

NCEA AT POLYFEST

Assessment opportunities to achieve credits

NCEA Polyfest Guide for Schools & Teachers



NCEA Polyfest Credits



All on-stage Polyfest dancers are able to achieve NCEA dance credits regardless of whether they are in a time-tabled dance class or not.

Polyfest events around the country are about providing performance opportunities for students. Schools and teachers may then choose the best assessment practice for NCEA credits.

What is Polyfest?

Polyfest is a significant cultural event and competition for secondary school students.

The festival features traditional music, cultural dance, costumes, and speech competitions.

Polyfest showcases and celebrates Pacific cultures within Aotearoa.

Polyfest celebrates the rich heritage of Pacific communities and also supports efforts to reconnect students with their identities, languages, and cultures.

Polyfest in Practice

It takes a village to make Polyfest happen. Community involvement is critical. Tutors will often be former students or community members that offer their cultural knowledge and expertise.

Schools will need to think about how these volunteers are acknowledged for their service. This might be in the form of a payment, koha, or other appropriate means.

Teachers that are involved in Polyfest are able to develop positive and strong relationships with students and families that can also be used for learning and academic purposes.

Community & Parent Involvement

Cultural Costumes

Creating cultural costumes often requires time and resources. Some of the resources are made locally and others can be imported from the Pacific Islands for performances.

Parents may consider working together to host workshops at schools or church halls to share ideas to create cultural costumes.



Sustainability

Sustainability is important for our environment. Parents, elders, and wider community members may want to consider how cultural costumes can be recycled or repurposed.

For example, uniforms can be made from recycled material or used for another cultural event at the school.

Commitment

Fiafia nights or final dress rehearsals require significant resources and are time intensive.

It's essential for parents and the wider community to participate and support students. Additionally, such occasions could present schools with fundraising opportunities.



Existing standards which could recognize Polyfest performances

- ✦ Language specific standards.
 - ✦ Music standards (relating to demonstrating ensemble skills by performing substantial piece of music).
 - ✦ PE & Health Standards e.g. 91331.
 - ✦ Other dance standards where Polyfest can be the context e.g. 91938
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The following dance achievement standards can be used to assess Polyfest dance performances.

1

Level One

91937

Perform Dance Sequences
(6 credits)

2

Level Two

91209

Perform a repertoire of dance
(6 Credits)

91207

Perform an ethnic or social dance to communicate understanding of the style
(4 credits)

3

Level 3

91592

Perform a repertoire of contrasting dances
(6 credits)

91591

Perform a group dance
(4 credits)



Assessment Process

These dance standards are entirely assessed on performance skills only. No extra evidence is required e.g., reflection, written work etc. Each student is graded Achieved, Merit, Excellence, or Not Achieved.

STEP ONE

SELECT THE STANDARDS

Select which dance standards from the NZQA Dance Matrix are the best fit.

In schools where a dance department/course exists, agreement should be reached with the dance department as to which standards will be assessed via Polyfest and which will be used in the dance course.

STEP TWO

ENTER THE STANDARDS AND CREATE A MARK BOOK

Liaise with the schools' Principal's Nominee to enter students into those standards. All dancers should be entered into the dance standard at their level. It may be appropriate for juniors to "bank" the Level 1 credits for the following year. A mark book should be set up on the school system e.g. KAMAR.

STEP THREE & STEP FOUR

DEVELOP TASKS AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES

Write or adapt tasks and schedules for these standards to customise them for your students and to include specific information about the dance style being performed. There should be a separate task and assessment schedule for each group e.g. Tongan group, Samoan Group etc.

For Level 2 and 3, 91209 or 91592 standards, three dances (2 mins in length) are required to meet the standards. The task assessment should clearly state what three dances from the performance will be assessed. E.g., A Tongan group might use their Entrance, Ma'ulu'ulu and Lakalaka.

For Level 1 standards 91937, two sequences (45 seconds each) must be performed to meet the standards.

STUDENTS TO LEARN AND REHEARSE THE DANCES AS USUAL

STEP FIVE

GATHER THE EVIDENCE

Record a rehearsal (or two) near the end of the rehearsal period. Recording a rehearsal rather than the actual performance on the day allows for better camera angles of dancers – particularly the 6 students that might be selected for moderation.

Identification of students is the most important thing here so make sure if this standard is being moderated by NZQA that enough information is provided to the moderator as to who they are to identify and verify in the footage.

The camera shots should avoid panning and zooming where possible so the focus remains on the whole group. The recording could also happen at a more convenient time after Polyfest.

STEP SIX

ASSESS AGAINST THE STANDARDS

Assessment of dance performance standards should align with the NCEA criteria. Tutors, familiar with dance styles, should assess based on achievement criteria.

Focus on fluency and accuracy for Level 1 for Excellence.
Comprehensive and in-depth stylistic understanding for Level 2.
Skillful performances of contrasting dances for Level 3.

Avoid assessing skills beyond the set criteria. Follow your school's internal moderation. E.g., If there is a dance teacher in the school, they could check mark a small selection of students assessed by each of the group tutors.

STEP SEVEN

RECORD THE RESULTS

Record the results for all dancers who perform at Polyfest. Enter these results into the school system and later with NZQA as per school policy. Provide students with information about their results for their own records.



Some examples of Schools aligning assessment programmes with Polyfest

Auckland Girls' Grammar School

Polyfest performances were videoed and each student was individually assessed using assessment criteria by one of our dance teachers at Auckland Girls'. A sample of these were then moderated by a dance teacher from another school.



Wesley College

Wesley College worked with Tongan Punake and another school's HOD through the moderation process.

Wellington East Girls' College

With a group of over 100 students, WEGC set up a day following TūTagata to assess their senior students. They set up a panel of three staff with experience in Pasifika Performing Arts, Dance and Music to assess the students. Students work together to perform in small groups and are recorded. They are assessed in year level groups and can opt in for Dance and Music credits.





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