



The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP

Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 4 August 2011

GOVERNMENT TO ABOLISH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

NSW Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, announced today that the School Certificate will be abolished from 2012.

“The external tests currently administered to all Year 10 students will not continue after this year.

Mr Piccoli said that the decision was made as a result of consultation undertaken by the Board of Studies with key stakeholder groups representing principals, teachers, parents and all school sectors.

“The message from stakeholders was that the School Certificate no longer meets the expectations of employers. It has not responded to changes such as the increase in the school leaving age, and the introduction of NAPLAN testing.

“Students who leave school before they complete their HSC deserve a credential which is modern and relevant. Just as importantly, employers want to see a credential which is meaningful to them.

Mr Piccoli said he had requested the Board of Studies conduct further consultation to make recommendations about an alternative credential.

“Stakeholder groups have given a clear view about some of the key elements that should be investigated further as the basis for a new credential.

“A moderated credential recognising a wider range of student achievement would be more easily understood by employers, fairer and more reliable.

This year’s School Certificate external tests will be conducted on schedule in November 2011.

A copy of the Board’s Discussion Paper, which will form the basis of further consultation with stakeholder groups, is available at:
www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/pdf_doc/sc-review-discuss-paper.pdf

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