

The Post

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TE UPOKO
O TE IKA

Chief of War

Kiwi cast front and centre in Hawaiian epic

TV WEEK



Robo-ccino anyone?

Robot machine serves up barista-style coffee

NEWS



NCEA fails Govt grade

‘High-stakes’ exams to return, but not all teachers and parents welcome reform

EDUCATION
Hanna McCallum and Cate Macintosh

Teachers and principals say replacing NCEA with new secondary school qualifications holds promise – but only if teachers are supported to deliver the new curriculum.

And that’s also a concern for one Wellington parent, worried that teachers were already “overworked, underpaid [and] under-resourced”.

Education Minister Erica Stanford announced yesterday that the Government would replace the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), with the transition starting in 2028.

“While NCEA was designed to be flexible, for many students that flexibility has encouraged a focus on simply attaining the qualification,” Stanford said.

“This has come at the cost of developing the critical skills and knowledge they need for clear pathways into future study, training or employment.”

The new system – which will go out for feedback – would replace NCEA’s complex system of credits with scores from 0-100 and a reversion to grade scales such as A through E.

It would introduce new qualifications to sit atop the new national curriculum for years 9 to 13, which was expected to be introduced in 2026.

“It’s time to ensure that when students reach secondary school, our national qualification reflects the same high standards and ambition we expect throughout their education,” Stanford said.

President of the Post Primary Teachers Association Chris Abercrombie said he hoped benefits of the NCEA system, such as its founding principle that all students

should have opportunities to succeed, would be retained.

He was pleased the new qualifications would still be standards and curriculum-based, but it was important the curriculum was “nailed first”.

“We need to make sure we get our curriculum nailed first, because what’s really clear from this is that it’s going to be curriculum-based, which is fantastic.”

His greatest concern was how teachers would be supported to make the changes.

The timeline to implement the new curriculum and assessment sounded like a long time, but was in fact “relatively quick”.

Canterbury-West Coast Secondary Principals Association president Rachel Skelton, who is the principal of Rolleston College, was broadly supportive, but “the devil will be in the detail”.

She wasn’t surprised by level 1 getting scrapped, but the changes to levels 2 and 3 were “huge”.

The return to grades of A to E, and marks out of 100, would be attractive to parents and easier to understand, she said.

Auckland Secondary Schools Principals Association president and Albany Senior High School principal Claire Amos thought some of the changes were more of a re-brand.

Amos said she was concerned about what would replace more generic unit standards – widely derided as “barista” credits – that were actually useful for some

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Jevon McSkimming, pictured leaving court surrounded by media. THE POST

Former top cop facing serious charges

COURT
Katie Ham

Former deputy police commissioner Jevon McSkimming has been revealed as the prominent defendant facing serious charges relating to the possession of objectionable material.

McSkimming, who turns 52 this week, first appeared in the Wellington District Court via audio visual link yesterday.

At that time he was described as a “prominent” New Zealander, as his name and the charges were suppressed. But yesterday he did not ask for those suppression orders to continue.

He faced eight charges of possessing objectionable publications – four of them bestiality, three child exploitation and one with child exploitation and bestiality.

The charge alleging both elements spanned July 2020 to December 2024, but the other charges alleged offences on

specific dates between July 2020 and August 2024. All the charges were representative, meaning they potentially covered multiple incidents.

McSkimming entered no plea. Judge Tim Black remanded him on bail and said he was due to appear in court again on November 6. Yesterday’s hearing took only three or four minutes.

McSkimming sat in the dock, hands in pockets and mostly looking down while his lawyer, Letizea Ord, spoke.

McSkimming arrived shortly after the court opened, dressed in smart casual clothing. He refused to answer questions when approached by a reporter from *The Post*.

Police Commissioner Richard Chambers said the prosecution showed “no member of the police is above the law, no matter how senior”. He said he could not comment further while the matter was before the courts.

Police Minister Mark Mitchell also said he could not comment.



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