

SENIOR CYCLE UPDATE

Last May, ASTI members voted to reject the document *Senior Cycle Redevelopment – Implementation Support Measures*. Following this, the ASTI referred the matter to the dispute resolution mechanisms of the Public Service Agreement 2024-2026.

After an initial dispute resolution process, the dispute was referred to the Teachers' Conciliation Council (TCC) and talks were convened, chaired by a facilitator from the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). As these talks did not result in adequate progression on the ASTI's key concerns, the dispute has now been referred to the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC), in line with the arrangements set out in the Public Service Agreement 2024-2026. The role of the JIC is to consider how best it can assist the parties, including the need for further discussions. (For further information on this process, see the General Secretary's update on page 4 of this *ASTIR*.)

In parallel, the ASTI continues to seek to negotiate substantially improved supports for schools and teachers for the implementation of Senior Cycle Redevelopment. The ASTI also continues to highlight issues as a member of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Partners' Forum.

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ASTI key concerns

The ASTI has consistently raised the key concerns of its members, including:

- equity and fairness for students,
- the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Leaving Certificate Additional Assessment Components (AACs), including authentication issues,
- the reported lack of adequate laboratory storage space/facilities for AAC projects, and
- the lack of adequate training for teachers implementing new and revised subject specifications.

For the latest updates on Senior Cycle Redevelopment, visit <https://www.asti.ie/news-campaigns/campaigns/seniorcycleredevelopment/>

Senior Cycle Redevelopment – ASTI achievements

The ASTI's opposition to aspects of the announcement of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme in 2020 has led to a number of achievements, including:

- reversal by the Minister for Education in 2023 of the decision regarding assessment of AACs,
- ensuring that AACs are externally assessed by the State Examinations Commission,
- reversal of plans for students to sit Leaving Certificate paper 1 in English and Irish at the end of fifth year, and
- access to all submissions made during public consultations for members of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) subject development groups.

Public consultations are currently open for Agricultural Science, Home Economics, History and Physical Science (formerly Physics and Chemistry).

Reminder: engage with public consultations for your subjects!

Public consultations are currently open on draft specifications for the following subjects:

Agricultural Science

Consultation period: February 9-April 17
<https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/agricultural-science/>

Home Economics

Consultation period: February 9-April 17
<https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/home-economics/>

History

Consultation period: March 2-May 1
<https://tinyurl.com/historyNCCA>

Physical Science (formerly Physics and Chemistry)

Consultation period: February 9-April 17
<https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/physics-and-chemistry/>