

MEDIA RELEASE

2 March 2026

Efforts to raise numeracy skills through targeted review of Foundation to Year 2 Mathematics curriculum

Education Ministers have accepted the recommendation of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to conduct a targeted iterative review of the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics - Foundation to Year 2, as part of a national effort to improve numeracy skills.

Advice from ACARA, based on feedback from an extensive consultation with key stakeholders and partners, found that while there was considerable support for the current content in F-2 Mathematics, there were also opportunities to make improvements to better guide and support teachers in implementing the curriculum content in their classrooms.

The iterative review will focus on 4 key areas which have been identified for curriculum improvement:

- i. Clear advice on the **prioritisation** of mathematical content;
- ii. Greater mathematical detail to improve **clarity** for teachers about what students will learn at and within each year level;
- iii. Providing specific content **sequencing**, highlighting related concepts and the sequence of introducing concepts; and
- iv. Inclusion of explicit content on foundational mathematics for **consumer and financial literacy**.

ACARA will work closely with practising primary school teachers, school leaders and systems, and mathematics curriculum experts during the iterative review process to ensure that any strengthened content changes are fit for purpose, and that the curriculum provides clear sequencing of content and prioritisation of key concepts.

Latest data from NAPLAN assessments shows that around one in three Australian students in Year 3 are not reaching challenging but achievable numeracy standards, and one in ten are still requiring additional support.

Commenting on the iterative review for the F–2 Mathematics curriculum, ACARA CEO, Stephen Gniel, said:

“A strong grounding in mathematics and numeracy are crucial skills for our young people to develop to succeed in their education and later in life.

“Given one in three students are not reaching challenging but achievable numeracy standards, it’s right for us to have a national focus on numeracy improvement, including with the Year 1 Numeracy Checks coming into effect this year. It is why ACARA put forward this iterative review of the Foundation to Year 2 Mathematics curriculum to give more clarity and support to our school leaders and teachers as they bring the curriculum to life in our classrooms.

“Although our initial consultations with stakeholders highlighted overall satisfaction with the current Mathematics curriculum, together we have also identified some key areas for refinement and improvement, which will now be the focus of this iterative review. Ultimately, this will help support our teachers to be more confident in teaching this important learning area, as well as deliver improvements for Australian students.”

The iterative review of the F–2 Australian Curriculum: Mathematics will start in March 2026 with the intention of providing advice and recommendations to education ministers in the third quarter of 2026.

Find out more information about the Australian Curriculum and optional support resources at www.australiacurriculum.edu.au.

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Notes for editors

The current version of the Australian Curriculum was endorsed by all education ministers in April 2022. The knowledge, understanding and skills included in the content descriptions and achievement standards were finalised following an extensive public consultation process informed by a rigorous program of research. It ensured we now have a more stripped-back, teachable and knowledge-rich curriculum that clearly identifies the essential content our children should learn.

States and territories have the ability, under Australia’s federated education model, to adopt and adapt the national curriculum for their local context.

Since the launch of the current version in 2022, ACARA’s focus has been on supporting teachers to bring the Australian Curriculum to life in the classroom for students by providing high-quality optional support resources.

Education Ministers in October 2025 introduced the provision for an iterative review process of the Australian Curriculum. They approved ACARA’s recommended criteria and approach to conduct iterative reviews to the Australian Curriculum to ensure that the curriculum remains relevant and responsive to educational needs.

The iterative review process balances the need for stability of curriculum with the ability to respond rapidly when required. It also provides the guardrails to put teacher workload at the heart of any change, as well as protecting the overall integrity of the Australian Curriculum.

Read more about the iterative review process and the Australian Curriculum review cycle on the [ACARA website](#).