



SCAFFOLD FOR STANDARDS

The IEUA has long supported the concept of professional career pathways underpinned by the right to professional learning and the development of an objective scaffold that supports, encourages and focuses on teachers' professional development. Such a scaffold recognises not only the complex nature of the work undertaken by teachers but also the collegial, cooperative and supportive environment that is critical to the 'full' educational interests of students

The development of objective frameworks or standards must reflect recognition for commitment through professional learning, active engagement in the life of the school, as well as the teacher's commitment to and provision of opportunities in the learning environment of students. This reflects the community's expectations that a full and positive school experience provided by accomplished teachers for students is manifestly more substantial and broader ranging than the overly simplistic notion of assessing teachers through student outcomes on the national testing benchmark agenda.

A general scaffold for teacher standards

A general scaffold based on standards developed in collaboration with the profession, research based and verified should identify and support an integrated career structure for teachers.

The Ministerial Council of State and Federal Education Ministers (MCEETYA) has already proposed a National Framework for Standards including four career dimensions (Graduation, Competence, Accomplishment and Leadership) and describes the work of teachers through four categories (Professional Knowledge, Professional Practice, Professional Values and Professional Relationships.)

Based on the work of MCEETYA and the work in a number of jurisdictions in Australia to date, the IEUA believes that the following scaffold can be used to broadly describe the teaching career structure with an appropriate hierarchy of standards for each band.

- Pre-service teacher education
- Graduate teacher
- Competent teacher
- Accomplished teacher
- Leadership