

# Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Support assessment and exams, including NCEA' from the Guide: [Technology tools for learning](#)

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**Includes:**

- Understand&shy;ing SAC
- Applying for SAC for NCEA
- Utilising the flexibility built into NCEA
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Technology tools for learning](#)

Strategy: [Support assessment and exams, including NCEA](#)

Suggestion: [Special Assessment Conditions \(SAC\)](#)

Date

26 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/technology-tools-for-learning/sac](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/technology-tools-for-learning/sac)

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## Understanding SAC

SAC provides extra help for approved learners so they can complete NCEA internal standards and external (exams) standards.

- ✓ SAC is available to meet a range of physical, sensory, medical, and learning needs.
- ✓ SAC can include the use of a writer or reader, computer access, rest breaks, Braille, or enlarged papers.
- ✓ Barriers to achievement are removed or reduced, providing learners with a fair opportunity to achieve credits.
- ✓ Applications are made by schools on behalf of learners.

Support whānau with information from [Special Assessment Conditions – information for parents and caregivers](#).

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## Applying for SAC for NCEA

Applications for SAC are made by schools on behalf of the learner.

Ministry of Education staff can support the process but are not responsible for it.

The [SAC timeline](#) explains when to apply. New applicants need to apply in October for the following year.

Detailed information on SAC is available from the [NZQA website](#).

Contact NZQA with queries.

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# Utilising the flexibility built into NCEA

NCEA is flexible.

Design assessments to suit the nature of the learning being assessed, as well as the varied characteristics and experiences of the learners.

Avoid one-size-fits-all approaches, as they create unnecessary barriers for some learners.

Consider:

- ✓ **multiple forms of assessment**, for example, demonstration, video, audio, poster, written, multiple choice
- ✓ **active reflection** – learners spend time, individually and together, considering how they can demonstrate their learning
- ✓ **what supports are needed** to enable all learners to have equal access, for example, screen readers, reader writer, or more time
- ✓ **learner needs when giving feedback**, for example, comments on Google Docs, face to face feedback, videoing and analysing assessment tasks together – this could include using dance, drama, music, or speeches.
- ✓ **available exemplars** with explanations and examples of what “achieved”, “merit”, and “excellence” looks like, for example, annotate NZQA assessments so they are meaningful for your learners.

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## Useful resources



### Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)

Information about Special Assessment Conditions (SAC), which provide extra help for approved students when they are being assessed.

Publisher: New Zealand Qualifications Authority

[Visit website](#)

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