

Summary of recommendations

Why did we have a Curriculum Review?

In May 2018, the NSW Government announced the launch of the NSW Curriculum Review (the Review). This was the first comprehensive review of the NSW primary and secondary curriculum since 1989, and aimed to equip students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

What does the Review propose?

A new curriculum

Prioritise core knowledge, understanding and skills in a new set of syllabuses, and give teachers time to focus on depth of learning. Key features include:

- **Learn with understanding:** develop students' understandings of core concepts, principles and methods in each subject, focusing on depth of learning rather than breadth.
- **Build skills in applying knowledge:** develop skills in applying knowledge (for example, critical and creative thinking) and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate these skills.
- **Make excellent and ongoing progress:** ensure that students progress to the next syllabus once they have mastered the prior syllabus, that students who need more time have it and students who are ready to advance can do so.

A new NSW school curriculum

Every student prepared and ready for their future



Building strong foundations

Prepare students for a lifetime of ongoing learning and informed and active citizenship, and with knowledge, skills and attributes that will help equip them for meaningful work and satisfying careers.

- **The early years:** prioritise giving every student solid foundations in oral language development, early reading and writing skills and early mathematics knowledge and skills.
- **The middle years:** provide every student with appropriately challenging learning material so they meet a minimally acceptable standard in mandated subjects by the completion of school.
- **The senior years:** give students opportunities to pursue personal interests and strengths through rigorous, specialised subjects that build theoretical foundations, provide opportunities to transfer and apply knowledge, and develop practical skills.

Requirements needed to drive change

The changes proposed in the Review are significant, and will require the involvement of key stakeholders throughout implementation of recommendations.

Other conditions required for success of the reforms include:

- Time for teaching and learning - Maximise the time available to focus on teaching and learning
- An aligned learning 'system' - Work to ensure that assessment and reporting, professional capacity building, and other system improvements are aligned with the principles and intent of curriculum reform
- Professional capacity building - Support to ensure that all teachers are prepared to implement the new curriculum

Visit nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au to find out more.

