Dear Principals and Curriculum Leaders

Update: Moving forward with SACSA 2007

This letter follows on from previous circulars sent to schools through Infoconnect in January and June. The purpose is to keep you up to date with data recording and quality assurance processes that have been developed to assist schools to meet their 2007 requirements regarding the Moving forward with SACSA strategy.

The SACSA Achievement System (SAS) software has been designed to support teachers and schools to record SACSA student achievement data. It has the facility to aggregate and disaggregate this data for schools to use for planning and improvement. It also uses data from all schools to create a state data backdrop for each Learning Area. Schools that intend to use the SAS software for data recording in September will need to have contacted Andrew Wells by Monday 20 August and activated the software by Friday 24 August. Schools can still register and use the SAS software after this date but will not be able to receive quality assurance feedback. Schools who do not intend to use the SAS software will need to use their existing data recording tool or process. For further information on the software please email Andrew Wells at wells.andrew@sa.gov.au.

For quality assurance, over 120 teachers are being trained as peer reviewers to collaboratively moderate student work in English, Mathematics and Science sent in by randomly selected schools and to provide feedback to these schools around

- the quality of their decision-making about student achievement of the SACSA Standards, and
- the reliability and comparability of the subject data backdrop.

If schools choose to record student achievement data for Learning Areas other than English, Mathematics or Science, using the SAS software, the software can also provide data backdrops for these Learning Areas. However, in 2007, no information will be available about the reliability or comparability of this data backdrop because quality assurance processes are not yet in place for these Learning Areas.

The timeline for the process to enhance consistency of teacher judgement around data is as follows:

**Monday 20 August:** cut-off date for schools to contact Andrew Wells re SAS software.

**Friday 24 August:** cut-off date for schools to have SAS software activated.

**Early September:** schools requested to ensure that recording of their student achievement data is up to date.

**21 September:** Curriculum Services take a “state snapshot” of this data for English, Mathematics and Science. No individual school will be identified. This snapshot will then become the baseline data for student achievement in English, Mathematics and Science for 2007.

**Late September:** a number of students and schools randomly selected for one SACSA Standard in English, Mathematics or Science. Selected schools will be supported to provide some examples of student work that the school believes is indicative of achievement of the relevant Standard.

**19 October:** peer reviewers collaboratively moderate these examples of student work.

**Early November:** feedback provided to participating schools about the quality of the school’s judgements and hence the reliability and comparability of the school’s student achievement data.
Advice will also be provided about how to use this feedback for future planning and in the analysis of school SACSA data.

So that Districts and Curriculum Services can begin planning for managing these processes, schools are requested to advise District Directors, using the attached form, which Learning Area/s the school has nominated as its focus for formal data recording and the intended medium for this recording. Districts will collate this information and forward to Curriculum Services. Please fax the completed form to your District Director by COB Friday 10 August. If you have already provided this information to your district, it is not necessary to do so again.

What does this mean for your school?

Every DECS school that chooses to record student achievement data in English, Mathematics or Science has the possibility of random selection to provide student evidence of learning about a SACSA Standard for quality assurance.

To take advantage of this quality assurance service to schools, principals might want to consider the following:

• use school decision-making processes to select at least one of English, Mathematics or Science as the focus for data collection in 2007
• use the SAS software to record student achievement in the relevant Learning Area and Standards, starting any time but finalised by 21 September
• provide opportunities that support teachers to make high-quality decisions about achievement of SACSA Standards, such as teacher co-planning, professional development around the SACSA Framework or collaboratively looking at student work
• develop protocols for when teachers disagree with or want to change the judgements of other teachers regarding the achievement of a student
• with support from District or Curriculum Services personnel if necessary, conduct collaborative moderation activities to improve consistency of teachers' judgement at the school level
• participate in collaborative moderation activities available through District Offices
• ensure all staff are familiar with the DECS Data Protocols: Student Information, developed in collaboration with the AEU. A copy is available on the DECS intranet: http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/docs/a8_publish/modules/docman_32/doc_show.asp?cid=1&moduleid=2&id=8779&curPage=74.

If you do not have a copy, ask your district Curriculum Adviser for the CD-ROM, Moving forward with SACSA: resources for leaders to support the understanding and practice of consistency of teacher judgement (CD2), for supportive resources and suggested processes.

For more information, please contact Julie Roberts, Manager Curriculum Framework, on 08 8226 4142 or roberts.julie@saugov.sa.gov.au.

I thank you for your continued commitment to this important work in enhancing our capacity to use student achievement data to improve outcomes for all learners in our schools.

Yours sincerely

Greg Petherick
A/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CURRICULUM SERVICES

23 July 2007
PLEASE FAX TO YOUR DISTRICT DIRECTOR BY COB FRIDAY 10TH AUGUST

FAX NUMBER: ........................................................

Moving forward with SACSA

Please note that schools are expected to formally record SACSA achievement data for one Learning Area only. However, once the SACSA Achievement System (SAS) software has been installed at your school, information can be recorded and used for all Learning Areas. Please indicate below if your school is formally recording student achievement data in additional Learning Areas even though it is not a requirement for 2007.

FAX BACK FORM REGARDING FOCUS LEARNING AREA AND MEDIUM FOR FORMAL DATA RECORDING

Learning Area/s for formal data recording
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Medium for data recording (please tick appropriate box):

☐ Formally recording using the SACSA Achievement System software

☐ OR

Providing to District Director in hard copy or in alternative electronic copy

School ........................................................................................................................................................................

Principal’s name ..........................................................................................................................................................

Principal’s signature ....................................................................................................................................................

Date ........................................................................................................................................................................

PLEASE NOTE: CRITICAL DATES

**COB Friday 10th August**  district notified about Learning Area/s and medium for data recording

**COB Monday 20th August**  cut-off date to contact Andrew Wells re SAS software

**COB Friday 24th August**  cut-off date to activate SAS software for data recording

**COB Friday September 21st**  SACSA data up to date