

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000564

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

Senior secondary curriculum

Question

1. What would be the specific changes to the current curriculum framework would be required to give effect to a requirement for compulsory science and maths in senior secondary?
2. Would a national senior secondary curriculum to give effect to such a proposal?
3. Given that the states and territories last year agreed to stop any further work on senior secondary studies curricula, how did the Minister propose to address this hurdle?
4. How does the Government intend to progress this proposal in light of the states and territories' position on changes to the senior secondary curricula?

Answer

No changes would be required to the Australian Curriculum.

Requiring some senior secondary subjects to be compulsory is not dependent on having a national curriculum for senior secondary years in place. Education Ministers endorsed the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for mathematics and science on 7 December 2012 as the agreed and common base for developing state and territory senior secondary courses. Making subjects compulsory is a matter for the relevant statutory authorities in the states and territories to determine.

State and territory education ministers have agreed to collaborate on a national science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) school education strategy for increasing STEM participation in schools. Senior officials will report back to ministers on the strategy later in the year.