



Review of Achievement Standards Reference Group

Key messages from meeting 8 August 2019

The Ministry of Education convened a third meeting of the Review of Achievement Standards (RAS) Reference Group in Wellington on 8 August. The purpose of this group is to test the products and processes to inform the Ministry's design and implementation of the RAS Operating Framework. This meeting focussed on sharing detail of the trial and pilot process, gathering feedback on the design of achievement standards and supporting documents, considering the implications for learner pathways, and exploring implications of RAS for ākonga Māori.

Trial and Pilot phase

From late September, the Ministry will be commencing the trial and pilot phase of the review. The purpose of this phase is to test and refine the process for developing achievement standards and supports and to ensure the templates, tools, and training are fit for purpose.

Trial: Science has been confirmed as the trial subject. Science will be running through a condensed and truncated writing process to develop a draft matrix, level 1 standards, and sample assessment tasks by the end of November. These drafts will be revisited and re-developed where necessary from early 2020. Please note the trialling of the new Level 1 Science achievement standards in schools will occur along with the other Level 1 subjects in 2021.

Pilot: English, visual arts, and religious studies have been confirmed as the pilot subjects. These subjects will undergo the full writing process, but will start earlier than all other subjects so other subjects can learn from their experiences.

The subject expert groups for these four subjects are currently being formed. An [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) invitation](#) was published in the Education Gazette on 29 July. Information about an EOI for subject expert groups for remaining subjects will be available by the end of this year.

Re-building the Assessment Package

We are currently reviewing and redeveloping the templates, tools, and training programmes that will support the writing of the new matrices, achievement standards, sample assessment tasks and other supporting material. We sought advice from the Reference Group on the draft templates and will be further testing and refining them during the trial and pilot phased.

The Ministry will also be developing a new senior secondary website to provide a single access point for all NCEA material as it is reviewed. We will be testing this site with the Reference Group and other user groups in the first half of 2020.

Exploring progressions and step-ups

As part of revising our guidance for writers of achievement standards, the Ministry is currently exploring options for describing *progression* – the differences between curriculum levels and NCEA levels 1, 2, and 3 – and *step-ups* – the differences between Achieved, Merit, and Excellence. We sought advice from the Reference Group and will be using this to inform our approach.

Exploring implications of RAS for ākonga Māori

We are currently working together with kaiako from kura auraki and kura kaupapa Māori. This is to support mana ōrite mō te mātauranga Māori across diverse settings for ākonga Māori.

This group will also meet as a collective and in their respective settings outside of the Reference Group hui to discuss the focus and goals for ākonga Māori, Mātauranga Māori and Te ao Māori and how to align that vision for ākonga Māori in EM settings.

Upcoming RAS Reference Group meetings

12 December

Final operating framework, including:

1. The Terms of Reference including framing principles and background
2. The RAS process
3. The parameters and guidance for achievement standards, resources and other material.