

New enrolment-based measure of NCEA attainment - Questions and Answers

Overview of what's happening

1. Why are you making the changes?

NZQA and the Ministry of Education have developed an updated measure of attainment that is more precise. We are also modernising NZQA's reporting methods such as recognising that students may identify with more than one ethnicity, as recommended by Statistics New Zealand.

2. What are the other benefits of the new measures?

Every student counts in the measure across the whole year.

The current roll-based measure uses the July roll return which counts only students enrolled on that date. There are around 10,500 students who were at school, usually for the early part of the school year, who are not counted. This is particularly pronounced for Māori students: in 2017, some 4,000 Māori students were not part of the July roll return figures.

Using Statistics New Zealand's recommended method of counting ethnicity

The current roll-based measure reports students' achievement against one prioritised ethnicity and prioritises in the following order: Māori, Pasifika, Asian, and European/Pākehā. It does not recognise that students may identify with more than one ethnicity.

3. Why are you changing the reporting on ethnicity?

We are following Statistics New Zealand's recommended method for reporting by ethnicity. The current roll-based measure doesn't reflect that many students identify with more than one ethnicity. The new measure captures and reports on up to three ethnicities.

4. What were the previous measures for NCEA attainment and what changes were made?

	Current	New
Roll and enrolment-based	Roll-based measure uses 1 July roll return as a reporting population base.	Enrolment-based measure counts all students enrolled across an entire year rather than at one point in time Focusses on domestic secondary student population Excludes international and adult education students Changes ethnicity reporting
Participation	Counts number of students attaining NCEA as a proportion of the number entered for sufficient credits to attain an NCEA	Will no longer be used
School leaver	Measures NCEA attainment of those leaving school	No change
18-year-olds	Measures attainment of 18-year olds	No change

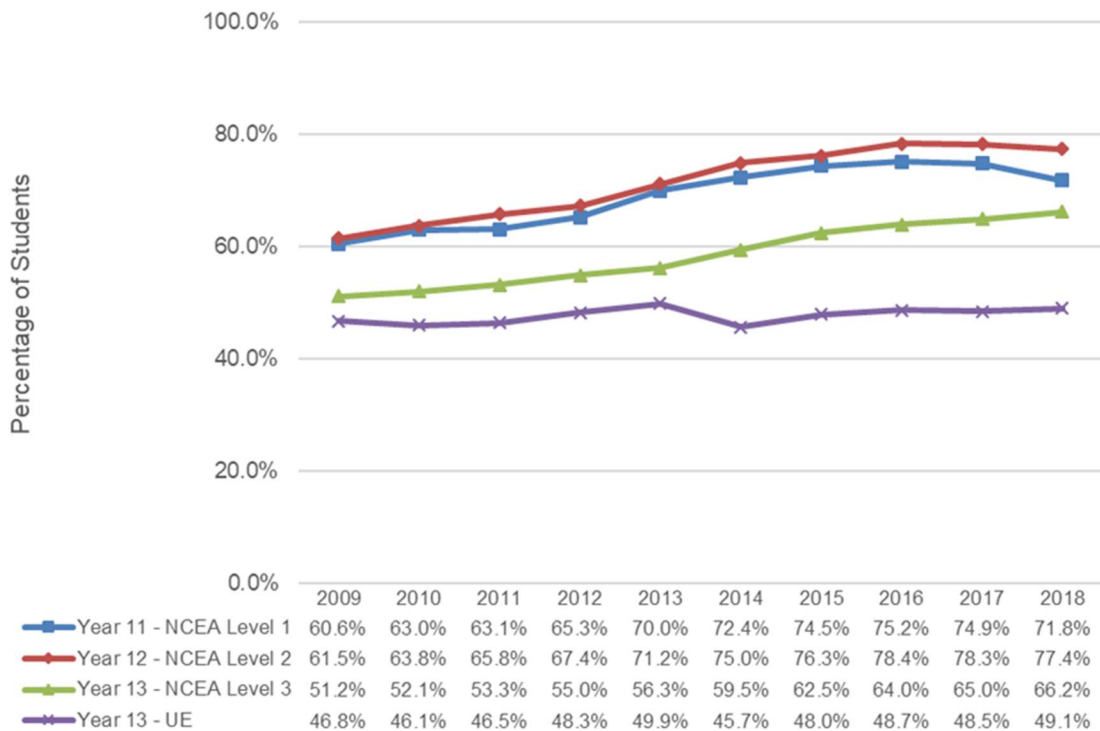
Comparison between previous and new measures

Current Measure	New Measure
Counts students on the roll on 1 July	Counts any student with an enrolment during the year
Ethnicity is prioritised so not all ethnicities a student identifies with are counted	All main ethnicities a student identifies with are counted
Students attaining NCEA aren't matched to the students on the rolls	Students are matched at the National Student Number (NSN) level. Schools can see which students' results are included in the measure
NZQA and MoE use different reporting rules and data sets	Rules and data sets aligned
No additional compliance – no change for schools	

5. How are attainment rates changing?

National attainment rates using the new enrolment-based measure are slightly lower than those reported using the current roll-based measure. However, the amount of improvement in student attainment over time is similar and positive using the new enrolment-based measure. Data going back 10 years has been reviewed and will be reissued using the new measure.

Enrolment-based Attainment Statistics



6. Is that why you have recast historical data? How does that work?

Yes. This is where we apply the new measure to historic data. Data going back 10 years has been reviewed and reissued using the new measure so schools can get a view of their attainment statistics over time with the new measure applied.

Impact on schools and students

7. Will schools need to do anything differently?

No. Schools will continue reporting NCEA attainment results in the same way.