Summary of changes and developments

- **Record of School Achievement**

For students who are eligible to leave school for employment or further education prior to completing the HSC, the Record of School Achievement (RoSA) credential documents their grades and studies up to the day they leave school. For students who leave part way through a year and prior to a grade being awarded the RoSA will record courses studied and the date they left school. This cumulative record ensures every day the student has spent at school is recognised.

- **Higher School Certificate (HSC)**

The Board works closely with the sectors, schools, professional associations, parent bodies and a range of other stakeholders to maintain the high level of confidence in the HSC.

To reflect the cumulative recording of a student’s senior secondary school academic achievements there will be an addition to the HSC Record of Achievement from 2014 when the Record of Achievement will also display students’ Preliminary course grades (see below for more information on Preliminary course grading).

HSC students will also be able to request their RoSA displaying their Year 10 achievements should they wish to.

This means that the academic efforts of your 2013 Year 11 students will be included on their final school credentials. It is important that students and parents are aware of this and I have attached a template HSC Record of Achievement for 2014 for you to use when explaining the change to your staff and students.

This development was referenced in a consultation document issued by the Board following the announcement by the Minister that the School Certificate would be abolished, and was finally approved the Board in September 2012. Below is the link to the consultation document.


- **Grades for Stage 5 and Preliminary course students**

NSW high school students now receive Grades from A to E for all completed courses in Year 10 and Year 11, other than VET and Life Skills. Grades provide students and their parents with information on their performance measured against a common state-wide grade scale.

**Work Samples:**

The Board is collecting work samples from schools and across the course range to assist teachers to award students’ grades. For teachers of Stage 5, the Board has developed moderation and monitoring tools to achieve consistency across all schools. The Board of Studies Liaison Officers (BOSLOs) and Inspectors are working with schools on the use and understanding of the work samples and associated tools.

The Board is also in the process of collecting work samples and developing monitoring tools for teachers of Preliminary course students. These tools will be made available as soon as they are finalised. In the meantime, I encourage your staff to discuss any issues and questions they may have with the BOSLOs and Inspectors. A number of schools organised for the BOSLOs to run Preliminary grading workshops at the Term 2 Professional Development Days.
The Board is also preparing short videos on grading to further assist teachers. As the videos are completed the Board will alert schools in the weekly Board Bulletin.

If you would like further support for your school please contact your relevant BOSLO.

- **Literacy and numeracy tests (OPTIONAL)**

School leavers are now able to sit online literacy and numeracy tests to provide further evidence of their achievements to prospective employers.

Employers have indicated to the Board that specific reports on these skills assist them in their recruitment processes.

In 2012, the first year of the literacy and numeracy tests, nearly 700 students sat the tests.

The literacy and numeracy tests were originally mapped to Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework. As a substantial number of students achieved Level 3 results, and following a review of this data, the Board is now working to broaden the tests to include Level 4 achievements.

In 2013 the tests will be conducted twice: from 23 to 29 May with nominations open from 29 April; and early in Term 4. Originally the Board was to schedule the second test window in November. Following feedback from schools the Board has scheduled an earlier test window in October to accommodate Preliminary course students planning to leave school prior to starting Stage 6 and the HSC. The exact date will be communicated as soon as it is finalised.

- **Up2Now (OPTIONAL)**

The Board of Studies has developed *Up2 Now*, a website for students to collect documentation and other evidence of their extra-curricular achievements. This is in response to feedback from employers and universities that they consider and value a student’s non-academic activities and achievements.

To date over 170 schools have signed up to trial *Up2 Now*. If your school has not yet signed up I encourage you to review Up2Now for the opportunities it offers students who may be thinking about leaving and are seeking to showcase their extra-curricular achievements, and also for students for whom a broad experience at school is used in combination with their HSC for tertiary education entrance and employment.

For information on Up2Now please contact: Richard Doel-Mackaway
Email richard.doel-mackaway@bos.nsw.edu.au, Telephone: 02 9367 8379

Other changes and developments you should be aware of in 2013 include:

- **Students Online**

From 2013 all Year 10, 11 and 12 students will have access to Students Online – the Board’s one-stop information source for students in their final three years of secondary school.

Students can review the courses they are enrolled in, and print a Student eRecord of any grades awarded. Through their Students Online account students will receive direct communications from the Board, including HSC examination timetables.

For the Board to give students access to Students Online we need schools to enter their email addresses on Schools Online.
• **Supporting material**

Attached are examples of the credentials and reports, and a powerpoint presentation for schools to use to explain how students can demonstrate their achievements.

The credentials and reports attached include:

- the 2014 HSC Record of Achievement;
- Stage 5 and Stage 6 Preliminary Stage Records of School Achievement;
- a sample Record of School Achievement for a Stage 6 student who leaves during Year 12 and one for a student who completes the HSC;
- Student eRecords at various stages of a student’s progress;
- a Literacy and Numeracy test result; and
- an Up2Now report.

• **Further information**

Information on all these items is available on the Board’s website, and any additional details of specific actions and reminders will be circulated via the Board Bulletin and direct emails to Principals.

**References to Board Bulletin news items and announcements on the changes:**
Grades – retaining work sample
Friday, 05 April 2013
Official Notice: Retaining student work samples for Stage 5 and Stage 6 Preliminary courses (ON Number 18/13)

Monday, 29 October 2012
Official Notice: Retaining student work samples (ON Number 37/12)

Thursday, 14 March 2013
EOI: Work sample collection project to support grading for Stage 6 Preliminary courses

- RoSA
Friday, 01 March 2013
2013 HSC and RoSA timetable of actions for schools - now available

Friday, 22 February 2013
RoSAs for 2013 Year 11 school leavers

Monday, 04 June 2012
Official Notice: Record of School Achievement - Credentialing for Year 10 students in 2012 (ON Number 18/12)

- Literacy and numeracy tests
Friday, 26 April 2013
Official Notice: May literacy and numeracy tests for Year 10 and 11 school leavers

- Students Online
Monday, 08 April 2013
2013 Year 12 students invited to activate their Students Online account

- Up2 Now – collecting evidence of extra-curricular achievements
Friday, 22 February 2013
Register now to participate in the 'up2now' pilot