

Support for implementation of the curriculum

What training and support will be provided to primary teachers?

- Orientations prior to Semester 1 for all teachers, principals and pedagogical advisors. A grant will be provided to each Provincial Education and Sports Service to deliver the training.
- Guidance for principals and pedagogical advisors on how to support teachers.
- Resources including videos to support school and cluster level peer-to-peer learning, and teachers' continuing professional development.
- On-going support for teachers during the school year by principals, pedagogical advisers and other education staff on pedagogy, challenges with the delivery of the curriculum and continuing professional development, coordinated by the District Education and Sports Bureaux.

Who is the training team?

- A team of Master Trainers at the national level will train Provincial Trainers and provide follow-up support.
- Provincial Trainer teams will conduct face-to-face training for teachers and provide school level support and follow-up with teachers, in coordination with the district and the pedagogical advisors.
- Both teams are composed of education professionals across the MoES at all levels including national, provincial and district offices, Teacher Training Colleges and schools.
- The Research Institute for Educational Sciences and the Department of Teacher Education will have oversight of the training program. Teacher Development Sections at provincial and district levels will manage the organisation of the training and on-going support.

What are the changes for the primary teacher training curriculum?

- Revision of the primary teacher training curriculum (pre-service) to be aligned with the new improved primary curriculum.
- New pre-service curriculum year 1 will be piloted in selected Teacher Training Colleges in September 2019 and the national implementation is planned for September 2020, with first cohort of the 12+2 program graduating in 2022 and the 12+4 program in 2024.

Key dates

Oct-Nov 2018	○ Identification of Master and Provincial Trainers
Dec 2018-Feb 2019	○ Skills Training for Master and Provincial Trainers
May-June 2019	○ Training of Master and Provincial Trainers for Grade 1 Curriculum
June-Aug 2019	○ Distribution of Grade 1 teaching and learning materials to schools
July-Aug 2019	○ Training of the Grade 1 teachers
Sept 2019	○ School year starts with new Grade 1 curriculum
June-Aug 2020	○ Distribution of Grade 2 teaching and learning materials to schools
July-Aug 2020	○ Grade 2 Curriculum Training for teachers
Sept 2020	○ School year starts with new Grade 2 curriculum
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Sept 2024	○ School year starts with new Grade 5 curriculum

Implementing a new improved National Primary Curriculum



BEQUAL is a program led by the Lao Government, with support from the Australian Government and the European Union

➤ Improving learning outcomes for more girls and boys

Introduction

- Since 2015, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) has been developing a new improved national primary curriculum along with new teaching and learning materials for students and teachers. The MoES is supported by the Australian Government and the European Union, through the BEQUAL program, on the development and implementation of the new improved primary curriculum (for all subjects, except mathematics which is supported by JICA).
- The implementation of the new improved curriculum in primary schools will be progressive with one new grade per year.
- Mathematics: The implementation of the new mathematics curriculum started with Grade 1 in September 2018, Grade 2 is planned in September 2019 and subsequent grades will be implemented through to Grade 5.
- All other subjects: The implementation of the new improved curriculum for all the other subjects will start with Grade 1 in September 2019 and finish with Grade 5 in 2024.

The new improved National Primary Curriculum

Why a new primary curriculum?

- A priority of the 8th Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP 2016-2020).
- Consistently poor results from national testing initiatives, high repetition and school drop-out rates highlight the need to improve the curriculum.
- An up-to-date curriculum and teaching and learning resources will make an important contribution to the improvement of learning outcomes for all children and ultimately build a well-skilled and competitive workforce.

What are the key changes in the primary curriculum?

- An orientation week for all Grade 1 students to familiarise them with school life and build their confidence around key routines, behaviours and skills needed in school.
- New pedagogical approach, with a focus on active learning and a student-centred approach. The students will learn by doing activities and applying their new knowledge in inclusive classrooms.
- To further enhance existing commitment to inclusive teaching and learning the curriculum has been organised thematically to support multigrade teachers with planning and delivery of lessons.
- New competency-based approach and student assessment methodology to measure acquisition of positive attitudes, knowledge and skills.

What teaching and learning resources will be provided?

- Textbooks: Colourful and with plenty of visuals to increase attention and memory retention - Content updated for the new improved curriculum (1 set per student).
- Teacher Guides: Include scripted lessons, guidance and suggestions for using local knowledge, creating extension activities, working with multi-grade classes and teaching non-Lao speaking students (1 set per teacher).
- Educational resources: Educational materials such as flash cards and posters to organise classroom activities – Set of age appropriate storybooks to support Lao literacy lessons - Sets of graded reading books to support literacy development for Grade 1 and 2 students (1 resource pack per classroom).*
- The textbook content, the resources and the activities have been carefully designed to ensure that the curriculum is fair and equitable to all children.

* Storybooks and graded reading books are supported by the United States Agency for International Development



New improved curriculum to be implemented gradually from September 2019 starting with Grade 1**



All primary schools to receive revised teacher guides and textbooks as well as additional teaching and learning resources



Each student to receive a complete set of new textbooks



60 Master Trainers and 611 Provincial Trainers



All teachers to be trained in new pedagogy



All principals and pedagogical advisors to receive additional training on how to provide on-going support to teachers



All materials were tested in pilot schools around the country and improved with feedback from the trials

** With the exception of mathematics which started in September 2018

