

Changes to Special Assessment Conditions

Information for students and whānau

What are Special Assessment Conditions?

Special Assessment Conditions are available to meet a range of physical, emotional, sensory, medical, and learning needs.

Every student has a right to express their knowledge, skills and understanding without being unfairly disadvantaged.

! They do not make assessments easier or impact their validity.

! Special Assessment Conditions make the ways learners can access and demonstrate their learning more flexible.

Special Assessment Conditions apply to both internal and external assessments towards NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship.

Special Assessment Conditions can include the use of a reader or writer assistant, rest breaks, access to quiet spaces, Braille or enlarged papers.

Specific Special Assessment Conditions, such as a Reading assistant may be included in the learning support a student receives during the year. As a student may require different support in different assessments, the supports, including SACs, will be adjusted as needed.

What's changing?

Previously, school and kura **applied** to NZQA for Special Assessment Conditions on behalf of learners. NZQA would review these applications and approve or decline them.

From 2024 for Level 1 students, schools and kura will have the option to **decide** Special Assessment Conditions on behalf of learners.

Schools and kura will have the option to **notify** NZQA of Special Assessment conditions on behalf of learners.

Where schools and kura use this option, they will **not** have to provide NZQA with supporting evidence.

What's staying the same?

Your school or kura will still need to **identify** student need and provide appropriate support.

Your school or kura will still need to **design** inclusive environments influenced by knowledge of students

Your school or kura will still need to **monitor** student progress and trial supports as needed

Your school or kura will still need to **discuss** the option of Special Assessment Conditions with students and whānau.

Your school or kura will still need to **gather** evidence of student needs.

Who can you talk to about support with Special Assessment Conditions?

When your child starts secondary school, or as soon as you can afterwards, let the school or kura know how they can support your child in their learning.

Contact one of the following:

- › Your child's form teacher
- › the year level Dean
- › the Head of Learning Support
- › the Learning Support Coordinator
- › the school Guidance Counsellor
- › the School Nurse



How can you get support with Special Assessment Conditions?

- › Encourage your child to discuss the support they feel they need with their subject teachers. If students are in Years 9 or 10 the school should be building a profile of their learning support needs.
- › Discuss with the school or kura which SAC may be of most help to your child during internal and external assessments. Students may choose to use different SACs for different exams e.g. a computer for one and a writer for another.