



The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP

Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 16 February 2012

RECORD OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT TO REPLACE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli today visited Concord High School with the Member for Drummoyne John Sidoti MP to announce that he will introduce legislation to create the Record of School Achievement (RoSA), a credential for students leaving school prior to receiving their HSC.

“In August last year I announced that the School Certificate would be abolished,” Mr Piccoli said.

“The introduction of the RoSA represents the most significant change to secondary schooling in over a decade and will replace a credential first introduced in 1965.”

Fully implemented the RoSA will:

- Be a record of the full range of student achievements right up to the day they do their HSC or leave school
- Provide an electronic record of achievements that students can use at any time
- Use assessment by teachers in schools, moderated by the Board of Studies NSW to ensure reliability and fairness of grades
- Provide the capacity to record vocational courses and students’ vocational experiences as well as citizenship and leadership achievements such as First Aid courses, community languages courses and Duke of Edinburgh awards
- Offer on-line literacy and numeracy tests, with particular emphasis on work readiness, that students will be able to undertake twice a year from next year.

“Much has changed since 1965, and students want up to date information on their school achievements at the point that they need it,” said Mr Piccoli.

“The RoSA will be available electronically and as a verifiable hard copy on demand with the most up-to date information on a student’s achievements, across all subjects and a range of extra-curricular activities.

“The Board of Studies NSW has consulted widely with the teaching and broader community to ensure the RoSA balances the need to encourage students to stay at school for their HSC, while still offering a meaningful credential to those who choose to leave earlier.”

Mr Piccoli said the formal RoSA credential would be awarded to eligible students who choose to leave school prior to receiving their HSC, while still allowing students to view and download a transcript of their achievements when applying for jobs or further education or training.

Further details on implementation will be provided by the Board of Studies NSW throughout 2012.

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RoSA Key Facts

Who will get it?

Students will need to have completed the mandatory requirements for Stage 5 (Year 10) to be eligible for a RoSA. Those eligible students who choose to leave school prior to receiving their HSC, will receive a RoSA.

When will they get it?

A RoSA will only be provided to those eligible students who choose to leave school prior to receiving their HSC.

What will it show?

A RoSA will show grades for all the courses a student has completed up until the point they leave school – including those completed in Year 10, Year 11 or even Year 12.

Why give grades?

Grading is a way of showing a student's level of achievement in a course in a way that can be compared fairly between individual students.

Giving grades in courses completed after year 10 will also mean that every student gets acknowledgement for all the work they have done, right up to the time they leave school.

How will students get grades?

A to E grades are currently awarded for courses completed in Year 10. That same system will now be extended to include courses completed after Year 10 as well (up to the time a student receives an HSC result).

Students will be required to submit assessment tasks as delivered by their schools. Teachers will then use marks from those assessments to allocate a grade for each student at the end of the course. Teachers will submit those grades to the Board of Studies NSW for inclusion on the RoSA if required.

How can we be sure that grades are awarded consistently?

It is important for students, parents and employers that grades are awarded consistently. Teachers already have a strong level of professional judgement, and the Board of Studies NSW will support that further by providing workshops and online resources, including student work samples.

Why offer literacy/numeracy tests?

Parents and employers in particular are increasingly interested in having a clear affirmation of a student's fundamental levels of literacy and numeracy. This measure will help provide valuable information to an employer when they are considering job candidates who have not completed their HSC.

The literacy/numeracy tests will also help students, parents and teachers determine if a student needs particular support in an area, or form the basis of further discussion about whether a student is ready to leave school.



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How will literacy/numeracy tests be developed and delivered?

The Board of Studies NSW will offer optional literacy/numeracy tests. The tests will be delivered online and information will be provided to schools about supervision of the tests. Schools will be asked to provide two 'windows' each school year in which students could sit the tests. Students will only be able to sit the test one time in each window, however they can sit the test again in a new window should they decide to remain at school. If a student does sit the test more than once, it will be the results from their most recent test that will be applicable when they leave school.

Why record extra-curricular activities?

Increasingly, parents, students, employers and providers of further education are looking at more than a student's level of academic attainment. This information can help form a more comprehensive picture of a student's interests, commitments and achievements in areas other than school.

How will extra-curricular activities be recorded?

The Board of Studies NSW will develop a tool that will allow a student to capture and consolidate evidence of extra-curricular activities. This tool will be developed and piloted in schools in 2012. It is intended that, certainly in the early stages, the tool will focus on activities that already have an authentication framework. This will make it easier for employers and others to be sure that the achievements recorded are correct. Activities widely available that already have authentication include: life-saving and first aid qualifications, VET courses, AMEB certification and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.