# **Explicit reporting of literacy and numeracy attainment**

## Overview

Explicit reporting of literacy and numeracy attainment will be introduced from 2022 to provide school leavers with clear and explicit information of their literacy and numeracy attainment.

Students completing the Victoria Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) will, as part of their senior secondary qualifications, receive information about whether they have demonstrated or exceeded the literacy and numeracy standards typically expected of those entering the workforce from school.

In order to report more clearly on school leavers’ literacy and numeracy attainment levels measured against common standards, the existing General Achievement Test (GAT) will be modified so that the test enables clear, explicit information about the standard of both literacy and numeracy attainment. From 2022, all VCE and VCAL students will be expected to sit the GAT.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is changing?**

From 2022, all VCE and VCAL students will receive a statement of their GAT results as part of their senior secondary statement of results.

**Why are we making this change?**

Literacy and numeracy are fundamental for successful employment and further education and training. However, current senior secondary qualifications do not provide explicit information about the literacy and numeracy attainment levels of school graduates measured against common standards.

**Will the new reporting apply to VCAL students?**

Yes. Reporting levels of literacy and numeracy attainment is important for all school leavers, irrespective of whether they are studying VCE or VCAL.

**Will sitting the GAT or achieving a standard in the GAT be a threshold for obtaining a senior certificate?**

No. There are no changes to the qualification requirements of the VCE or VCAL. All VCE and VCAL students will be expected to sit the GAT. However, sitting the GAT and a student’s achievement in the GAT, will not be a threshold to obtaining the VCE or VCAL.

**How will results be reported?**

From 2022, VCE and VCAL students will receive a statement of their GAT results, which will indicate whether they have ‘not demonstrated’, ‘demonstrated’ or ‘demonstrated at a high level’ literacy and numeracy standards.

**Who will see the GAT results?**

A student’s GAT results belong to them. However, students may wish to share their GAT results with prospective employers or further education providers to demonstrate their readiness for work and further education and training.

**What exactly will the extended GAT test and measure?**

The modified GAT will assess the literacy and numeracy skills required for work and further study necessary to meet the demands of every day work and life in a knowledge-based economy. For example, interpreting data from tables, completing forms and records properly, and communicating and interpreting information clearly and accurately.

**How will the standards in the GAT be benchmarked?**

The standards will be based on nationally-recognised benchmarks of literacy and numeracy attainment, such as those set out in the Australian Core Skills Framework.

**When will students sit the test?**

The GAT is held in June each year. All students will sit the test at this time.

**Will there be any exemptions to the GAT?**

All students will be expected to do the GAT. For VCE students, the GAT will continue to play an important role in providing students with a Derived Exam Score (DES) in the event that they experience conditions that prevent them performing to their full potential in the end-of-year exams.

Students with disabilities will be able to apply for adjustments to enable them to complete the GAT or to apply for an exemption.