

TEACHERS
 PRINCIPALS
 EDUCATION EXECUTIVE
 DISTRICT DIRECTORS
 CURRICULUM MANAGERS

CLEARING THE WAY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING: SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

The recently completed *Evaluation of the Curriculum Improvement Program Phase 2* provides valuable feedback from teachers, administrators and other key groups. The report is available at: www.det.wa.edu.au.

A priority of the Department of Education and Training is to listen harder to teachers and administrators about managing change and to value their professional views about teaching and learning.

The Department will address the findings of this report, particularly workload issues related to teaching, assessment and reporting so that teachers can concentrate on good teaching.

The Department will take action to reduce work pressure by:

1. providing greater clarity about what to teach and assess
2. supporting teachers with syllabuses and practical resources that lessen the need for individual teachers to develop curriculum at the school level
3. enabling teachers to assess students using methods with which they are comfortable
4. assisting teachers to report formally each semester using grades.

Greater Clarity

The core elements of learning in each phase of schooling will be explicit in syllabuses for teachers which will be ready by December 2007.

For example:

- Kindergarten – Year 3 syllabuses will emphasise literacy, numeracy, social/emotional and physical development
- Year 4 – 7 syllabuses will emphasise literacy, numeracy, social/emotional and physical development, science, civics and citizenship and information and communication technologies
- Year 8 – 10 syllabuses will cover all Learning Areas.

The Department will continue to ensure that practising teachers are consulted in determining the content of the syllabuses.

Syllabuses will make clear to teachers what to teach and assess. They will describe what students should learn in each phase of schooling and each year level.

Draft material is already available for teachers to use at: www.portal.det.wa.edu.au

Further examples will be provided continuously on the Department's website.

Practical Resources

Practical resources for teachers will support planning and assessment, providing classroom-ready examples of lessons. Resources of this kind will assist teachers experiencing work pressure for a variety of reasons, including being new to teaching, returning from leave, entering the workforce from overseas or teaching out of their areas of expertise.

A range of resources is already available for teachers to use at: www.portal.det.wa.edu.au

Assessment

Teachers do not have to level or grade every piece of student work.

Teachers are expected to provide feedback to students on assessments so that students know what to do to improve and teachers know what next to plan for in their teaching.

Teachers may monitor student performance using a variety of assessment tools, including marks, *First Steps*, *ESL Progress Maps*, anecdotal comments, observations or checklists. It is acknowledged that some teachers may prefer to assess using levels.

Teachers may assess using ways with which they feel comfortable to determine a summative grade.

These procedures take effect immediately.

Those teachers seeking additional support on assessment and moderation will be provided with access to sample assessment items, including work samples and marking keys. This support will be available in schools early in 2008. Some literacy and numeracy samples are already available: www.det.wa.edu.au/education/standards/Ordering.html

Assessments are to be developed with reference to the *Outcomes and Standards Framework*, the Principles of Learning, Teaching and Assessment in the *Curriculum Framework* (page 33) and syllabuses.

Reporting grades

As per Federal Government requirements, teachers will report formally each semester using grades referenced to the *Outcomes and Standards Framework*.

As from Semester 1, 2007 teachers will report a summative grade. Teachers may refer to either Grade Allocation Charts **or** use Student Information System (SIS) software.

This enables teachers to allocate a grade drawing information gathered over a range of assessments and referring to Grade Allocation Charts **or** using levels that the SIS software will automatically convert to a grade which teachers have the option to override.

To assist teachers, Grade Allocation Charts are available to schools and can be located at: www.det.wa.edu.au/education/curriculum/CIP2/

Other support available to teachers

To provide further clarification, frequently asked questions are provided at: www.det.wa.edu.au

A hotline has been established to provide additional advice: 1800 655 985.

Principals are requested to forward this communication to all staff members and, where applicable, to parents.

The Department will continue to work with all stakeholders to address concerns about teacher workload and to ensure all students continue to achieve high standards.

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