# NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2017-2020

The Strategy is a four-year plan to ensure NSW students have the essential literacy and numeracy skills they need for success in learning and in life. Literacy and numeracy skills will be described clearly, taught explicitly, assessed meaningfully and reported regularly in all schools across NSW.

There are five elements to the Strategy.

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| A continued focus on intervention in the early years of schooling | - Maintain and increase our focus on early intervention.  
- Invest $340 million over the next four years, providing instructional leadership support to 673 schools to develop the literacy and numeracy skills of at-risk Kindergarten to Year 2 students. |
| Clear guidance on explicit teaching and better, faster diagnostic assessments | - Better support teachers with evidence-based literacy and numeracy learning progressions that map student literacy and numeracy development from Kindergarten to Year 10.  
- Make quality online literacy and numeracy assessments, linked to the learning progressions, available to all NSW schools, to help teachers identify and target the support students need.  
- Improve the Best Start assessment to give teachers an immediate and clear picture of the literacy and numeracy skills of students on entry to Kindergarten. |
| More support for literacy and numeracy in secondary schools | - Introduce a Best Start Year 7 assessment on entry to high school, to identify students needing additional assistance in literacy and numeracy and plan the support they need to succeed at secondary school.  
- Strengthen the teaching of writing across all curriculum areas by providing additional resources and professional learning opportunities for secondary teachers. |
| Quality training for teacher education students in literacy and numeracy | - Ensure graduating primary and secondary teachers are better prepared to teach literacy and numeracy by strengthening initial teacher education programs across NSW.  
- Provide quality support materials and professional learning for teaching and assessing literacy and numeracy. |
| Rigorous evaluation to focus investment and effort on what works | - Independently evaluate the impact of the early intervention program over the next four years.  
- Evaluate specific literacy and numeracy programs commonly used in NSW schools to guide future investment. |
