

teachers Curriculum Policy Collaboration Subject specification Union Minister Redevelopment Protecting education Protecting members ASTI Campaign Leaving Cert

voice Depth of treatment

Senior Cycle redevelopment – ASTI policy

The ASTI has a longstanding policy that teachers do not assess their students for the purpose of State exam certification and that all State exams be externally assessed. In addition, the ASTI has adopted the following policies since the Minister for Education announced her plans for Senior Cycle redevelopment in March 2022:

Policy adopted by ASTI Central Executive Council

- That the ASTI demands substantial consultation on the selection criteria for and operation of Network Schools and clarification on the exact nature of the role of students as co-constructors of the curriculum and assessment arrangements.
- ASTI affirms that Transition Year must remain a standalone programme.
- That the ASTI demands that the Easter and mid-term breaks and weekends are not used for the sitting of any part of the State examinations.
- That the ASTI demands the provision of a programme of initial teacher education and meaningful CPD prior to the introduction of new subjects and revised syllabi/specification on the curriculum. Further, the ASTI demands that the full range of syllabus documentation (including sample examination papers, sample marking schemes and, if applicable, teacher's notes) should be officially published at the same time as the new syllabus.
- ASTI emphatically rejects the proposal to hold paper 1 in English and Irish at the end of fifth Year.
- That ASTI will strongly advise and support all members in Network Schools to familiarise themselves with and adhere to union policy on State examinations. The ASTI rejects the Minister for Education's proposals on teacher assessment; the assessment and grading of the Leaving Certificate must remain the remit of the State Examinations Commission as is currently practiced.
- That ASTI reject the proposal that the balance between written and other assessment components be standardised across all subjects. This balance should be developed through consultation, including with subject development groups.
- ASTI demands that the teacher union voice be central to all discussions

on Senior Cycle change.

- That the ASTI demand that any implementation plan for Senior Cycle curriculum change address the need to reduce teacher workload, provide adequate professional time, reduce class size, invest in school facilities, and protect the working conditions of teachers.

Policy adopted by ASTI Convention 2023

- That the ASTI demand, that for all future Leaving Certificate syllabi (specifications), the Department of Education, the NCCA and SEC publish the full range of syllabus documentation concurrently and not less than 12 months prior to implementation of the syllabus. The syllabus documentation to include: a detailed syllabus which embeds depth of treatment and comprehensive teacher guidelines into the syllabus, sample examination papers, sample marking schemes, rationale and research-based evidence that underpin the changes to/for introduction of syllabi.
- That a committee be formed to develop a set of positive proposals for Senior Cycle reform that the ASTI can promote as an alternative to the Minister's proposals.
- That the ASTI vehemently oppose the proposal to hold English and Irish Leaving Certificate Paper 1 at the end of fifth year.
- That the ASTI refuse to co-operate with the proposal to move Paper 1 in English and Gaeilge to fifth year.
- That the ASTI oppose any attempt for students to sit a Leaving Certificate exam in fifth year.
- That the ASTI demand that the State Examinations Commission not schedule the oral and practical examinations during the Easter holidays.
- That the ASTI demand that the Easter and mid-term breaks and weekends are not used for the sitting of State Examinations.
- That the ASTI insist that the supervision and correction of all terminal State examinations continue to be the remit of the State Examinations Commission and that appointment for such work remain on a voluntary and contractual basis.

Keep up with the ASTI's Senior Cycle campaign at www.asti.ie