



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Publication of NZQA's Annual Report on NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2021)

Date:	2 June 2022	NZQA Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In confidence	Report No.	CR 24305

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. note that NZQA intends to publish the <i>Annual Report on NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2021)</i> on 16 June 2022b. note that NZQA intends to publish two Insights papers which look more deeply into the data and information NZQA holds alongside the Report.c. note that NZQA will be issuing a communication on our website about the releases.d. note that the 2021 NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship attainment data was released publicly on 4 May 2022.e. note that the 2021 report includes brief commentary on COVID-19's impact on attainment.f. note that 2021 data on NCEA administrative processes such as examination breaches and review and reconsideration statistics are released in this report.g. note that the Ministry of Education has received a copy of the draft report and insights papers.	

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes

Round Robin Yes/No

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cellphone	1 st Contact
Andrea Gray	Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment Division	(04) 463 4264	redacted	√

The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

- Ministry of Education
 Tertiary Education Commission
 Other (specify)

Minister's Office to Complete:

- Noted
 Seen
 Approved
 Needs change
 Withdrawn
 Overtaken by Events
 See Minister's comments
 Declined

Referred to:

Comments:

Publication of NZQA's Annual Report on NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2021)

Recommended Action

It is recommended you:


- a. **note** that NZQA intends to publish the *Annual Report on NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2021)* on 16 June 2022
- b. **note** that NZQA intends to publish two Insights papers which look more deeply into the data and information NZQA holds alongside the Report.
- c. **note** that NZQA will be issuing a communication on our website about the releases.
- d. **note** that the 2021 NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship attainment data was released publicly on 4 May 2022.
- e. **note** that the 2021 report includes brief commentary on COVID-19's impact on attainment.
- f. **note** that 2021 data on NCEA administrative processes such as examination breaches and review and reconsideration statistics are released in this report.
- g. **note** that the Ministry of Education has received a copy of the draft report and insights papers.

Proactive Release Recommendation

NZQA recommends you

- a. **agree** that this report is proactively released as part of the next publication of documents.

Agree/ disagree



Dr Grant Klinkum
Chief Executive
2 June 2022



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Publication of NZQA’s Annual Report on NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2021)

Purpose

1. This briefing is to advise you of the publication of NZQA’s Annual Report on NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics (2021) (“the Report”) and companion A3 summary document on 16 June 2022. NZQA also intends publishing two Insights papers looking more deeply into the data and information NZQA holds. The Report and companion A3 summary document and the two Insights papers are enclosed.
2. The Report includes the final 2021 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics [CR24085 refers¹]. These statistics are published on the NZQA website in the school statistics section.

The Report

3. Each year, once secondary school attainment statistics (NCEA, University Entrance and New Zealand Scholarship) are finalised, NZQA compiles and publishes an Annual Report. The first of these reports was published in 2010 to cover the 2009 academic year. Copies of the reports are available on the NZQA website.
4. The Report includes the finalised secondary school attainment statistics including NCEA attainment by year level and highest attainment for the 2019 Year 11 cohort data after three years of schooling, and data on NCEA administrative processes such as special assessment conditions statistics, breaches of examination rules, review and reconsideration statistics, and internal assessment moderation agreement rates. This year, the report includes a number of tables that break down overall attainment, endorsements and scholarship down by region.
5. This Report reflects on a second year considerably disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools, students and whānau continued to show resilience and adaptability in 2021, despite the disruptions which were particularly strongly experienced in Auckland, Northland and parts of the Waikato. Attainment has fallen since 2020 but remains higher than 2019 for NCEA levels 2 and 3 and University Entrance.
6. Addressing barriers to equitable attainment continues to be a priority for NZQA, especially for Māori and Pacific students, those from low socio-economic backgrounds, and students with disabilities or special learning needs. While attainment for Māori and Pacific students has held up in 2021, the underlying equity gap remains. There continues to be a significant differential in attainment between Māori and Pacific students and their European or Asian peers.

The Insights Papers

7. NZQA’s Insights papers are intended to draw on NZQA’s data and information to provide insights into qualification, assessment, and quality assurance matters. Insights papers have a particular focus on equity issues, good practice and bringing to life administrative data that will support education system improvement.

¹ CR24085 Education Report: Final 2021 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics, 12 April 2022.

8. NZQA is proposing publishing two Insights papers that focus on NCEA and University Entrance data alongside the Report. These papers are:
 - NCEA pathways through Senior Secondary: Achieving equitable outcomes for ākonga Māori and Pacific students on their NCEA journey
 - University Entrance: Do current programmes lead to equity for Māori and Pacific students?
9. The first paper looks at five data signposts which help show whether students are on a pathway to attain NCEA and University Entrance, using NCEA data (assessment standard entries and results). The second paper looks more specifically at the conditions that contribute to Māori and Pacific students being awarded University Entrance at around half the rate of other students – an inequity which has persisted for over a decade.
10. NZQA will have conversations with schools over the next 12 months to highlight the high-level findings of the two papers, and support schools in applying any recommendations to their school's context.

Communications

11. NZQA will be issuing a communication on its website when the Report is published on 16 June 2022. A copy of the communication will be provided to your office in advance.