

Q&A

What are the current functions of the Board of Studies and the Institute of Teachers?

The Institute of Teachers is currently responsible for: the registration and accreditation of all teachers at all levels; the approval of initial teacher education courses; the endorsement of teachers' professional learning; and establishing professional teaching standards.

There are a number of committees under the Institute that carry out these functions, and these committees will remain.

The Board of Studies is currently responsible for: curriculum; examinations, including the HSC; the registration of non-government schools and home schooling; and the regulation of school providers of courses to overseas students.

The Board of Studies is also the NSW test administration authority for NAPLAN.

What is going to happen to the Board of Studies and the Institute of Teachers?

The NSW Government has decided to merge the Institute and the Board. Together they will form a new body called the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BoSTES).

Work on the merger will commence following the passing of legislation in the Spring session. The legislation is planned to take effect in January 2014.

BoSTES will set and monitor standards in the areas of: curriculum, assessment, governance and teaching standards.

The current functions of both the Institute and the Board will be retained under the BoSTES.

Why has the NSW Government decided to do this?

The consultation undertaken as part of the Government's *Great Teaching, Inspired Learning* (GTIL) reforms highlighted the need to coordinate the functions of the Institute and the Board of Studies. It also highlighted the need for teacher quality policy to be linked directly to the improvement of student learning.

Teacher quality is the key variable for improving student learning and therefore teaching standards should meet the requirements of the curriculum, and be evaluated for effects on student learning. The new body will carry this explicit responsibility.

BoSTES will also be better positioned to contribute to state, national and international developments in education, particularly the emphasis on using evidence to support policy.

What does the evidence show from other educational jurisdictions?

NSW will be leading the educational jurisdictions in Australia with the alignment of teaching, curriculum and student learning.

Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards

Q&A (cont.)



An analysis of the leading OECD jurisdictions, including Finland, Singapore and Hong Kong, demonstrates that their respective systems have a form of evaluation that includes an external independent reference or validation against standards.

This merger will draw on the evidence from these leading OECD jurisdictions. It will allow all teacher quality measures to directly reflect the requirements of the curriculum and ensure the evaluation of those measures directly through student assessment, providing a substantial and new dimension to educational policy.

It is important to note that international educational standards are not static. The BoSTES will focus on student learning standards as new policy and practice emerges.

In addition to existing functions of both bodies, the BoSTES will be required to monitor and advise on policy for improving student learning, and in particular the relationship between the three key sets of educational standards – teaching, curriculum and student learning.

What will happen to the Board of Studies and the Institute's Board of Governance?

The existing Board of Studies has an overall structure that is appropriate to lead the BoSTES. As part of the development of the BoSTES's structure, the expertise required of the Board will be considered.

The Institute's Quality Teaching Council will be retained to provide authoritative advice on issues of teacher quality.

Is this merger just a savings measure?

No. The Minister has made it clear that this is a merger, not a take-over from either agency. The merger is not designed to make savings but to improve educational outcomes. Any savings that are made will remain within the new body.

What will happen to the funds that teachers pay to the Institute of Teachers for their accreditation?

The use of teachers' funds for accreditation purposes will remain unchanged under the new body, consistent with the Institute's existing charter.

The legislation will make provisions to ensure that the teachers' funds are hypothecated in the new body. An audit committee with independent representation will oversee this.

What are the next steps?

The Minister has asked the President of the Board of Studies and the acting CEO of the Institute to oversee the process of developing the legislation.

Consultation will continue to take place with key education stakeholders, representatives from the school education sectors, and staff at the Institute and the Board.