Revised ACE Rules for RoSA & HSC

Briefing for Heads and School Leaders

13 June 2024
AGENDA

1. NESA presentation
   Erin Stott
   Senior Manager, Curriculum and Assessment Policy
   Margot Braithwaite
   Head of Liaison Unit

2. Q&A
   SLIDO
   #3309749

5. AISNSW Support
   Caraline Cloke
   Head of Regulation and Accreditation
Assessment Certification Examination (ACE) Rules

Erin Stott
Senior Manager, Curriculum and Assessment Policy

June 2024
Agenda

Project overview and milestones
Content clarifications
Website solution
Timelines and next steps
Additional resources
Project overview
Assessment Certification Examination (ACE)

- NESA has rules that govern the curriculum, assessment and credentialling requirements across schools.

- These rules and requirements are collectively known as the Assessment Certification Examination (ACE) Rules

- The ACE Rules uphold the fairness, integrity and credibility of the HSC and RoSA

- It has been more than 20 years since the rules were reviewed, when the ‘new’ HSC was introduced.
Clarifications to the ACE Rules

Old rules
- Fragmented and unclear presentation of NESA’s requirements
- Current rules are a combination of information, advice, guidance, and enforceable rules
- Unclear roles and responsibilities
- Unnecessary technical language (e.g. ‘standard’ and ‘non-standard’ disability provisions).

New rules
- Removes ambiguous, outdated or duplicated material
- Strengthens the enforceability of a rule (‘must’ vs. ‘may’)
- Frames rules around the roles and responsibilities of schools and NESA
- Moves most non-enforceable, advisory content to NESA’s website, and providing links to other ACE Rules and webpages.
Content clarifications
Rule groupings

Clarified themes of ACE rules have been organised into 14 groups for ease of navigation

1. Achieving a RoSA / HSC
2. Assessment, results and appeals
3. Course commencement, entries and eligibility
4. Course completions, non-completions and appeals
5. Curriculum requirements
6. Disability provisions and appeals
7. Integrity of assessment and exams
8. HSC exam operations
9. HSC minimum standard
10. Illness/misadventure and appeals
11. Life Skills
12. Pattern of study
13. Students with atypical circumstances
14. VET
Example: HSC Minimum Standard

Minimum standard test attempts
Timing of minimum standard tests, the maximum number of attempts in each domain, and the waiting period between test attempts.

Exempt students
NESA has clarified the exemptions for students studying Stage 6 Life Skills courses.

Alternative evidence
Exceptional circumstances where a student may demonstrate the HSC minimum standard using alternative evidence.

Administration of the HSC minimum standard tests
Scheduling and entering students for tests, the equipment permitted during the test, and the requirements for supervising the tests.
Example: HSC Exam Operations

Presiding Officer eligibility and nomination
Clarified rules explicitly state requirements, including:
- Principal nomination
- Working with Children Check
- Exclusion of HSC tutors; child/near relative sitting for HSC; recent employment at school.

Roles and responsibilities
Examples of clarified school responsibilities include:
- Principal must work with Presiding Officer to meet NESA requirements
- Principals must arrange specific types of staff for some exams, such as music, EAL/D, and IT.

HSC exam timetable
- The ACE Rules clarify that the published timetable is final, and individual times and dates of exams are not subject to change to accommodate individual circumstances.
Example: Malpractice

Confirms minimum components of a malpractice policy

A school’s malpractice policy must indicate:
• procedures for investigating suspected malpractice including the decision maker(s), and
• range of possible penalties for malpractice, and
• a student appeals process including the decision maker(s).
Website
KPMG user testing and research

34 external users and 21 NESA staff took part in KPMG’s user experience research:

**Research response**

- 98% of users were in favour of the 14 thematic groupings of rules
- 90% considered the 14 groupings to be easy to understand
- A robust search function was considered essential (coming to the website in 2024).
ACE on the digital curriculum site
Video walkthrough

Home page

Rule grouping

Individual rule

Supporting resources
Timelines and next steps
Additional rules and approvals

• The majority of rules have been determined, but NESA is continuing to work on rules for course completions, non-completions and appeals.

• NESA will update schools when these rules have been published.
Timelines

• 14 October 2024 – Clarified rules mandated for students:
  o Commencing HSC Courses in October 2024
  o Sitting for HSC Exams in 2025
  o Receiving the RoSA from October 2024

• The current rules remain in place for the 2024 HSC

• NESA will continue to communicate to schools directly in Term 2 and Term 3

• We need the help of sectors to ensure the message gets to the right people in schools.
Additional resources
‘About’ page and information sheets

Welcome to Assessment Certification Examination (ACE)  
ACE provides current information to principals, teachers, parents, and students about NESA’s curriculum, assessment and credentialling requirements.

The clarified ACE Rules will be mandated on 14 October 2024.

To learn more about how NESA has clarified the ACE Rules, refer to the information sheet:

- ACE Rules Overview
- Achieving the the NESA/HSC
- Assessment, results, and appeal
- Course commencement, entry, eligibility
- Curriculum requirements
- Disability provisions and appeals
- HSC exam operations
- HSC minimum standard
- Illness/Misadventure and appeal
- Integrity of HSC school-based assessment and exams
- Life Skills
- Pattern of study
- Students with special circumstances
- VET

• ‘About’ page contains additional information about clarified ACE rules:
  curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules/about

• Information sheets have been developed for each rule grouping

• Poster and info card also available on website for in-school promotion.
• NESA has developed **A Spotlight on Clarified ACE: Leading the Transition.**

• This professional development counts towards accreditation hours.

• Accredited PD in the priority area of **Leadership to support the learning outcomes of students/children** addressing Standard Descriptor 7.2.4 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining **Proficient Teacher or Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher Accreditation** in NSW.

• Contact your local liaison officer for upcoming sessions.
AISNSW support
How AISNSW can support you and your school

Core AISNSW Member Services (no additional cost)

- In school consultancy support
- Professional learning
- Inspection support
- Tools and resources
- Advice and sign posting
Welcome to the AISNSW Resource Centre.

Please ensure you log in to see all documents available to you.

To begin your search simply type in your keyword/s to the left and click enter OR select one of the Areas of Interest. Once you have started your search you will be able to expand or reduce your search terms using the filter options provided.