



Reforms in Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting in Queensland

FOR PARENTS

All students will be taught the 'essentials', their achievements will be better measured and parents will receive clearer report cards, as part of innovative Queensland education reforms.

By providing more focus on the 'essentials', the new system will address concerns raised by parents and teachers about the large number of expectations crowding the curriculum and in-depth student learning. It will also guarantee that all students are taught what they need to know to succeed in the 21st century.

The major changes under the new system- called the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCAR) - are:

- Essential Learnings- clear statements of what should be taught in Queensland schools from Year 1 – Year 9.
- Common Assessment Tasks- introducing state wide assessment that allows students to demonstrate their breadth and depth of understanding of a selection of Essential Learnings from Years 4, 6 and 9.
- Standards- setting consistent standards of student achievement in the 'essentials' from Year 1 – Year 9.
- Reporting- providing student reports that are easy to understand using achievement standards. This will provide students and parents with summary information of a student's achievement twice yearly.

What are the Essential Learnings?

The 'essentials' describe the key concepts, facts, procedures and ways of working that students need:

- for ongoing learning
- for social and personal competence
- to meet complex, real-life challenges

Regardless of which school they attend, all young Queenslanders need essential knowledge, skills and attributes to enjoy life and contribute to society. The Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (QCAR) will provide the chance for all students to acquire the essential skills for life, now and in the future.



What will the new common assessment task be like?

In 2008, all Queensland state schools will trial a common assessment task in Year 4, 6 or 9 for English, mathematics or science. In 2009 **all** Year 4, 6 and 9 children will complete common assessment tasks in English, mathematics and science. These tasks are not single tests, but rather a chance for students to demonstrate their best work and depth of understanding of the targeted selection of Essential Learnings in the task.

What will the student reports look like?

All Education Queensland twice yearly reports will use a common 5 point scale.

In Years 1-3, the student's overall achievement in each of the learning areas studied over the reporting period will be rated as:

Very High, High, Sound, Developing and Support Required.

In Years 4-9, teachers will report on student achievement using A-E standards.

Using these standards will promote consistency of meaning for teachers, students and parents on both what was assessed and the quality of the performance or achievement in it.

Building for the future.

This is an exciting time for education in Queensland. The Queensland Government has been refining and improving the state's education system since it launched its Education and Training Reforms for the Future in 2002. It is an innovation that will bring long-lasting education improvements for future generations of young Queenslanders.

Who developed the new system?

The new system has been developed by the Queensland Government in collaboration with the Catholic, Independent and state schooling sectors.

When will the changes happen?

In 2006/7 some schools trialled the new approach. In 2008, the QCAR framework is ready for use in Queensland schools.

For more information visit:

www.education.qld.gov.au/qcar