

# LOWER SECONDARY

CURRICULUM

REPORTING

NAPLAN

OLNA

GENERAL INFO / FAQs



(08) 9311 1400  
[side.wa.edu.au](http://side.wa.edu.au)

**Campuses**  
Leederville | Canning | Clarkson | Churchlands | North Lake

## Lower Secondary Curriculum

Subjects studied by SIDE students align with Western Australian Curriculum. The Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudes that all Western Australian students from Kindergarten to Year 10 are expected to acquire.

### SIDE Lower Secondary Curriculum: Time Allocation

Hours per week over 40 weeks per school year			
Learning Area (hours per week)	Year 7/8	Year 9	Year 10
English	4	4	4
Humanities and Social Sciences	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4
Health	2	2	2
Languages *	2	0-2*	0-2*
The Arts *	2	0-4*	0-2*
Technologies*	2	0-4*	0-2*
Careers **	n/a	n/a	0-2 (Semester length)
Specialised course/program***	n/a	n/a	0-6
Hours per week	24	24	24
Student programs must contain 24 hours.			

\* These Learning Areas are not mandated after Year 8.

\*\* In the Careers Area, Year 10 students are offered Work Studies. This is a semester long subject. On completion of this subject, students may continue onto Workplace Learning - ADWPL.

\*\*\* Year 10 students have the opportunity to specialise by selecting subjects or programs that support their individual pathway goals. For example, a student may choose a VET certificate or an Endorsed program such as Workplace Learning. Decisions regarding student programs are made after discussion with stakeholders. Such Senior Secondary programs are allocated 4 hours per week.

Note: ASDAN modules are available for Curriculum Support students.

Additional courses offered in Year 10 may include:

- VET certificates
- Workplace Learning
- Community Arts Performance
- Community Service
- Elite Sports Performance
- Off-campus Enrichment Program
- Recreational Pursuits.
- Keys for Life - Plus (school-based students only)

Regional Coordinators work in partnership with students and their parents/guardians to establish appropriate student programs.

## Reporting

Grades (A-E) are based on demonstrated achievement relative to expected learning as described by the achievement standards for each learning area/subject. Lower Secondary SIDE school reports also include a teacher assessment of a student's attitude, behaviour and effort, and any additional information the school considers relevant.

In addition to formal end-of-semester reports, SIDE teachers report informally in a variety of ways, including but not limited to; interim reporting, parent-teacher discussions, email or phone conversations.

Student progress can also be monitored via **Parent Connect**.

## NAPLAN AND OLNA

In order to demonstrate the Literacy and Numeracy standard required to gain the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) by the end of Year 12, students either:

1. prequalify by achieving Band 8 or higher in Year 9 NAPLAN or
2. pass the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

Students in the metropolitan area are expected to sit the tests at SIDE. All other students will require an approved supervisor to administer the tests.

### NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 7 and 9. NAPLAN is conducted in March. Students in the metropolitan area are expected to sit the tests at SIDE. All other students will require approved supervisors to administer the tests.

Supervisors must NOT be related to, or a close family friend of the student.

NAPLAN assessments will be online. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of:

- reading
- writing
- language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. These tests are externally assessed and results are emailed to both the school and the student's home.

### OLNA

The OLNA is compulsory for those students who have not prequalified in one or more of the components through Year 9 NAPLAN. Students will have up to six opportunities (two per year) from Term 4, Year 9 to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy minimum standard. OLNA testing takes place in Terms 1-3 each year.

Supervisors must NOT be related to, or a close family friend of the student.

OLNA has three assessment components:

- One 50-minute, 45-item multiple-choice of Reading
- One 50-minute, 45-item multiple-choice of Numeracy, and
- One 60-minute, extended response in Writing of between 300 and 600 words.

Students are only required to sit the components in which they have not prequalified.

**NAPLAN AND OLNA RESULTS IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION PATHWAY CHOICES.  
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STUDENTS SIT THESE TESTS AT THE ALLOCATED TIMES.**

## General Information

### Do students have different teachers for their subjects?

Yes. All students in Lower Secondary have access to specialist teachers in all subject areas. They will also have access to a diverse range of subjects as a secondary student, such as Digital Technology, Home Economics and Media Arts.

### Can students/parents/caregivers visit the school?

Yes. Students and caregivers are encouraged to visit the SIDE Leederville site. Please contact SIDE to make an appointment with the relevant Regional Coordinator.

### How do students access their learning through SIDE?

**Webex** is an online classroom where teaching and learning occurs in real time. Lessons are scheduled by teachers. Students are expected to attend at the allocated day/time or view the recording of the lesson.

Every SIDE course has a 'web space' in **Moodle** where students access lesson materials and activities, upload work and interact with their teacher and other students. Moodle uses Department of Education usernames and passwords, and is accessible 24/7.

Support is available on the SIDE website.

**HELP & RESOURCES > Learning Online > Troubleshoot**

Students can also email/phone teachers for assistance.

### Is there homework?

Yes. The Students need to construct a timetable which incorporates the 24 hours per week expected to cover the eight Learning Areas. A student's homework will consist of any of the assigned work not finished during these set hours. It is a good idea to create a timetable that builds in homework time to develop students' time management skills.

### What is the role of the SIDE parent/supervisor?

Studying at SIDE involves a partnership between the parents, student and school. The supervisor is a support person who assists the student to meet the requirements of the subject areas.

Parents and supervisors are encouraged to read and access support materials and resources located at

**HELP & RESOURCES > Support Resources > Secondary Supervisor Guides**

**HELP & RESOURCES > Learning Online > Troubleshoot**

Parents can view their child's report and other assessment information in **Parent Connect**. All parents have a P number and password. Forgotten details can be retrieved by emailing [helpdesk@side.wa.edu.au](mailto:helpdesk@side.wa.edu.au).

### Who is the best person at SIDE to contact if parents have concerns or just want to find out how their child is progressing?

Students/parents/caregivers will have contact details for the student's respective teachers and can contact them directly, either by email or phone. Every secondary student at SIDE has a Regional Coordinator who enrolls students, monitors their academic progress and provides a contact point for parents.

### What if a student does not seem to be coping with school?

When students log in to Moodle they will initially have access to either:

- *Student Services 7-9 Moodle course*
- *Student Services 10-12 Moodle course*

These courses provide activities and tips to allow students to develop the skills they need to study effectively.

Parents should discuss any concerns with the respective Regional Coordinator or one of our school psychologists.

### Will there be a special transition process for students with special needs?

Yes. The Student Services team and school psychologists liaise closely with schools/agencies/families to provide a smooth transition in these circumstances. If parents are at all concerned about this process, they are encouraged to request an appointment so the needs of their child can be adequately met.

### What textbooks and materials need to be purchased?

Students access most of the learning materials they require in Moodle. Occasionally, subjects will have print materials to support the Moodle classroom which will be sent to the student. As SIDE is an online school, students will need to have access to a computer with reliable internet connection, and a headset with microphone. Access to a webcam is desirable. For additional required materials, please refer to the SIDE website.

**ENROLMENTS > Secondary Expenses > Booklist**

## Further Information

Read Fast Track to SIDE on the SIDE website [side.wa.edu.au](http://side.wa.edu.au)  
or [students@side.wa.edu.au](mailto:students@side.wa.edu.au) or (08) 9311 1400