



Every chance to learn

Curriculum framework for ACT schools
Preschool to year 10 students



What support will be available?

From 2008, schools will be working with their communities over a three-year period to implement the new curriculum framework. They will be supported in this task with online resources, professional learning and other school-based support.

For more information, please contact



- your local school
- Curriculum Support Unit P-12,
Department of Education and Training
ph. 6205 9350



- Education Services, Catholic Education Office,
Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
ph. 6234 5455



- Association of Independent Schools ACT
ph. 6162 0834

or visit the Department of Education and Training website at www.det.act.gov.au

Message from the Minister



Providing quality schooling is a high priority for the ACT Government. This new curriculum framework, *Every chance to learn*, is an exciting and historic development in ACT school education – one that will ensure we provide the very best teaching and learning for our students.

From 2008, all ACT schools will use this framework to plan what they teach in their school curriculum from preschool to year 10.

The framework states clearly what the ACT community believes is essential for all students to learn, and what we expect all students to be able to do as a result of that learning. It lays the foundation for high curriculum standards in all ACT schools by identifying the essential content that should be taught to the children and young people of Canberra.

The title of the framework, *Every chance to learn*, came from students, who told us that they wanted their teachers to give them 'every chance to learn' the knowledge and skills that will best prepare them for life and work in the 21st century. With this new framework, all ACT students will be taught the knowledge, skills and values that are critical for their future as lifelong learners and as informed citizens.

Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Education and Training

What are the features of the ACT curriculum framework?

The curriculum framework is designed to ensure that all ACT students, from preschool to year 10, are taught a balanced and comprehensive curriculum. Principals, teachers, parents, academics and community members have been involved in an extensive four-year consultation process to ensure the curriculum framework will allow all students the best opportunity to achieve their full potential.

This is the first time all schools in the ACT will plan their own curriculum plans and teaching programs based on the same expectations of what students should learn. This will make it easier for students who move between schools, and will also support students as they transition from primary to secondary schooling.

Features of the new curriculum framework include the following:

- Essential learning in the eight subject areas of English, mathematics, science, the arts, health and physical education, languages, technology and the social sciences is emphasised.
- There is also emphasis on a range of competencies students will learn across these subject areas, such as: thinking and learning skills; ICT skills, managing oneself; relating to others and working well in groups; making considered decisions; and acting with integrity and regard for others.
- There is a greater focus on teaching children and young people about environmental sustainability, citizenship and intercultural understanding.
- Teachers are provided with clear descriptions on what should be included in their curriculum plans and programs, sequenced in four bands of development from preschool to year 10.
- The framework also allows schools the flexibility to continue to value and include local community issues and interests in their school curriculum.
- The framework sets a clear direction for teaching and learning in all ACT schools by identifying 25 Essential Learning Achievements, which describe the core knowledge and skills all young people need to acquire for the 21st century. These are shown on the opposite page.

How is the curriculum framework organised?

What should be taught and learnt in all ACT schools, from preschool to year 10, is organised in 25 Essential Learning Achievements, shown below.

The student...

