How does my child achieve a WACE?

To achieve a WACE from 2016, students will need to:

- demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy based on the skills regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday work and life in a knowledge-based economy
- complete the course requirements to achieve an ATAR or complete a Certificate II (or higher)
- complete two Year 11 English units and a pair of Year 12 English units
- complete at least one pair of units from a List A course and one pair of units from a List B course in Year 12
- complete at least 20 units (or equivalents), including a minimum of 10 units at Year 12
- achieve a minimum of 14 C grades in Year 11 and Year 12 course units with at least six C grades in four pairs of Year 12 units (or equivalents).

1To ensure breadth of study, courses are divided into two lists – arts/languages/social sciences (List A) and mathematics/science/technology (List B).

How does my child demonstrate the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy?

Students can meet the minimum standard either by demonstrating Band 8 or higher in the NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests in Year 9 or by meeting the minimum standard of the reading, writing and numeracy components of the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment.

It will be possible for students to re-sit the assessment to demonstrate the minimum prescribed standard necessary to achieve the WACE.

Will the current courses remain?

Courses will remain, although some will be replaced by senior secondary Australian Curriculum courses. Some courses including General, Foundation and Preliminary, will be modified from existing WACE courses.

Where do I find more information?

For further information, please visit the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website at www.scsa.wa.edu.au.
What does it mean to parents?

The revised Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) will continue to ensure that Western Australian students complete a rigorous senior secondary education program, and are well prepared for life after school.

To achieve a WACE from 2016, all Western Australian school students will need to either be eligible for a university admission rank (ATAR) or achieve a training Certificate II or higher. They will also need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.

Your children will be the first to achieve a WACE with the new requirements. With help and guidance of teachers, and in consultation with parents, students select their senior secondary program in Year 10. Students should select a program that best suits their skills and post-school aspirations.

When will the revisions be introduced?

The revisions will be introduced in 2015 for Year 11 and 2016 for Year 12 students, to coincide with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in Western Australia, and therefore minimise the disruption to schools, teachers and students. (All Australian states and territories have agreed to a common curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12. The Australian Curriculum is being rolled out gradually across learning areas).

The WACE will comprise courses with Year 11 Units (1 and 2) and Year 12 units (Units 3 and 4). Students will undertake a minimum of 10 courses (20 units) across Years 11 and 12 (typically five or more courses in Year 11 and a minimum of five courses in Year 12).

The study of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and endorsed programs can contribute to the unit requirement. Students studying VET can achieve full or partial, nationally recognised qualifications. Students can achieve Certificates I, II, III or IV in the area they choose. If a student does not complete the course requirements to achieve an ATAR, they will need to achieve a minimum of a Certificate II. Endorsed programs address areas of learning not covered by courses.

What type of courses will my child be able to choose from?

Students will be able to select across a range of course units at a range of cognitive levels to suit their skills and post-school aspirations. Schools choose to offer courses that meet the needs and interests of their students in line with their available resources. There are five types of courses:

- **ATAR course units**: students who are aiming to enrol in a university course direct from school. These courses will be examined by the Authority.
- **General**: for students typically aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school
- **VET industry specific**: courses which have VET qualifications integrated and can contribute to the Certificate II WACE requirement
- **Foundation**: for students who need additional help in demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy
- **Preliminary**: for students who may need modification to the curriculum to meet their special needs.

Students will be able to select from both groups of course units, but students wishing to receive an ATAR will be required to complete a minimum of four ATAR courses in Year 12.

The following course units will not be examined by the Authority:

- **General** – for students typically aiming to enter further training or the workforce directly from school
- **VET industry specific** – courses which have VET qualifications integrated and can contribute to the Certificate II WACE requirement
- **Foundation** – for students who need additional help in demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy
- **Preliminary** – for students who may need modification to the curriculum to meet their special needs.