

NCEA AT POLYFEST

Assessment opportunities to achieve credits

NCEA Polyfest Guide for Parents & Students



Parent Information



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.

Why should students participate in Polyfest?

Students should consider participating in Polyfest as it offers an excellent opportunity to engage with their cultural identity. Secondary students who perform in Polyfest are also able to achieve NCEA credits.

Students not only deepen their understanding of their Pacific heritage but also cultivate friendships and a sense of belonging within the school and community. Polyfest also enables students to develop leadership skills and strengthen their cultural identity.



"Not only did I get credits, but I felt very connected to my culture. I felt supported academically and culturally. For students like me, that is also an important part of our learning journey."

- South Auckland student

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.



How can students earn NCEA credits for their Polyfest performance?

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.

Examples of schools implementing assessment programmes aligned to 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 Head of Department through the moderation process.

How can parents support their child to access Polyfest credits?

Check if your child's school is participating in their local Polyfest. If yes, ask the teacher in charge of Polyfest if there will be assessment opportunities and credits available for student participation.

If the school is not involved, you could suggest local Polyfest opportunities and advise the benefits for students, schools, and the community.

If you have any questions or need support in your local area, please get in touch with us at Pasifika@nzqa.govt.nz.

For further information go to <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/pasifika/>

