



Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

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Dear parent or carer,

New senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems

I'm writing to keep you informed of important changes being made to Queensland's senior school assessment and tertiary entrance systems. These changes will come into effect in 2018, when your child will start Year 11.

These systems have been the subject of a major independent review by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). In a report to the previous government, ACER found that existing systems have served Queensland well, but will not be sustainable over the longer term.

The Queensland Government will introduce a new approach to senior assessment which combines the benefits of school-based assessment developed and marked by teachers with common external assessment developed and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

It will also include new processes to better support the quality and comparability of school-based assessment.

In relation to tertiary selection, the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance rank for students completing Year 12 from 2019.

This approach will bring Queensland into line with all other Australian states and territories, and will simplify the existing process for students applying to study at interstate universities. I am committed to ensuring that these significant changes are the subject of careful planning and preparation.

As such, I will lead a new Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce, with representation from schooling sectors, parent groups, secondary principals and universities, to guide the introduction of these new systems.

The department and your principal will keep you informed as these important reforms continue.

You can find further information at www.det.qld.gov.au/SATE.

Yours sincerely

KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education
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