



Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre

Literacy and Numeracy in NCEA

A guide for students and whānau 2024-2025



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government

Literacy and numeracy are an essential part of everyday life, work, and education.

Literacy is being able to read, write and understand language.

Numeracy is the ability to understand and use mathematics and statistics.

FOR EXAMPLE:



When measuring, you are using numeracy skills.



When reading and filling out a form you are using literacy skills.



When shopping, reading labels and handling money, you are using literacy and numeracy.

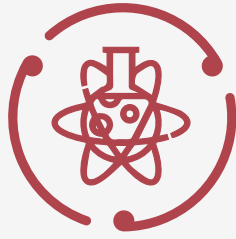


All NCEA subjects use literacy and numeracy

There is literacy...



In Mathematics and Statistics, when making sense of word problems and explaining answers.



In Science, when using formal and technical language in a lab report.



In Drama, when reading and rehearsing lines from a script for a performance.

There is numeracy...



In Visual Arts, when using reflections, rotations, and enlargements to create a design.



In English, when understanding statistics in a piece of reading.



In PE, when measuring out distances for races, estimating and calculating speed of the runner.

How can teachers support you to develop these skills?

Where else do you use literacy and numeracy in daily life and school?



Literacy and numeracy in the NCEA journey

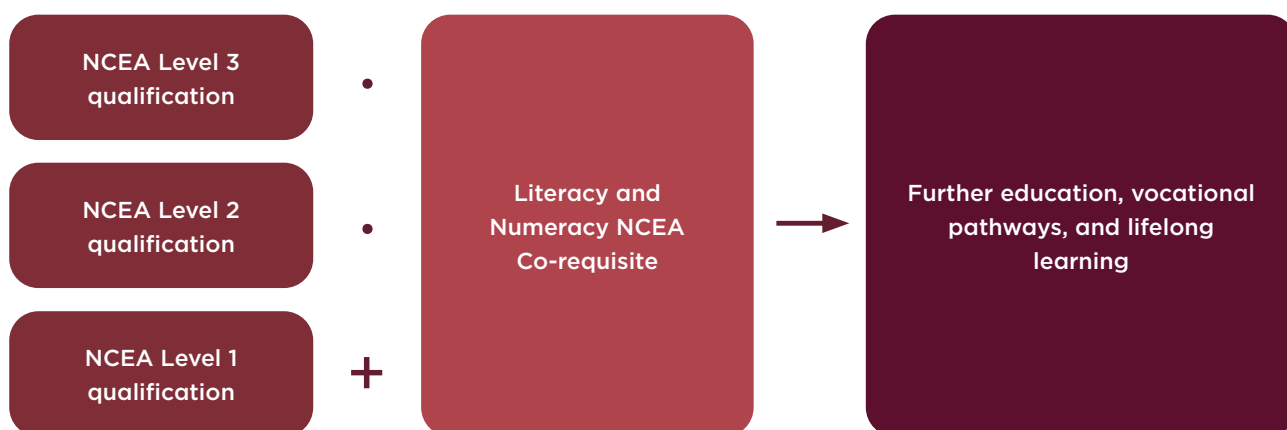
Students need to show that they have foundational reading, writing and numeracy skills to gain an NCEA qualification. This is also known as the NCEA Co-requisite.

While students can still progress through their NCEA journey, they must achieve the literacy and numeracy co-requisite to gain NCEA.

Students can achieve the requirements **any time** throughout their NCEA journey.

Students can try to achieve the requirements **many times** throughout their NCEA journey.

Students need to meet literacy and numeracy requirements **once only**.



During the transitional period, 2024-2025, the NCEA Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite can be achieved by:

COMMON ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES (CAAs)

- › Teachers will organise these online assessments for students.
- › Students can sit these reading, writing and numeracy assessments in any year **from Year 9 onwards, at a time when they are ready.**

Or

ACHIEVING 10 LITERACY CREDITS AND 10 NUMERACY CREDITS FROM A LIST OF APPROVED STANDARDS.

- › Talk to your school about what choices of literacy and numeracy standards are available.

- › Credits achieved towards the co-requisite cannot be used to count toward another subject area.
- › From 2026, the Common Assessment Activities will be the only English-medium co-requisite option.

Te Reo Matatini and Pāngarau is offered in kura and some schools as a way to achieve the NCEA co-requisite. These assessments are done in Te Reo Māori. Ask your school whether they offer this option.



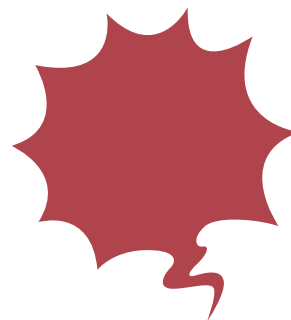
Special Assessment Conditions exist for students who need support to take part in NCEA. A formal application to NZQA is not required for support for the co-requisite. Find out more www.NZQA.govt.nz - Literacy and Numeracy / Te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau Co-requisites Provision of Special Assessment Conditions

What can students and whānau do to support NCEA Literacy and Numeracy?

If you have questions about NCEA Literacy and Numeracy, talk to your school and teachers.

You could ask to find out about:

- › Ways to improve literacy and numeracy skills
- › Where literacy and numeracy exist within your NCEA subjects
- › How NCEA literacy and numeracy is assessed at your school
- › How whānau can support students with NCEA literacy and numeracy.



Look for opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy at home

Practising reading, writing and using numbers will help to improve your skills for school and daily life.

Students can practise online assessments

When practising digital assessments, it is important to work on a device that you will use for the assessment. Only Google Chrome and Safari browsers will work when practising these assessments.

You can check if your device is suitable at [Digital exams device check » NZQA](#)

You will need your NSN (National Student Number) to access past digital exams. Ask your school for this.

These practice assessments will not give you feedback on your answers.



[Follow this link to practise digital exam software on NZQA](#)



[Follow this link to practise past digital exams](#)

Note you must select for Literacy Reading/Writing or Numeracy

Literacy and numeracy learning is a lifelong journey that does not end with assessment. Always look for opportunities to learn and develop your skills in education and daily life.



More information and videos on NCEA and pathways for whānau. This includes information in te reo Māori and Pacific languages

For more information on NCEA and how it works:

- › [NCEA – Parents.education.govt.nz – Practical information about education for parents and carers](https://parents.education.govt.nz/)
- › [How NCEA works \(video\)](#) - translated in te reo Māori, Pacific languages and NZ Sign Language
- › [Free NCEA workshop for Māori learners, families and communities](#)
- › [Free NCEA ma le Pasifika workshops for Pacific learners, families and communities](#)

For more information on NCEA exams and career pathways:

- › [Support your young person to prepare for NCEA exams](#)
- › [Video: Advice to other parents of NCEA students](#)
- › [Connections between subjects and career pathways](#)
- › [Information about navigating pathways: NZQA](#)

For more information on asking for help in school or kura:

- › [Video: Navigating my school or kura](#)

Glossary

Literacy: Reading, writing and understand language in many forms.

Numeracy: Understanding and using mathematics and statistics in many different contexts.

Literacy and numeracy co-requisite: Requirement to gain NCEA - 20-credits recognising skills and competency in literacy and numeracy.

NCEA qualification: Main national qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand.

NCEA standards: Standards in NCEA describe what a student needs to know or what they must achieve to meet the standard. Achieving standards is how to gain credits toward an NCEA qualification.

Credits: Credits are gained when a standard is achieved. Credits are gathered from different learning programmes to count towards an overall NCEA level qualification.

National Student Number: a unique number given to every student by the Ministry of Education.

