

Circular S/IF/01/18

January 2018

To: The Principals of Post-primary and Special Schools, Directors of Further and Higher Education Colleges, and Training Organisations

For circulation to: The Examinations Officer and Head of Departments

Withdrawal of CCEA Essential Skills Qualifications

CCEA has decided to withdraw its provision of the following Essential Skills qualifications:

- Application of Number (Levels 1 and 2)
- Communication (Levels 1 and 2)
- ICT (Levels 1 and 2)
- Literacy (Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3)
- Numeracy (Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3)

This decision follows analysis of the Essential Skills market and consideration by CCEA Council members. Our decision will require you to consider an alternative provider, should you wish to continue to use Essential Skills qualifications. The open market for Essential Skills qualifications is healthy and now has 3 alternative qualification providers. These are OCN, Pearson and City & Guilds.

CCEA Regulation will continue to remain the regulator of Essential Skills qualifications in Northern Ireland.

For Application of Number (Levels 1 and 2) and Communication (Levels 1 and 2), **the last opportunity for candidates to take assessments will be October 2018**. The availability of assessments for these qualifications is shown in the table below.

	January 2018	April 2018	August 2018	October 2018	January 2019 onwards
Application of Number (Levels 1 and 2)	All assessments available	All assessments available	All assessments available	All assessments available	No assessments available (Qualification withdrawn)
Communication (Levels 1 and 2)	All assessments available	All assessments available	All assessments available	All assessments available	No assessments available (Qualification withdrawn)

With regards to ICT (Levels 1 and 2), Literacy (Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3) and Numeracy (Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3), the following arrangements will apply:

- For centres without direct claims the final date for submission of outcomes will be the 31 August 2018.
- For centres with direct claims the final date for the submission of outcomes and cash-in will be the 31 October 2018.

If you require clarification on the content of this circular please contact the relevant subject officer (details available on the CCEA website).