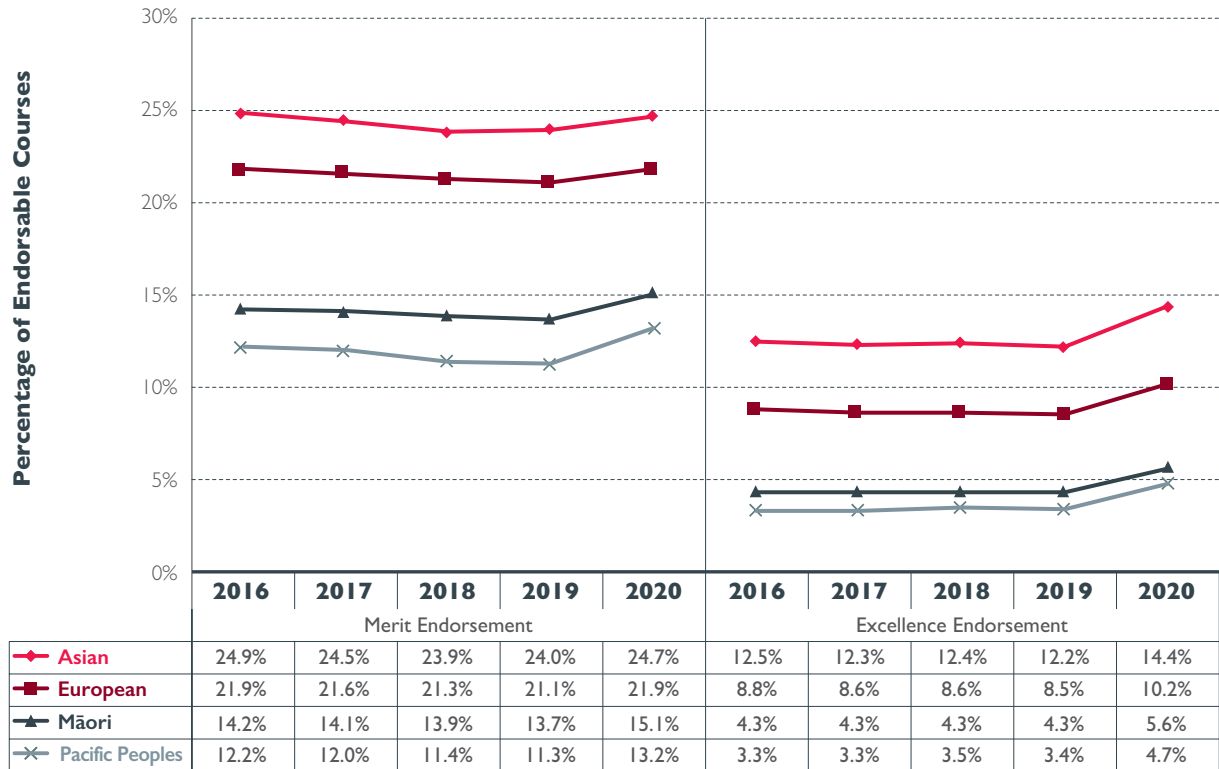


Figure 46. Course Endorsement attainment rates attained by Years 11 to 13 students by ethnicity.

Statistics by School Decile Band

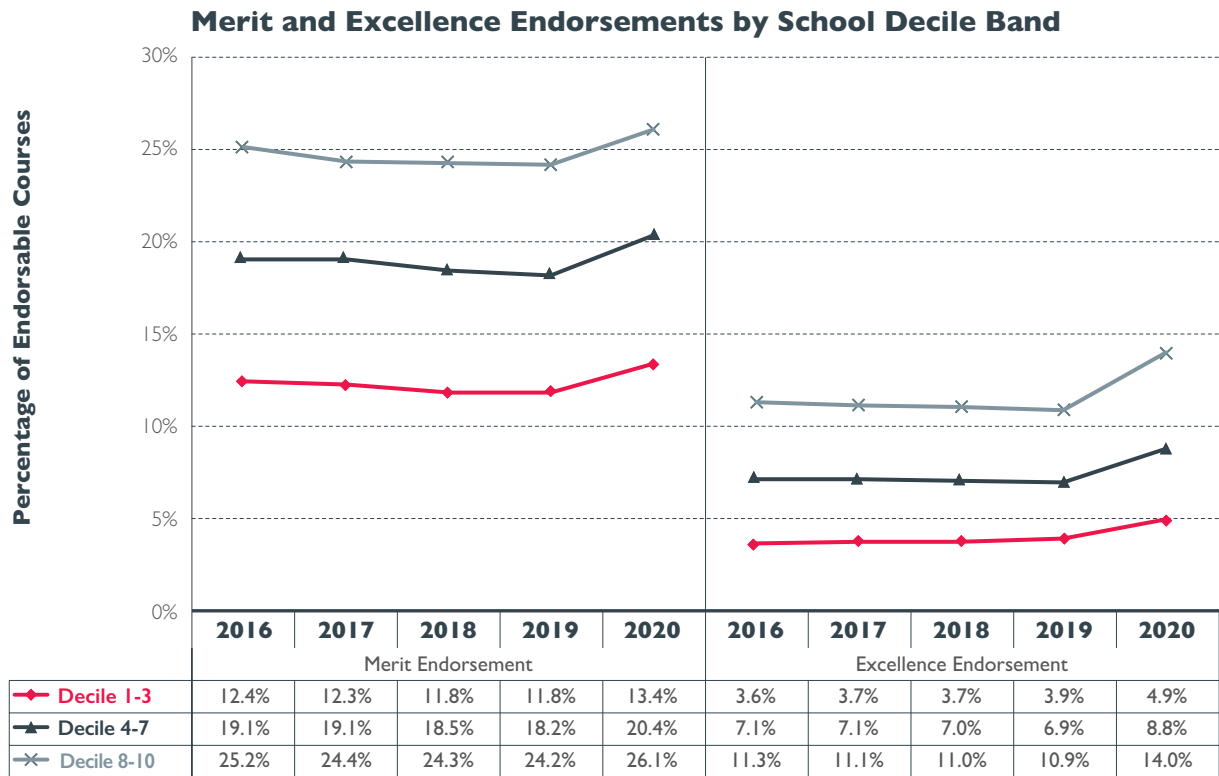



Figure 47. Course Endorsement attainment rates attained by Years 11 to 13 students by school decile band.



**New Zealand
Scholarship**

New Zealand Scholarship challenges New Zealand's most able secondary school students in their selected subjects. The assessments (usually examinations) are very demanding, even for the highest-performing students. Scholarship students are expected to demonstrate high-level critical thinking, abstraction and generalisation skills, and to integrate, synthesise and apply knowledge, skills, understanding and ideas to complex situations.

Scholarship students are generally Year 13 students. However, some Year 12 and even Year 11 students undertake Scholarship assessments.

Each Scholarship subject has two types of passing grade – Scholarship (S), and Outstanding Scholarship (O). These are not to be confused with the Scholarship Award and the Outstanding Scholar Award, which are monetary awards given to students with passing grades in multiple Scholarship subjects.

The number of students achieving a passing grade in each Scholarship subject is set at 3% of the number of NCEA students studying that subject

Scholarship Monetary Awards

There are six classes of award for Scholarship:

- Prime Minister's Award
- Premier Award
- Outstanding Scholar Award
- Scholarship Award
- Top Subject Scholar Award
- Single Subject Award.

The Prime Minister's Award is awarded to the student with the highest overall level of academic excellence of the Premier Award winners.

Apart from the Prime Minister's Award, the other five awards carry a monetary value ranging from a single \$500 payment through to \$10,000 per annum for up to three years. Scholarship monetary awards are made to those students who undertake tertiary study in New Zealand, and are intended to provide financial assistance to support this study.

at Level 3. That is, 3% of students who have achieved, or through external assessment may achieve at least 14 credits in that subject at Level 3. In cases where either the number of Year 13 students in the Level 3 subject or the number of students entered for that Scholarship subject is small, the percentage may vary from 3%.

In 2020 Religious Studies was added as a Scholarship subject.

Scholarship student performance in each subject is assessed at the end of each year against published performance standards. For many subjects, assessment involves a three-hour written examination. However, Dance, Drama, and Music also involve assessment by recorded performance, and all languages also involve recorded speaking. Design, Design and Visual Communication, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture are assessed through portfolios of work. Physical Education and Technology are assessed through submitted reports.

In 2020, a total of 2,151 students achieved one or more Scholarship subject awards; of which 12 students achieved a Premier Award, 58 students achieved an Outstanding Scholar Award, 208 students achieved a Scholarship Award, 36 students achieved a Top Subject Scholarship Award, and 1,860 students achieved a Single Subject Award .

Generally, students meeting the criteria for more than one award receive the award with the highest monetary value. However, students receiving a Top Subject Scholar Award, who also achieve Scholarship in another subject, also receive a Single Subject Award.

The monetary payment to 2020 Scholarship winners is estimated at approximately \$3.7 million over a period of three years.

For further details about Scholarship and the Awards, see the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/scholarship

Scholarship Statistics

In 2020, 10,433 students entered New Zealand Scholarship assessments in one or more subjects. Some students entered Scholarship subjects but were not assessed. Of the total of 20,095 subject entries there were 13,110 assessments that were marked and graded. Percentage statistics in this section are based on assessments that were marked and graded.

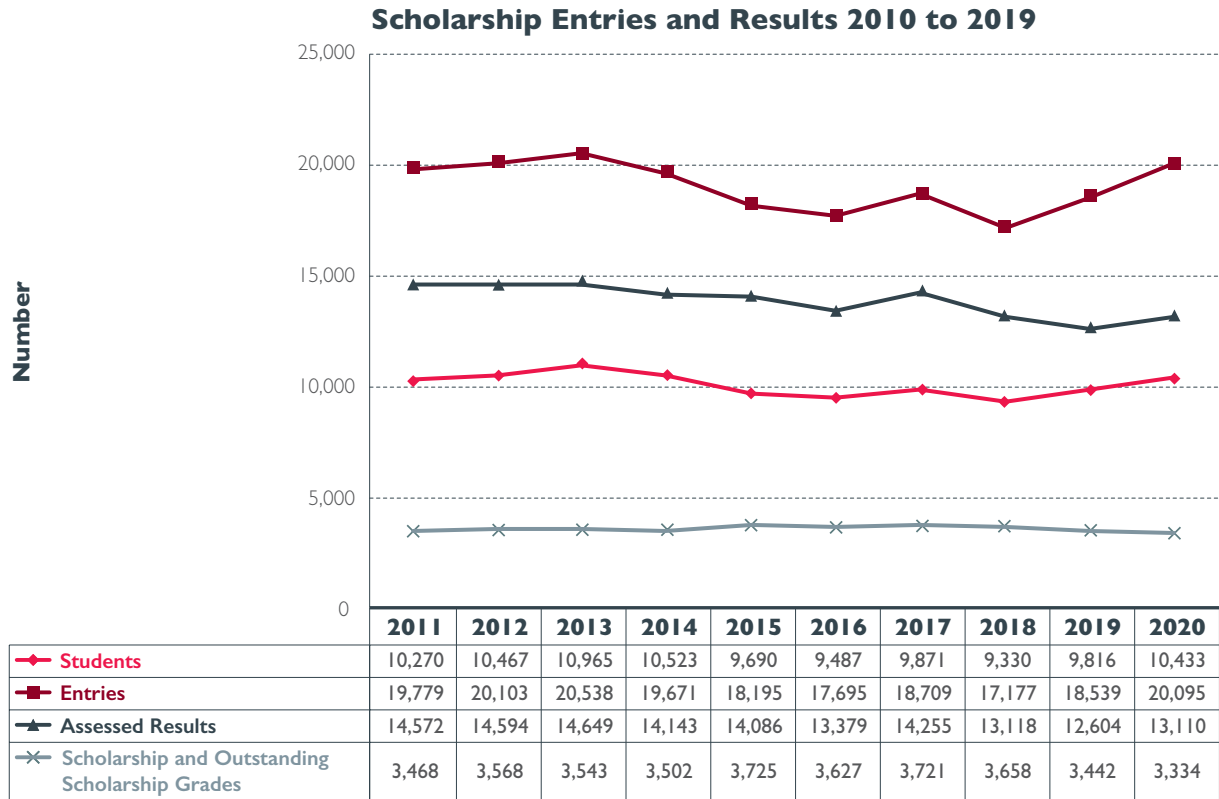


Figure 48. Scholarship entries and results 2011 to 2020.

Table 3 shows the numbers of entries and results for 2020 Scholarship students by gender. More female than male students made entries in Scholarship subjects. For males, 22.7% of assessed results were graded Scholarship grade, and 2.7% Outstanding Scholarship. For females, the equivalent percentages were 22.9% and 2.5%, respectively.

Gender	Students	Entries	Assessed Results	Scholarship Grades	Outstanding Grades
Male	4,725	10,091	6,916	1,568	190
Female	5,706	10,002	6,193	1,420	156

Table 3. Students, entries, and results, for Scholarship in 2020. Students with “unknown gender” have been omitted from this table.

Table 4 shows the numbers of entries and results for 2020 Scholarship students by ethnicity. All ethnicities are shown. Students can have multiple ethnicities; in this case, they will be counted in each ethnicity they reported.

Ethnicity	Students	Entries	Assessed Results	Scholarship Grades	Outstanding Grades
Asian	3,217	7,306	5,103	1,156	149
European	6,652	12,121	7,721	1,820	199
Māori	845	1,386	795	155	24
Middle Eastern/Latin American/ African	250	435	250	42	3
Pacific Peoples	453	687	361	52	10
Other Ethnicity	123	236	153	37	5
Total	10,433	20,095	13,110	2,988	346

Table 4. Students by ethnicity for Scholarship in 2020.

Scholarships Awarded in 2020 by Subject

Table 5 shows a breakdown of Scholarship results for 2020 across all 36 subjects. The Level 3 cohort size for each subject is used for determining the number of students obtaining passing grades.

Subject	Level 3 Cohort	Scholarship	Outstanding Scholarship	Total	%
Accounting	1,863	53	6	59	3.2
Agriculture and Horticulture	496	13	2	15	3.0
Art History	840	24	3	27	3.2
Biology	9,616	277	29	306	3.2
Calculus	9,016	247	29	276	3.1
Chemistry	8,908	159	28	187	2.1
Chinese	790	21	3	24	3.0
Classical Studies	2,995	81	9	90	3.0
Dance	997	13	3	16	1.6
Design	2,316	63	7	70	3.0
Design and Visual Communication	1,328	39	4	43	3.2
Drama	1,936	54	5	59	3.0
Earth and Space Science	939	25	3	28	3.0
Economics	2,806	75	9	84	3.0
English	15,624	424	45	469	3.0
French	479	13	2	15	3.1
Geography	4,734	126	15	141	3.0
German	217	5	2	7	3.2
Health and Physical Education	4,482	115	12	127	2.8
History	6,240	153	18	171	2.7
Japanese	526	15	2	17	3.2
Latin	35	3	1	4	11.4
Media Studies	2,437	70	7	77	3.2
Music	1,630	46	5	51	3.1
Painting	2,912	78	9	87	3.0
Photography	2,870	77	9	86	3.0
Physics	8,586	232	27	259	3.0
Printmaking	414	11	1	12	2.9
Religious Studies	2,600	68	6	74	2.8
Samoan	315	9	1	10	3.2
Sculpture	183	5	1	6	3.3
Spanish	419	12	1	13	3.1
Statistics	9,659	277	29	306	3.2
Te Reo Māori	949	28	2	30	3.2
Te Reo Rangatira	182	10	1	11	6.0
Technology	3,700	67	10	77	2.1

Table 5. Cohort size and results for Scholarship in 2020.

Table 6 shows the Scholarship results across the 36 subjects by assessed results. For each subject, the table shows the number of entries, absences, and assessed results. The assessed results are categorised by their 3 grades:

- Not Achieved
- Scholarship
- Outstanding Scholarship

and are shown both as numbers and as percentages.

Subject	Entries	Void or Absent	Assessed Results	Not Achieved		Scholarship		Outstanding Scholarship	
				Num.	% of Assessed Results	Num.	% of Assessed Results	Num.	% of Assessed
Accounting	300	105	195	136	69.7	53	27.2	6	3.1
Agriculture and Horticulture	80	21	59	44	74.6	13	22.0	2	3.4
Art History	217	85	132	105	79.5	24	18.2	3	2.3
Biology	1,588	479	1,109	803	72.4	277	25.0	29	2.6
Calculus	1,730	413	1,317	1,041	79.0	247	18.8	29	2.2
Chemistry	1,632	602	1,030	843	81.8	159	15.4	28	2.7
Chinese	290	89	201	177	88.1	21	10.4	3	1.5
Classical Studies	486	157	329	239	72.6	81	24.6	9	2.7
Dance	124	53	71	55	77.5	13	18.3	3	4.2
Design	505	246	259	189	73.0	63	24.3	7	2.7
Design and Visual Communication	377	41	336	293	87.2	39	11.6	4	1.2
Drama	380	183	197	138	70.1	54	27.4	5	2.5
Earth and Space Science	247	78	169	141	83.4	25	14.8	3	1.8
Economics	573	160	413	329	79.7	75	18.2	9	2.2
English	1,970	707	1,263	794	62.9	424	33.6	45	3.6
French	106	14	92	77	83.7	13	14.1	2	2.2
Geography	995	293	702	561	79.9	126	17.9	15	2.1
German	31	5	26	19	73.1	5	19.2	2	7.7
Health and Physical Education	847	534	313	186	59.4	115	36.7	12	3.8
History	1,189	396	793	622	78.4	153	19.3	18	2.3
Japanese	169	37	132	115	87.1	15	11.4	2	1.5
Latin	41	8	33	29	87.9	3	9.1	1	3.0
Media Studies	442	196	246	169	68.7	70	28.5	7	2.8
Music	444	138	306	255	83.3	46	15.0	5	1.6
Painting	575	258	317	230	72.6	78	24.6	9	2.8
Photography	458	234	224	138	61.6	77	34.4	9	4.0
Physics	1,670	571	1,099	840	76.4	232	21.1	27	2.5
Printmaking	84	43	41	29	70.7	11	26.8	1	2.4
Religious Studies	484	217	267	193	72.3	68	25.5	6	2.2
Samoan	90	31	59	49	83.1	9	15.3	1	1.7
Sculpture	56	36	20	14	70.0	5	25.0	1	5.0
Spanish	102	23	79	66	83.5	12	15.2	1	1.3
Statistics	1,227	318	909	603	66.3	277	30.5	29	3.2
Te Reo Māori	145	52	93	63	67.7	28	30.1	2	2.2
Te Reo Rangatira	82	31	51	40	78.4	10	19.6	1	2.0
Technology	359	131	228	151	66.2	67	29.4	10	4.4

Table 6. Entries and results for Scholarship in 2020.

Premier Awards and Outstanding Scholar Awards

After the Prime Minister's Award, the Premier Awards are the next most prestigious of the Scholarship awards. Following the Premier Awards in prestige, are the Outstanding Scholar Awards.

Year	Premier Awards		Outstanding Scholar Awards	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
2016	1	9	7	43
2017	2	9	14	36
2018	1	10	14	33
2019	3	9	18	40
2020	3	9	18	40

Table 7. Number of Premier and Outstanding Scholar Award winners by gender from 2016 to 2020. Students with “unknown gender” have been omitted from this table.

Year	Premier Awards		Outstanding Scholar Awards	
	Decile 8-10	Other Deciles	Decile 8-10	Other Deciles
2016	9	1	32	18
2017	10	1	36	14
2018	8	3	35	12
2019	11	1	42	16
2020	11	1	42	16

Table 8. Number of Premier and Outstanding Scholar Award winners by school decile band from 2016 to 2020.

The total numbers of Premier Award and Outstanding Scholar Award winners by ethnicity for 2020 are shown in Table 9. All ethnicities are shown. Students can have multiple ethnicities; in this case, they will be counted in each ethnicity they reported.

Ethnicity	Premier Awards					Outstanding Scholar Awards				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian	7	5	4	8	10	24	25	22	26	33
European	4	6	6	5	3	26	26	24	33	29
Māori	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3
Pacific Peoples	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern/ Latin American/ African	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other Ethnicity	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1

Table 9. Number of Premier and Outstanding Scholar Award winners by ethnicity from 2016 to 2020.

Subject	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Accounting	3	2	1	2	2
Agriculture and Horticulture	2	1	1	0	0
Art History	0	1	0	2	2
Biology	4	3	8	5	8
Calculus	8	8	11	8	8
Chemistry	8	8	10	9	9
Chinese	0	0	0	0	1
Classical Studies	3	3	2	2	3
Earth and Space Science	2	1	2	1	1
Economics	3	2	3	3	2
English	5	7	7	8	8
French	1	1	0	0	0
Geography	5	4	5	1	3
German	0	0	1	0	0
Health and Physical Education	2	3	4	6	4
History	1	4	0	5	5
Latin	0	0	1	0	0
Media Studies	4	3	1	1	2
Music	0	1	0	0	0
Physics	9	9	9	8	9
Religious Studies	0	0	0	0	1
Spanish	1	0	0	1	1
Statistics	8	9	11	12	10
Technology	0	0	1	0	0

Table 10. Number of Premier Award Winners attaining Scholarship or Outstanding Scholarship grades by subject from 2016 to 2020.

Note that prior to 2018, Health and Physical Education was called Physical Education.

Details about the Premier Award winners may be found on the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/top-scholars



**Results by
Standard Type**

Three categories of assessment standards can contribute credits towards the attainment of NCEA qualifications. They are:

- Unit Standards
- Internally assessed Achievement Standards
- Externally assessed Achievement Standards.

This section reports the results of standards in each of these categories. The cohort used is the All NZQA secondary students' cohort.

Tables 11-12 and Figures 49-60 show the statistics for the three types of standards in 2020, based on the number of assessed results and the number of credits.

When considering the distribution of the percentage of grades by standard type and assessment in Tables 11-14 and Figures 49-54, it should be noted that while Achievement Standards carry the grades Not Achieved, Achieved, Achieved with Merit, and Achieved with Excellence, most Unit Standards only carry the grades Not Achieved, and Achieved.

Table 11 shows entries and assessed results for each type of standard, along with grade percentages computed using assessed results.

	Entries	Number of Assessed Results	Not Achieved	Achieved	Merit	Excellence
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	1,058,114	794,823	20.6%	37.8%	28.3%	13.4%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	2,178,130	2,137,210	14.6%	33.9%	25.3%	26.2%
Unit Standards	761,537	741,849	9.2%	88.2%	1.3%	1.3%

Table 11. Percentage distributions of results for secondary school students in Externally assessed Achievement Standards, Internally assessed Achievement Standards, and Unit Standards in 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Table 12 shows the number of credits for each type of standard along with grade percentages.

	Number of Credits	Not Achieved	Achieved	Merit	Excellence
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	3,618,727	19.7%	37.3%	28.6%	14.4%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	8,378,073	14.6%	33.3%	25.2%	27.0%
Unit Standards	2,627,527	9.7%	86.9%	1.7%	1.8%

Table 12. Percentage distributions of credits for Externally assessed Achievement Standards, Internally assessed Achievement Standards, and Unit Standards in 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Tables 13 and 14 show the percentages of assessed results and credits for Unit Standards and Achievement Standards, in each school decile band, by NCEA level.

	Decile 1-3	Decile 4-7	Decile 8-10
LEVEL 1			
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	13.2%	22.4%	30.4%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	67.3%	64.7%	63.8%
Unit Standards	19.5%	12.9%	5.8%
Total Results	252,322	673,334	544,151
LEVEL 2			
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	12.9%	20.5%	28.3%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	56.8%	56.6%	60.3%
Unit Standards	30.3%	22.9%	11.4%
Total Results	175,609	521,177	487,094
LEVEL 3			
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	13.6%	21.9%	28.0%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	65.7%	63.4%	65.5%
Unit Standards	20.8%	14.7%	6.5%
Total Results	102,369	299,193	324,910

Table 13. Percentages and total numbers of assessed results by NCEA level and school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

	Decile 1-3	Decile 4-7	Decile 8-10
LEVEL 1			
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	15.6%	24.8%	32.2%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	67.8%	64.3%	62.9%
Unit Standards	16.6%	11.0%	4.9%
Total Credits	953,172	2,586,887	2,145,792
LEVEL 2			
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	16.6%	24.5%	32.0%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	56.3%	55.6%	58.5%
Unit Standards	27.1%	19.9%	9.5%
Total Credits	682,000	2,042,420	1,970,032
LEVEL 3			
Externally Assessed Achievement Standards	16.1%	25.3%	31.5%
Internally Assessed Achievement Standards	61.2%	59.2%	61.6%
Unit Standards	22.6%	15.5%	6.9%
Total Credits	456,226	1,316,880	1,438,561

Table 14. Percentages and total numbers of assessed credits by NCEA level and school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Distribution of Externally assessed Achievement Standard Results by School Decile Band

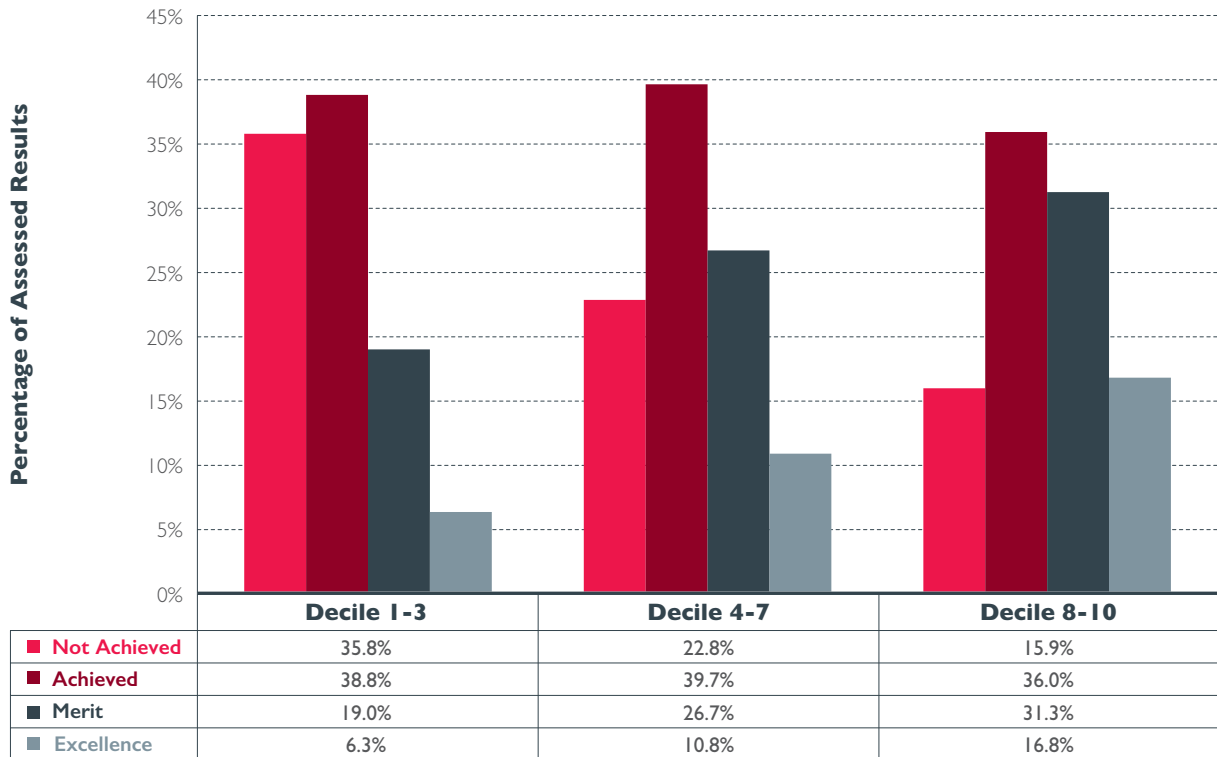


Figure 49. Percentage distributions of results for Externally assessed Achievement Standards in 2020, by school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Distribution of Externally assessed Achievement Standard Credits by School Decile Band

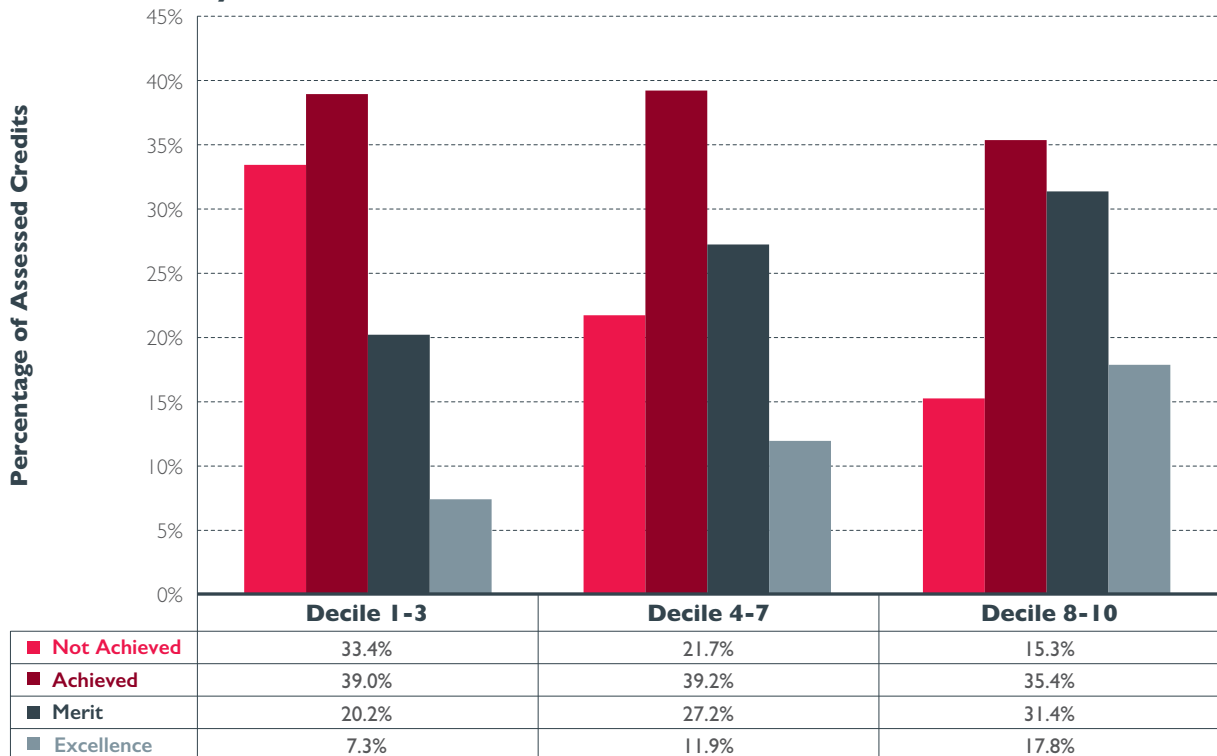


Figure 50. Percentage of credits for Externally assessed Achievement Standards in 2020, by school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Figures 51 and 52 show the distributions of results and credits for Internally assessed Achievement standards by School Decile Bands 1-3, 4-7, and 8-10 in 2020.

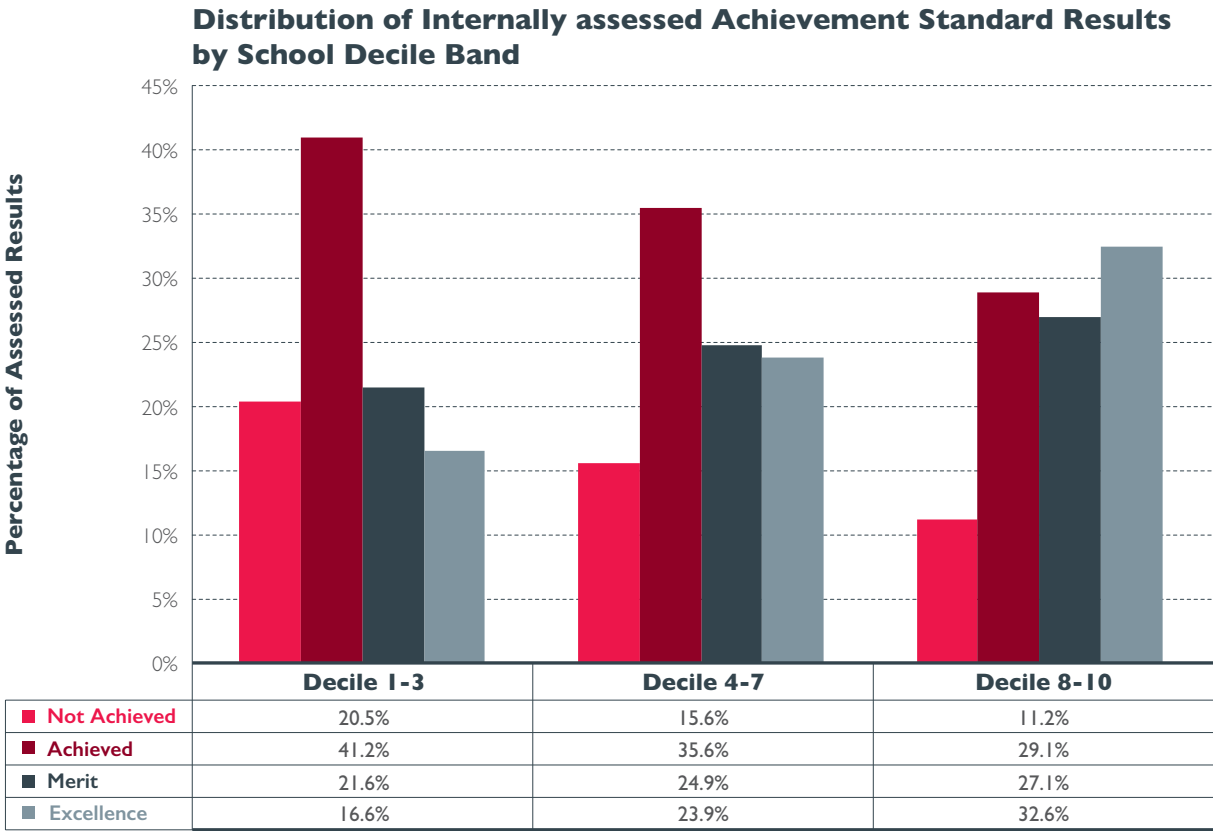


Figure 51. Percentage distributions of assessed results for Internally assessed Achievement Standards in 2020, by school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Distribution of Internally assessed Achievement Standard Credits by School Decile Band

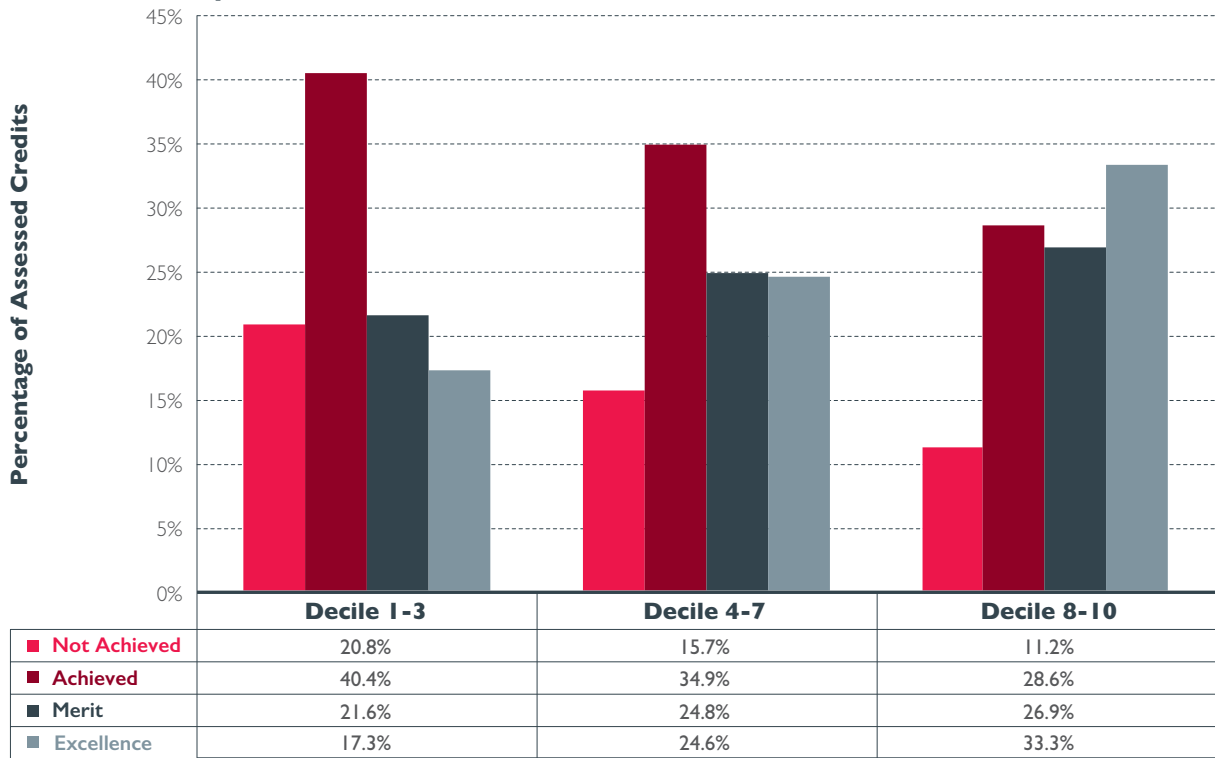


Figure 52. Percentage distributions of assessed credits for Internally assessed Achievement Standards in 2020, by school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Figures 53 and 54 show the percentage distributions of results and credits for Unit Standards by school decile bands for 2020. Most Unit Standards only carry the grades Not Achieved and Achieved. For Unit Standards Not Achieved grades have been reported as Results/Credits Not Gained; Achieved, Achieved with Merit, and Achieved with Excellence have been reported as Results/Credits Gained. More than 85% of results and 85% of credits for Unit Standards received an Achieved grade across all three school decile bands.

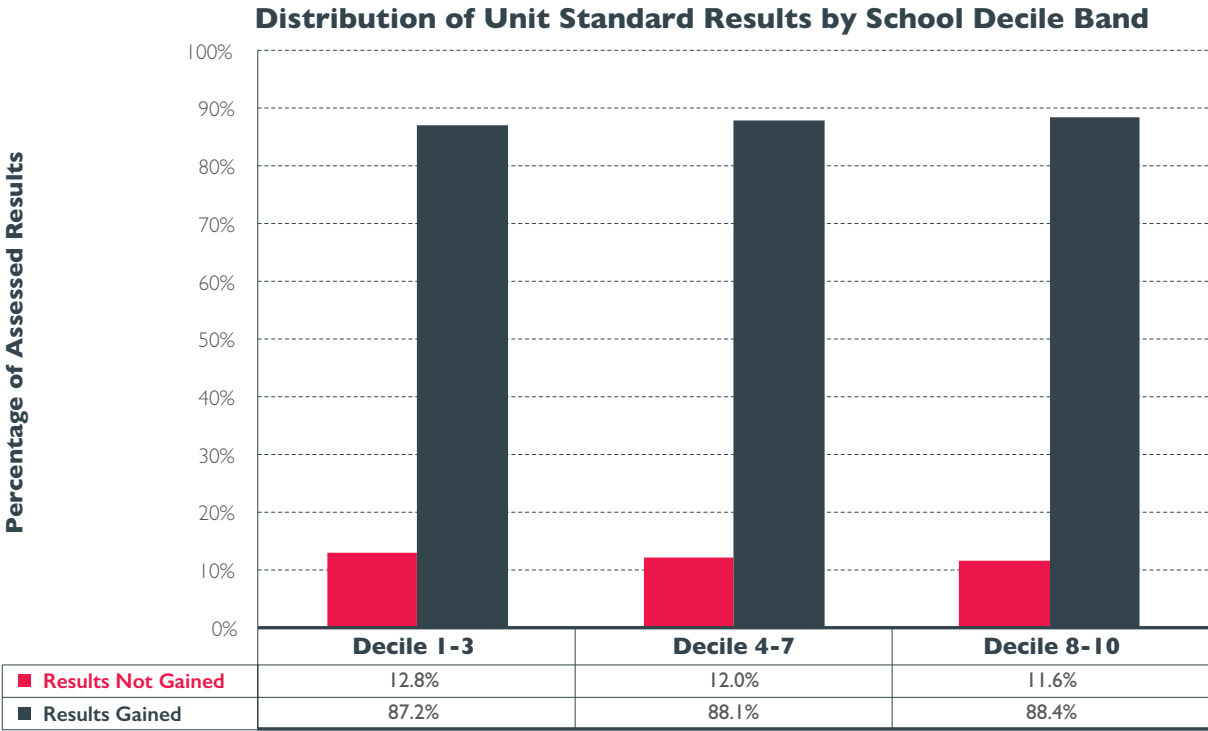


Figure 53. Percentage distributions of assessed credits for Unit Standards in 2020, by school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

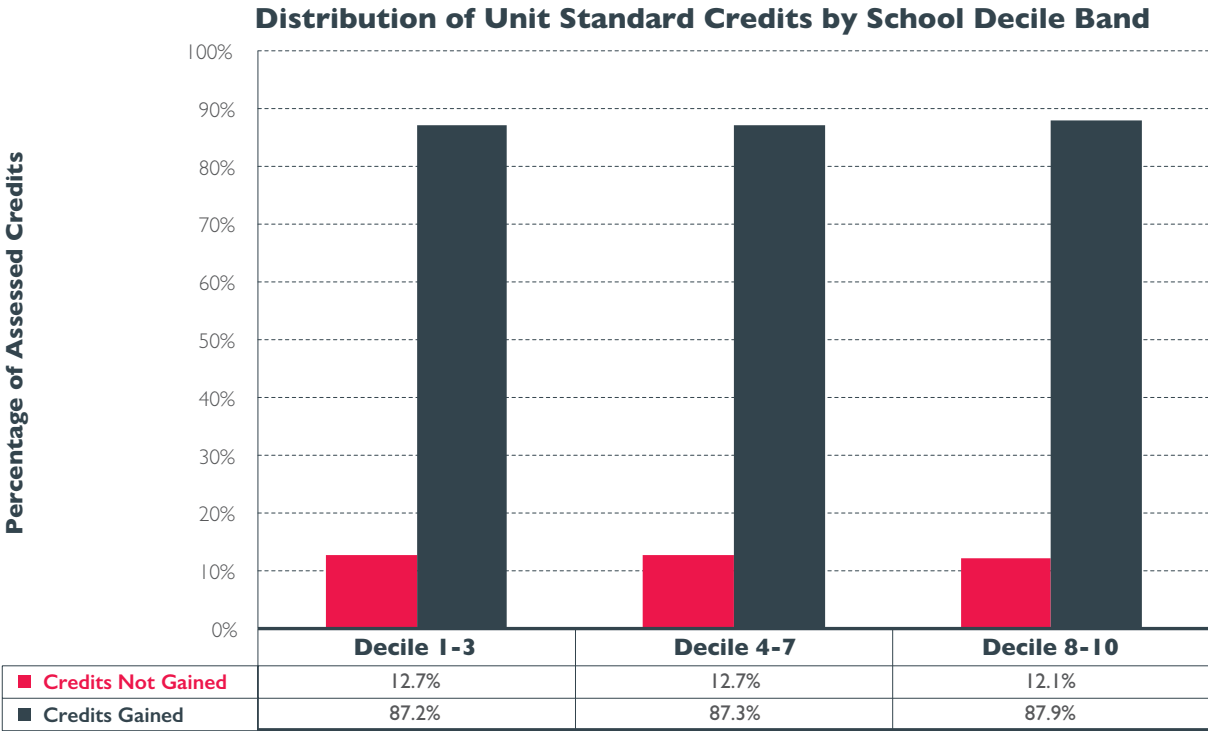


Figure 54. Percentage distributions of assessed credits for Unit Standards in 2020, by school decile band. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Figures 55-60 show the percentage of results and the percentage of credits for Externally assessed Achievement Standards, Internally assessed Achievement Standards, and Unit Standards at each NCEA level from 2016 to 2020.

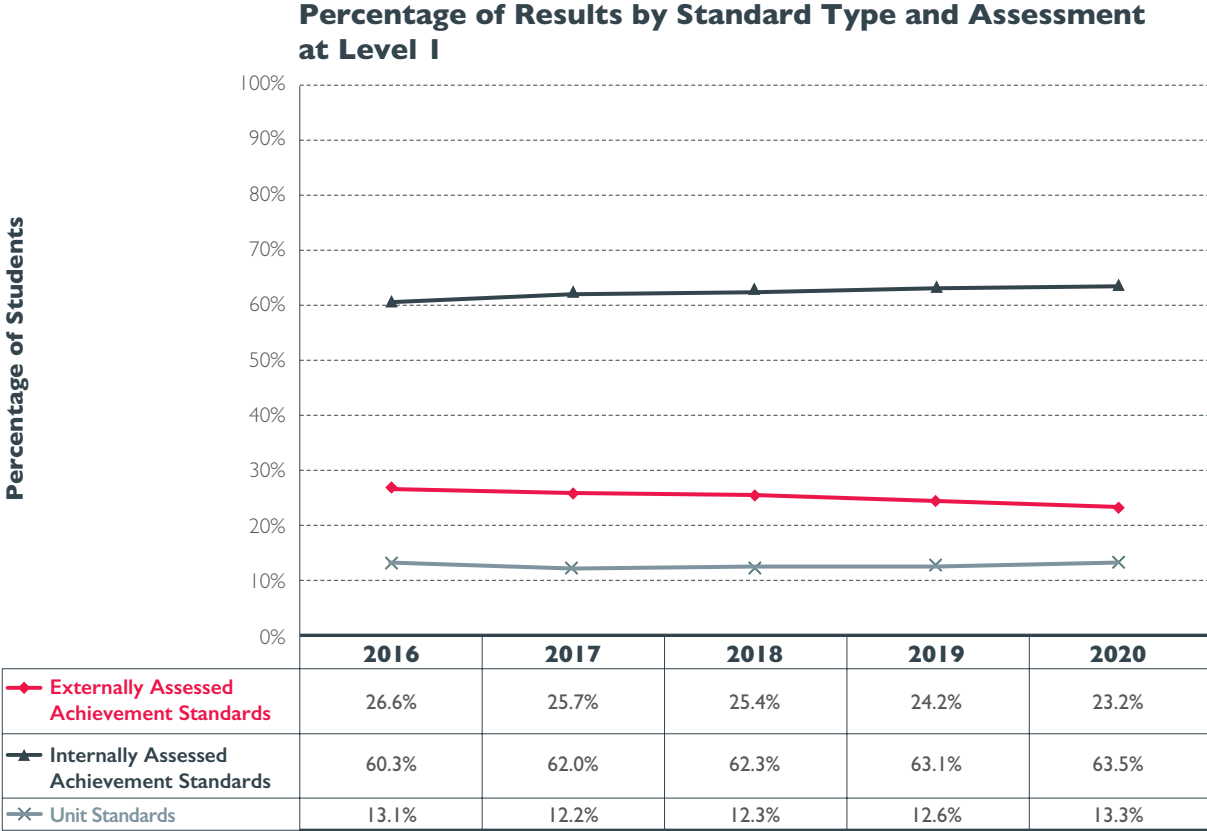


Figure 55. Percentage of results by standard type and assessment method at Level I from 2016 to 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Percentage of Credits by Standard Type and Assessment at Level I

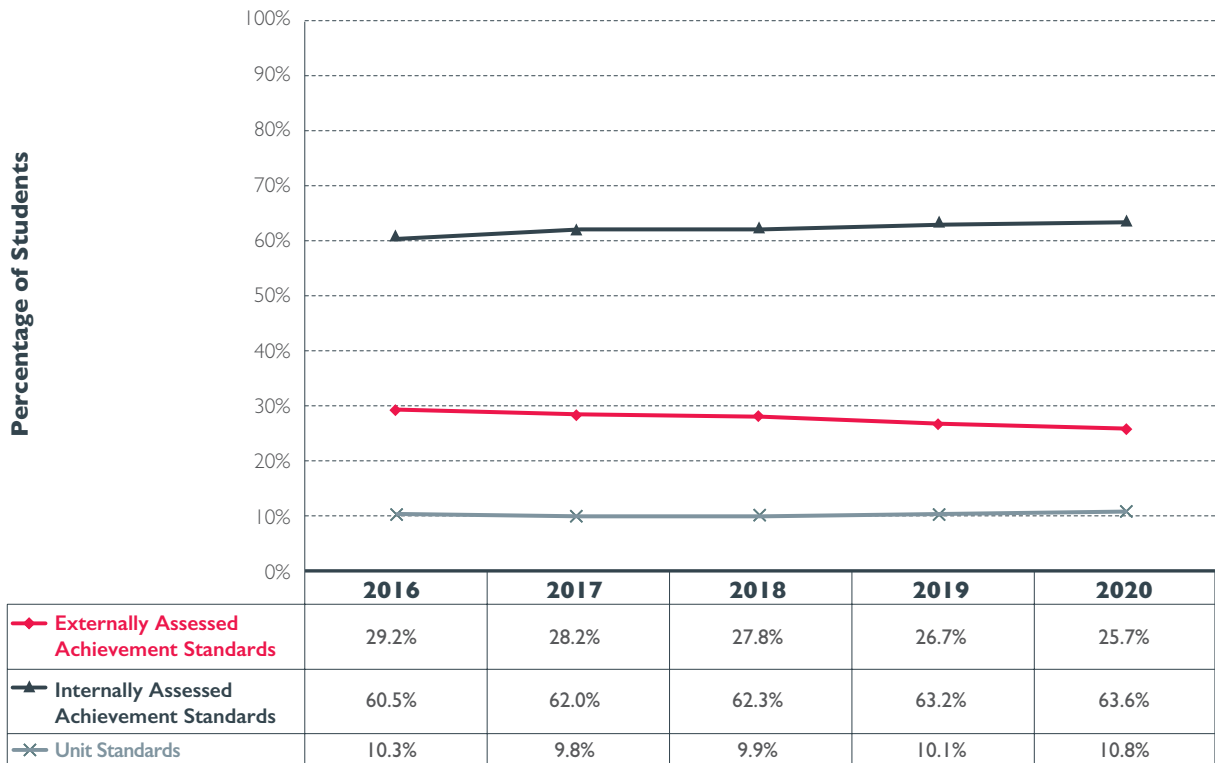


Figure 56. Percentage of credits by standard type and assessment method at Level I from 2016 to 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Percentage of Results by Standard Type and Assessment at Level 2

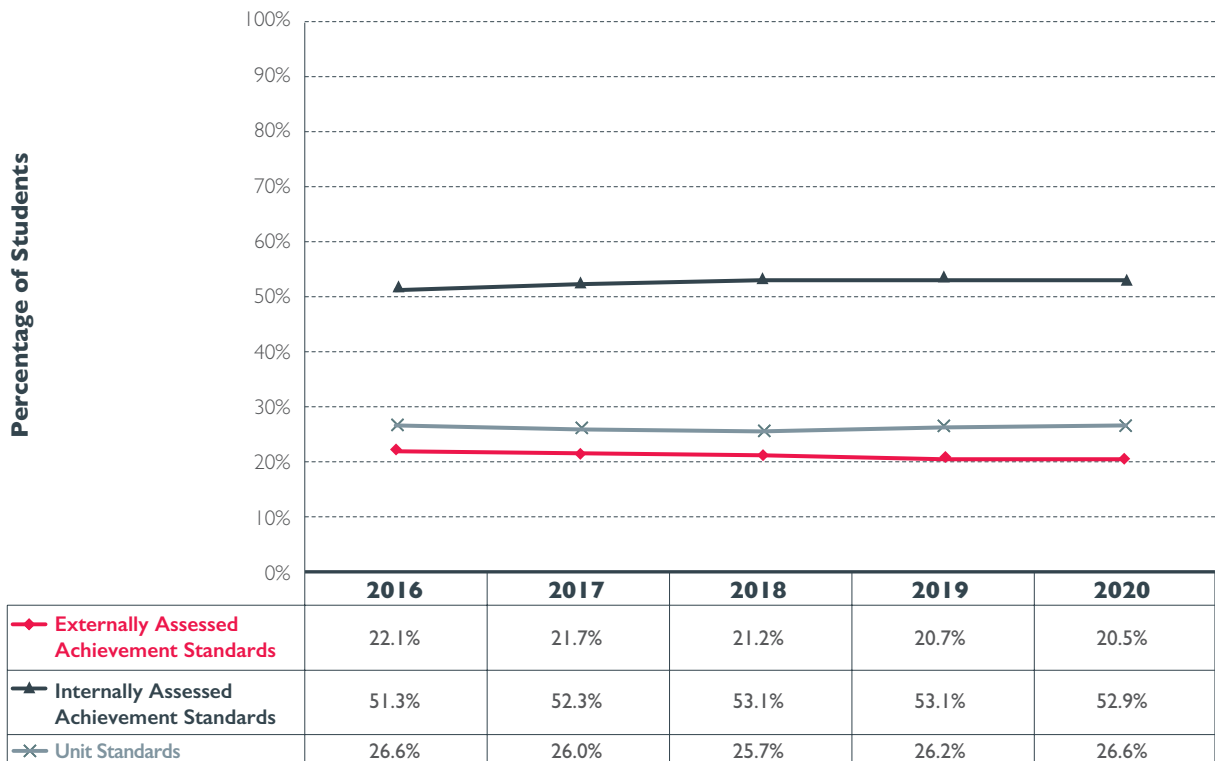


Figure 57. Percentage of results by standard type and assessment at Level 2 from 2016 to 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Percentage of Credits by Standard Type and Assessment at Level 2

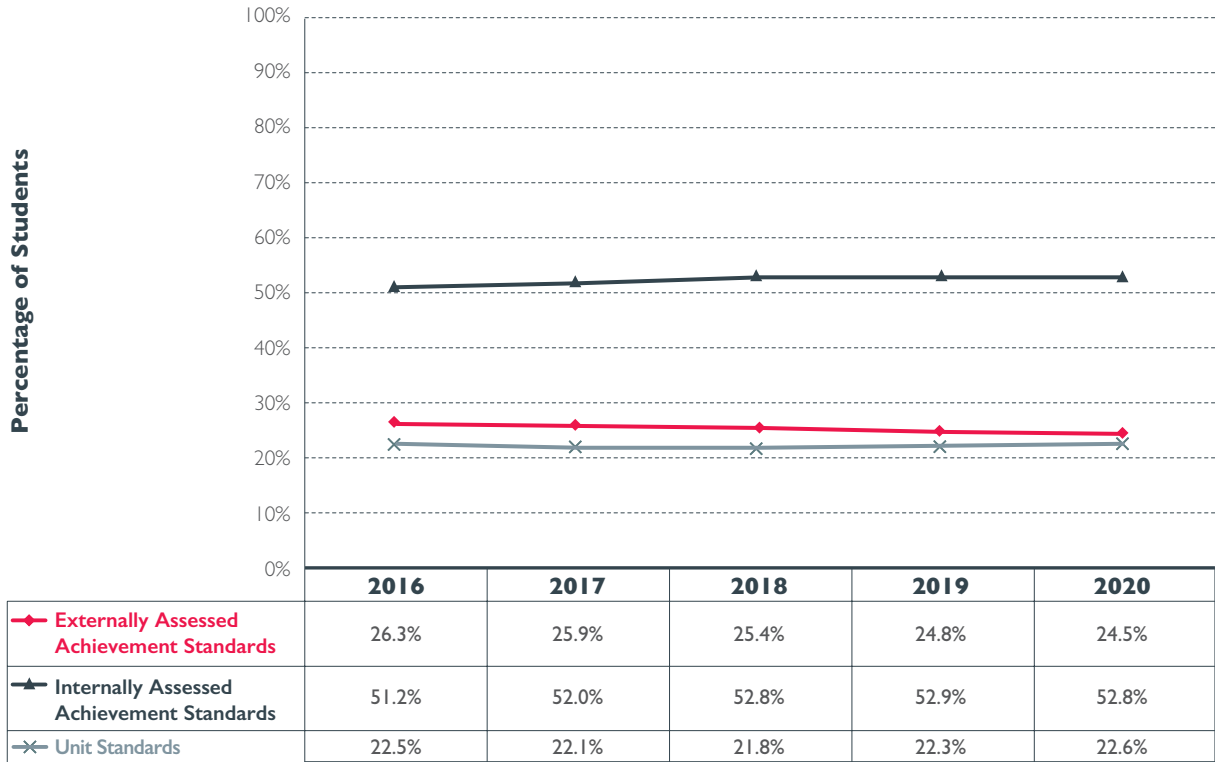


Figure 58. Percentage of credits by standard type and assessment at Level 2 from 2016 to 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Percentage of Results by Standard Type and Assessment at Level 3

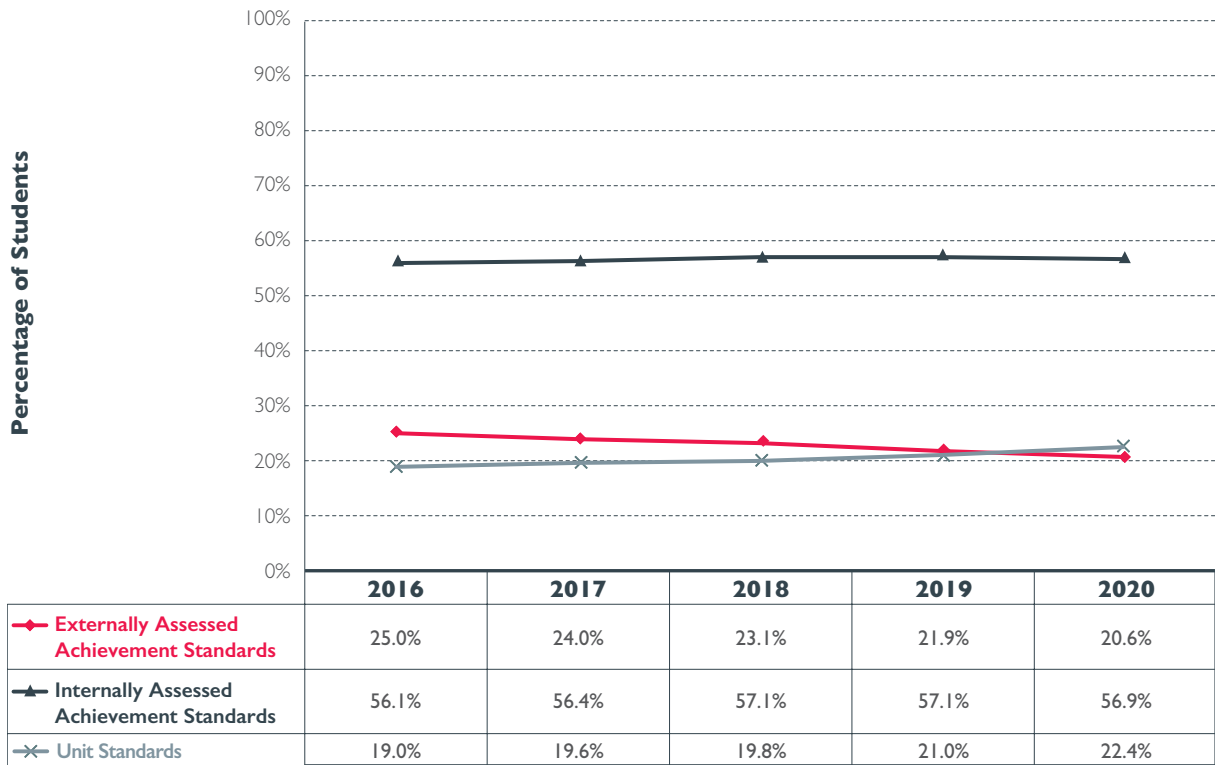


Figure 59. Percentage of results by standard type and assessment at Level 3 from 2016 to 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.

Percentage of Credits by Standard Type and Assessment at Level 3

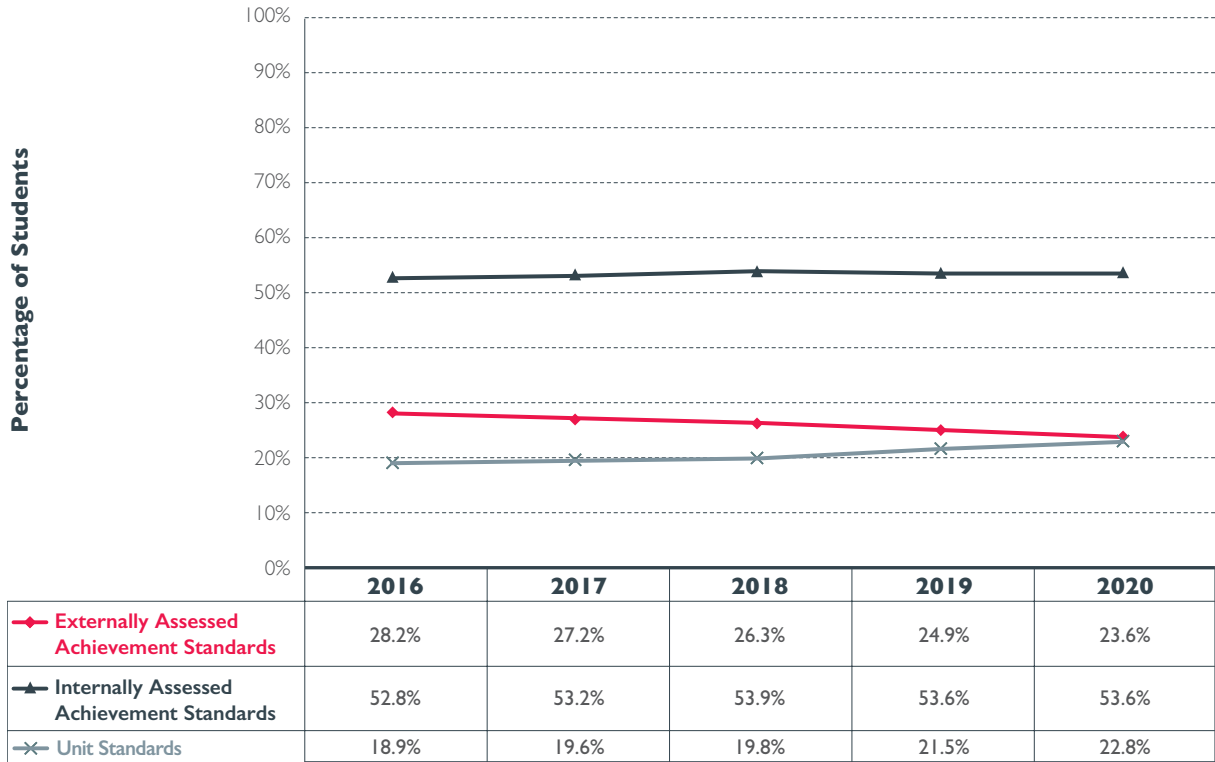


Figure 60. Percentage of credits by standard type and assessment at Level 3 from 2016 to 2020. Percentages may not sum to 100, due to rounding.



**NCEA Administrative
Processes and Data**

The Role of NZQA in the Examination Process

Each year NZQA manages national examinations and assessment of portfolios for relevant externally assessed standards. NZQA coordinates and administers examination paper production, examination timetabling, examination centre operation, marking, results publication, the return of examination booklets to students,

and the processing of requests for review and reconsideration of results.

During the examination season, NZQA receives reports related to examination irregularities, sends relevant reports to markers, and investigates breaches of examination rules.

External Assessment

External Assessment usually refers to examinations run by NZQA at the end of each year. It also includes portfolios of students' work submitted for assessment or verification by a panel of experts appointed by NZQA.

End-of-year external assessment involves a large number of students. It also involves a large number of people administering the external assessments, including marking examinations and portfolios. The following counts present some facts from the 2020 examinations:

- 144,222 students with a total of 1,058,114 entries in NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship examinations
- 59,158 students with entries at Level 1, 54,921 students with entries at Level 2, and 42,051 students with entries at Level 3
- 10,433 students entered for New Zealand Scholarship, providing 20,095 subject entries
- 140 examination sessions held at 415 examination centres throughout New Zealand
- 58 digital examinations in 21 subjects were offered. 22,475 unique students participated in digital examinations from 276 schools
- 1,563 markers and 6,547 examination supervisors and examination centre managers.

Reviews and Reconsiderations

Answer booklets and portfolios for externally assessed standards are returned to students near the end of January. After students have received their booklets and portfolios they may apply for either a Review or a Reconsideration of their results. For students who were digitally assessed they logon to view their marked assessments.

A student applies for a Review if he or she believes there has been a processing error.

Examples of a processing error include:

- One or more unmarked sections in an answer booklet
- Inaccurate calculation of final score
- Incorrect transfer of grades.

A Review involves checking:

- That all sections of the booklet have been marked
- The calculation of the final score is correct
- Grades have been transferred correctly.

Note that a Review does not involve remarking the answer booklet, portfolio, or digital examination but a Reconsideration does.

A student applies for a Reconsideration if they believe their answer booklet, portfolio, or digital examination has not been assessed correctly. A Reconsideration involves a re-mark. It follows that a Reconsideration also includes a Review.

Applications for a Review or a Reconsideration must reach NZQA by a specified date. For the 2020 examination round, this was Friday 26 February 2021 for NCEA, and Friday 5 March 2021 for Scholarship.

Tables 15-18 show the number of applications and success rates for Reviews and Reconsiderations of NCEA and Scholarship results from the 2016 to 2020 examination rounds. A change in the

definition of success was implemented in 2017 for the Scholarship results. The new definition for Scholarship mirrors the definition for NCEA. That is, a Scholarship Review or Reconsideration is successful when an upward change in grade has occurred.

Table 15 shows the number of applications, successes, and percentage successful for Reviews of NCEA and Scholarship from 2016 to 2020.

Year	NCEA			Scholarship		
	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful
2016	407	278	68.3%	5	3	60.0%
2017	312	197	63.1%	4	1	25.0%
2018	277	210	75.8%	4	3	75.0%
2019	324	222	68.5%	3	2	66.7%
2020	380	222	58.4%	3	1	33.3%

Table 15. Numbers and percent successful for Reviews of NCEA and Scholarship from 2016 to 2020.

Table 16 shows the number of applications, successes, and percentage successful for Reviews of NCEA and Scholarship in 2020 by ethnicity. Students can have multiple ethnicities; in this case, they will be counted in each ethnicity they reported.

Ethnicity	NCEA			Scholarship		
	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful
Asian	85	50	58.8%	2	1	50.0%
European	292	171	58.6%	2	0	0.0%
Māori	33	20	60.6%	1	0	0.0%
Pacific Peoples	9	6	66.7%	0	0	0.0%

Table 16. Numbers and percent successful for Reviews of NCEA and Scholarship in 2020 by ethnicity.

Table 17 shows the number of applications, successes, and percentage successful for Reconsiderations of NCEA and Scholarship from 2016 to 2020.

Year	NCEA			Scholarship		
	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful
2016	9,099	1,512	16.6%	405	21	5.2%
2017	9,772	1,705	17.4%	356	7	2.0%
2018	8,435	1,649	19.5%	329	1	0.3%
2019	8,414	1,759	20.9%	400	2	0.5%
2020	8,566	1,676	19.6%	421	4	1.0%

Table 17. Numbers and percent successful for Reconsiderations of NCEA and Scholarship from 2016 to 2020.

Table 18 shows the number of applications, successes, and percentage successful for Reconsiderations of NCEA and Scholarship in 2020 by ethnicity. Students can have multiple ethnicities; in this case, they will be counted in each ethnicity they reported.

Ethnicity	NCEA			Scholarship		
	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful	Num. of Applications	Num. Successful	% Successful
Asian	1,975	395	20.0%	157	2	1.3%
European	6,469	1,268	19.6%	266	2	0.8%
Māori	534	101	18.9%	28	0	0.0%
Pacific Peoples	125	23	18.4%	7	0	0.0%

Table 18. Numbers and percent successful for Reconsiderations of NCEA and Scholarship in 2020 by ethnicity.

More information on Reviews and Reconsiderations can be found on the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/reviews-and-reconsiderations

External Moderation of Internal Assessment

Each year NZQA moderates approximately 100,000 individual pieces of student work that are submitted by schools as part of their external moderation process. The standards moderated are from the range of standards for internally assessed standards that schools can select to assess in their teaching programmes.

The focus of the moderation process is to ensure that student evidence for specific standards meets the criteria of the standard on a national basis. Consequently each school is required to have a process for randomly selecting student samples for moderation before submitting to NZQA moderators. Schools are required to address issues identified through the moderation process.

The moderator will consider if the students' evidence meets the requirements of the standard. The assessment tasks or activities are only moderated if the moderator has cause to consider that the assessment tasks or activities were the cause of the inappropriate awarding of the grade. Assessment tasks or activities can be considered fit for purpose unless they have been specifically moderated.

The 100,000 pieces of student work come from two separate samples, the School Check and the National System Check.

The School Check is a sample of 90,000 to 95,000 pieces of work purposively selected. The focus is on improving the quality of assessments by providing feedback to schools and teachers about the assessment decisions they have made.

The second sample, the National System Check, is a selection of 5,000 to 10,000 pieces of student work. This is used to calculate the National Agreement rates. NZQA randomly selects the standards based on all internal achievement standard results. Each selected result is associated with a school. That school is then required to send up to eight students' pieces of work for the selected standard to NZQA for moderation.

Data on the agreement rate between teachers and moderators are considered in two ways: Agreement at the level of Credit, and Agreement at the level of Grade.

When a moderator reviews the assessment decision made with respect to a piece of a student's work, they firstly consider if the assessor has correctly judged whether the work has met the standard. If the moderator and assessor agree that the piece of work demonstrated a result of either Not Achieved or Achieved, regardless of whether it was a Not Achieved, Achieved, Achieved with Merit or Achieved with Excellence result, then the judgement is said to be an Agreement at the level of Credit. This term refers to the credits that a student does or does not receive depending on whether they have achieved the standard.

If the judgement of the assessor and moderator is that the work demonstrates achievement of the standard, the moderator will then consider the awarded grade of Achieved, Achieved with Merit or Achieved with Excellence. If the moderator agrees with the assessor that the correct level of grade has been awarded, then the judgement is said to be an Agreement at the level of Grade.

To recognise the disruption caused to teaching, learning and assessment as a result of COVID-19 external moderation was made optional in 2020.

The number of student samples returned for the National Systems Check was 3,308. As external moderation was made optional NZQA is not reporting a National Agreement Rate for 2020.

Breaches of Examination Rules

Each year NZQA investigates reports of possible breaches of examination rules. Actions which are in breach of the rules include:

- Dishonest practice, including altering external assessment materials prior to seeking a review or reconsideration
- Failure to follow instructions
- Authenticity issues, including plagiarism and impersonations
- Influencing, assisting or hindering other candidates, during the examination period.

When NZQA receives a report of a possible breach, an investigation is initiated. A letter is sent to the student or students involved, accompanied by copies of any relevant information or reports about the possible breach. The student(s) is/are invited to make a written comment to NZQA. An investigation may include consultation with the school or other agencies, and/or a face-to-face meeting with the student(s) concerned. NZQA uses an independent contractor to advise on progress and recommend decisions.

Since 2012, the reporting of some breaches has changed from that of previous years. For example communicating with other candidates is now reported under two classes:

- Following Instructions
- Influencing/Assisting/Hindering.

Breaches relating to candidates possessing prepared notes during examination sessions are reported in one of the following two classes:

- Dishonest Practices
- Following Instructions.

Table 19 summarises the investigations into breaches for 2020. A total of 332 reports were investigated, of which 314 were reported by examination centre managers, 15 by markers, and 3 by others.

Status of breach investigations	Number
Number of students for whom a breach was substantiated	277
Number of students where no breach occurred	55
Breach not attributed to any student due to lack of evidence	0
Decision pending	0
Total student investigations	332

Table 19. Status of investigations into breaches for 2020.

Table 20 provides the investigation information by type of breach by nature of breach.

Type of breach	Nature of breach	Number
Inappropriate Practice (24)	Cell phone use	5
	Using notes	6
	Altering/access to answer booklet	0
	Communicating with another candidate	3
	Other	10
Following Instructions (230)	Having a cell phone	78
	Inappropriate or offensive material/language	6
	Having notes	50
	Unauthorised material	26
	Unauthorised absence from exam room	8
	Starting early/Stop writing	6
	Navigating away from the digital platform	44
	Other	12
	Authenticity/Impersonation (11)	Authenticity
	Multiple handwriting	0
	Other	2
Influencing/Assisting/Hindering (67)	Disturbance	10
	Communicating with another candidate	57
	Other	0

Table 20. Investigations by type of breach by nature of breach for 2020.

Table 21 shows investigations by eighteen geographical regions.

Region	Number
Auckland	157
Bay of Plenty	16
Canterbury	33
Central Plateau	1
East Coast	4
Hawkes Bay	8
Manawatu	11
Nelson/Marlborough	8
Northland	26
Otago	15
Southland	2
Taranaki	1
Waikato	23
Wairarapa	2
Wanganui	0
Wellington	21
West Coast	3
Cook Islands	1

Table 21. Investigations by region for 2020.

Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)

Schools apply to NZQA for an entitlement to Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) on behalf of their students with permanent or long-term medical, physical, sensory or learning disabilities or difficulties which would impair their performance in internal and external (exam) assessments.

NZQA grants entitlement to SAC so that approved students may be fairly assessed and have access to assessment for National Qualifications.

SAC applications are approved so that entitled students can demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding, without providing an unfair advantage over other students.

Schools can apply for SAC using school-based evidence, rather than a formal psychometric report. A school gathers this evidence through the use of easy-to-administer, affordable testing tools.

Table 22 shows 2020 SAC applications by decile.

Decile	No. of students enrolled in NCEA and Scholarship	Total Applications	Total Approved	School-based Evidence
1	10,087	482	361	216
2	8,050	400	373	276
3	13,886	667	575	382
4	17,626	1146	1000	633
5	14,365	1060	966	597
6	26,176	1874	1695	1041
7	25,913	1697	1564	771
8	22,991	2081	1926	986
9	26,927	2338	2201	1180
10	23,061	2591	2447	939
99	4,554	221	216	61
Total	193,636	14,557	13,324	7,082

Table 22. SAC applications by decile for 2020. Note that decile 99 includes schools without a decile, e.g. new schools and Te Aho o te Kura Pounamu (The Correspondence School).

Table 23 shows 2020 SAC applications by ethnicity. All ethnicities are shown. Students can have multiple ethnicities; in this case, they will be counted in each ethnicity they reported.

Ethnicity	No. of students enrolled in NCEA and Scholarship	Total Applications	Total Approved	School-based Evidence
Asian	31,456	709	615	317
European	120,105	11,777	10,882	5,565
Māori	42,029	2,303	2,106	1,296
Pacific Peoples	24,959	994	827	556
Total	193,636	14,557	13,324	7,082

Table 23. SAC applications by decile for 2020.

Further information on SAC can be found on the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/sac

Appendix I. Cohorts

(See also introductory explanations on pages 6 and 7.)

This report uses three types of cohorts as a basis for the percentage statistics that have been presented. They are the Enrolment-based cohort, Tracked Year 11 cohort and All NZQA secondary students' cohort.

The **Enrolment-based cohort** includes all New Zealand domestic students in Years 11 to 13 (aged less than 19 years on 1 January) with a Ministry enrolment of one day or more.

The **Tracked Year 11 cohort** is formed from the Enrolment-based Student cohort. More formally, it is Year 11 students from the Enrolled Student cohort of an earlier year. Students in a Tracked Year 11 cohort are monitored from the beginning of that earlier year through their senior years of schooling for attainment of NCEA qualifications. For example, the 2018 Tracked Year 11 cohort is made up of the Year 11 students from the Enrolment-based Student cohort of 2018, and this cohort's attainment rates of NCEA qualifications are reported as at the end of 2200.

The **'All NZQA secondary students' cohort** is used to report Scholarship and administrative data.

Appendix 2. Glossary

Achieved

The grade awarded in recognition of satisfying the Achievement Standard.

Achieved with Excellence

The highest possible grade for an Achievement Standard.

Achieved with Merit

The grade awarded in recognition of achieving beyond the minimum required to satisfy the Achievement Standard.

Achievement Standard

Achievement Standards are derived from the learning objectives of the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

Alignment of Standards (Standards Review)

The project carried out by NZQA and the Ministry of Education to align all standards with the New Zealand Curriculum 2007.

Attainment

Within this report the term attainment refers to:

- Gaining a qualification
- Attaining a grade of Achieved, Achieved with Merit, or Achieved with Excellence in a standard
- Having met the requirements of University Entrance, Literacy, or Numeracy.

Answer Booklet

A paper booklet provided to a student for external examinations in which the student writes responses to examination questions.

Assessed Results

Results in Unit Standards, Internally assessed Achievement Standards or Externally assessed Achievement Standards that are either:

- Not Achieved
- Achieved
- Achieved with Merit, or
- Achieved with Excellence.

Most Unit Standards only carry grades of Not Achieved and Achieved results.

Results in Scholarship Standards that are either:

- Not Achieved
- Scholarship, or
- Outstanding Scholarship.

Attainment

Refers to having achieved some outcomes, such as achieving a standard, or gaining a qualification, or having been given an award.

Breach of the Rules

Any behaviour in relation to the assessment of Externally assessed Achievement Standards, prohibited by NZQA rules that govern these assessments.

Certificate Endorsement

Recognition for students who perform well for a particular level of NCEA. To qualify for a Certificate Endorsement with Excellence, students must gain 50 or more credits at Achieved with Excellence. A Certificate Endorsement with Merit requires 50 or more credits at Achieved with Merit or a mix of Achieved with Merit and Achieved with Excellence.

Cohort

A group of students, designated according to one or more criteria.

Course Endorsement

Recognition for students who perform well in individual courses. It is in the form of either Achieved with Merit or Achieved with Excellence. To qualify for a course endorsement, a student must gain 14 or more credits at Achieved with Merit or Achieved with Excellence in standards incorporated in that course. For most courses there is a further requirement that at least 3 of these credits must be gained from Externally assessed Standards and 3 credits from Internally assessed Standards.⁴

Decile

A rating given to a school, reflecting socioeconomic factors of the community from which its students are drawn. Decile ratings are also grouped into bands:

- School Decile Band 1-3
- School Decile Band 4-7
- School Decile Band 8-10.

This approach allows comparisons of attainments of schools of similar decile rating.

Denominator

The number below the line in a fraction.

Entry/Entries

A record of a student's entry into individual standards is reported by schools to NZQA. Most students are entered for multiple standards in an academic year, i.e. a student may have more than one entry.

Enrolment-based Data

Data of qualification attainments based on the Enrolled Student cohort. A student is counted in the Enrolled Student cohort when they have a Ministry of Education enrolment record and are a New Zealand domestic student in Years 11-13 aged less than 19 years on 1 January of the reporting year.

Ethnicity

Statistics by ethnicity as presented in the report uses a total response method of Asian, European, Māori, and Pacific. An impact of the total response is that students can appear in up to three ethnic categories. The smallest ethnic group, Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) and Other Ethnicity, has not been included in this report. For data used in this report with the MELAA group included please refer to the NZQA website: www.nzqa.govt.nz/statistics

Examination Centre

A place where students sit examinations.

External Assessment

Assessment conducted by NZQA, including national examinations held at the end of the school year.

External Moderation

National external moderation by NZQA provides assurance that assessment decisions are made at the national standard.

Internal Assessment

Assessment conducted by a school during the school year.

Internal Moderation

The NZQA process used by schools to monitor teachers' assessment decisions.

Literacy

The written and oral language that people use in their everyday life and work. It includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. Skills in this area are essential for good communication, active participation, critical thinking, and problem solving.

⁴ Note, this does not apply to Physical Education, Religious Studies and Level 3 Visual Arts.

Moderation

Refer to External Moderation and Internal Moderation.

NCEA

National Certificate of Educational Achievement. It consists of national qualifications for senior students that can be attained at Level 1, 2, or 3.

New Zealand Curriculum

A statement of official policy related to teaching and learning in schools. It includes a clear set of principles on which to base curriculum decision making. It sets out values that are to be encouraged, modelled and explored. It defines five key competencies that are critical to sustained learning and effective participation in society, and that underline the emphasis on lifelong learning.⁵

Not Achieved

The grade given to students whose assessment evidence does not meet the requirements of an Achievement Standard or a Unit Standard.

Numeracy

The bridge between mathematics and daily life. It includes the knowledge and skills needed to apply mathematics to everyday family and financial matters, learning, work and community tasks, social and leisure activities.

Numerator

The number above the line in a fraction.

NZQA

New Zealand Qualifications Authority. The New Zealand government crown entity tasked with administering NCEA qualifications, University Entrance, and Scholarship.

NZQF

New Zealand Qualifications Framework. From 1 July 2010, the NZQF replaced the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications, Te Āhurutanga (the Register) and the National Qualifications Framework. The NZQF is a comprehensive list of all quality-assured qualifications in New Zealand.

Plagiarism

Submission by a student, of material that is not their own.

Reconsideration

A Reconsideration is conducted in response to an application from a student. A Reconsideration involves re-marking a student's response to an Externally assessed Standard examination or portfolio where the student believes that his or her response may not have been assessed correctly.

Review

A Review is conducted in response to an application from a student. A review involves checking for possible errors in the processing of the results of an Externally assessed Standard examination or portfolio.

Scholarship

Scholarship is aimed at high-performing students, and requires them to demonstrate high-level critical thinking. In general, Scholarship is tested by examination, and is offered in 35 subjects. Successful students receive a monetary award that reduces their tuition costs at any New Zealand tertiary institutions.

Senior students

Secondary school students in Year 11, 12, or 13.

Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)

Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) provide extra help for approved students when they are being assessed for their NCEA so that barriers to attainment can be removed and they then have a fair opportunity to gain credits. The support is used for both Internally assessed achievement standards and Externally assessed achievement standards.

Te Marautanga o Aotearoa

The national curriculum for Māori-medium schools.

Unit Standard

From 2010, a Unit Standard is any standard that is not derived from the New Zealand Curriculum.

University Entrance (UE)

The minimum academic requirement for admission to a New Zealand university. Although University Entrance is not a qualification but an award, it is treated as such in this report.

⁵ Ministry of Education (2007), The New Zealand Curriculum for English-medium teaching and learning years 1-13, Learning Media Limited.



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