

This assessment report is based on assessments for 2023. It may not reflect achievement standards that have been updated.

2023 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	New Zealand Sign Language (RAS)
Level:	Level 1
Achievement standard(s):	92357, 92358

General commentary

2023 was the first time that external NCEA assessments were available for New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL). These were pilot assessments ahead of full implementation in 2024. Both standards were assessed as submissions, each administered over two 45-minute sessions.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 92357: Demonstrate understanding of New Zealand Sign Language related to everyday contexts

Assessment

Candidates watched two short videos of related conversations in NZSL, one video in each session. They then had to answer questions relating to each conversation to demonstrate their understanding. The content was based on two everyday conversations between two friends, before and after an evening out. Candidates could respond in English, te reo Māori, or NZSL.

Commentary

In general, candidates who answered the questions specifically did better than those who just gave an interpretation.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- demonstrated some understanding of the signed conversation but provided their interpretation rather than directly addressing the questions
- provided limited details in their response.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- directly answered the questions
- included most details in their response
- were able to sequence the details of each conversation scenario correctly.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- gave a focused response to all parts of the question
- demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of each conversation, while still addressing the questions
- supplied elaborations on the conversations, demonstrating understanding of why things happened (e.g. plans changed in the scenario, characters' reactions).

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not respond to the questions.

Achievement standard 92358: Respond in New Zealand Sign Language related to everyday contexts

Assessment

Candidates responded to a sequenced storyboard in the first session, based around a mother and child at home, and, in the second session, made an event announcement, choosing from a limited number of events. Responses had to be delivered in NZSL.

Commentary

Candidates whose responses included full sentences tended to achieve at a higher level. Candidates were not penalised if they paused between sentences to gather their thoughts or to check notes.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- responded with some single-word signs, e.g. listing items, retelling, or describing things or events, but not fully addressing all aspects of the assessment
- signed well enough to be understood overall and expressed some relevant information, ideas, and opinions related to the visual text or event announcement.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- provided some details but did not fully convey their ideas, information, or opinions
- demonstrated a range of NZSL that was mostly clear
- responded in a coherent sequence
- conveyed meaning successfully and demonstrated knowledge of grammar structures, with most inconsistencies related to hand shape or orientation.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- showed confident language skills, demonstrating a wide range of NZSL features
- supplied elaborations to the storyboard and event announcement that included several sentences of extra detail or justified reasons
- explained the storyboard and made their event announcement coherently, in a sequence that was easily understood, with minimal inconsistencies

- demonstrated a wide range of relevant vocabulary and grammatical structures, including appropriate structure for storytelling and creating specific text types: role shifting, classifiers, spatial placement in storytelling, and rhetorical questions to support the engagement of the audience for their event announcement.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- only responded to some parts of the assessment
- used grammar incorrectly or inconsistently
- demonstrated very limited vocabulary
- made too many errors to effectively convey meaning.