VET in Schools (VETiS) 2026 and 2027 Policy

Introduction

In Queensland, high school students can complete nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) as part of their school studies.

There are several ways to undertake VET as a school student in 2026 and 2027:

- VET in Schools (VETiS) 2026 and 2027 funded by the Queensland Government through the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET).
- If a school is a registered training organisation (RTO), it may offer VET courses, often at no cost to the student; or
- through an external RTO: the students can enrol in a course offered by an external training provider. The cost might be covered by the student, their family, or a sponsoring organisation such as a local business or community group.

This document informs Skills Assure Suppliers (SAS) and other stakeholders of program requirements.

Qualifications delivered by school RTOs and Fee for Service arrangements are not part of VET in Schools delivered by DTET.

What is VET in Schools (VETiS) 2026 and 2027?

VETiS supports secondary school students in Year 10, 11 or 12 to undertake VET qualifications funded by DTET while they are still at school. This training can be undertaken as part of their school studies through a general training pathway or in a workplace as a school-based apprentice or trainee. DTET funded training is delivered by RTOs approved by DTET and known as SAS.

VETiS covers training fees for VET courses that are aligned to jobs and skills in demand, putting secondary school students on a path to employment and further VET opportunities.

VETiS will support Queensland secondary school students commencing DTET funded VET in 2026 and 2027.

VETiS offers **either** a general training pathway **or** a school based apprenticeship/traineeship pathway.

Under VETiS, a student **may** access a **subsidised training place** through a general training pathway and/or an apprenticeship/traineeship. Students cannot be enrolled in more than one DTET funded qualification at the same time.

VETiS 2026 and 2027 is a multifaceted approach to supporting students to explore career and training pathways that match their goals.

VETiS 2026 and 2027 includes:

- the Gateway to Industry Schools program;
- a pilot of Career Tasters;
- subsidised certificate training (certificate I or II qualifications) delivered through general training pathways;
- school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs).

What are the training pathways?

General Training Pathway

Through the general training pathway (certificate I or II qualifications) – students can complete a nationally recognised qualification and develop practical, job-ready skills to leave school feeling prepared and confident about their future.

This pathway focuses on career paths linked to priority industries and sectors and helps make moving from school to work or further training much easier.

Students may also get access to quality career information and connections between schools and local businesses, supported by Regional School Industry Partnership Managers located in state school regions across Queensland.

School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Pathway

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs) allow high school students (usually in Years 10, 11 or 12) to earn a wage, train towards a nationally recognised qualification while at school.

For SATs, an individual must be employed as an apprentice or trainee. This pathway is part of the Australian Apprenticeships system and requires all parties to sign an Apprenticeship and Traineeship Training Contract (the Contract) as defined by the *Further Education and Training Act 2014 (the Act).*

There are specific requirements for SATs that apply to:

- age limits
- paid work and minimum hours
- parental/guardian consent
- school support and timetables.

Some of the training and/or work must take place during school hours and impact on the SAT's school timetable.

The employer of a SAT must provide or arrange to provide adequate facilities, range of work, supervision and on-the-job training required by the Act and training plan.

The Supervising Registered Training Organisation (SRTO) is required to assess these employment arrangements, complete an Employer Resource Assessment and develop the training plan in consultation with the employer, apprentice and/or trainee to ensure compliance with the Act. More information about SATs is available on the Queensland Government website.

Who is eligible?

General Training Pathway

To access a funded training place under VETiS 2026 and 2027, in a general training pathway, a school student must:

- be a student enrolled in Years 10, 11 or 12 in a Queensland secondary school;
- not be an international secondary school exchange student;
- not have already completed a certificate I or II VETiS qualification funded by DTET;
- have a genuine interest in pursuing a post school vocational occupation;
- be first enrolled in a general training pathway qualification on or after 1 January 2026 and have commenced training no later than 17 September 2027;
- not enrol and commence training if training and assessment cannot be completed by 30 June 2028.

Note: Students seeking to commence training between 18 September 2027 and 26 November 2027 (end of the 2027 school year for Years 10 and 11) require DTET approval, granted at DTET's sole discretion.

If approved, the SAS must:

- inform students, parents/carers and schools that all training and assessment must be completed by 30 June 2028;
- arrange formal agreement from all parties acknowledging no extensions will be allowed.

Any portion of the qualification not completed by 30 June 2028 will not be funded by DTET.

Requests for enrolment in 2028 will not be accepted or approved under any circumstances.

Note: Students already enrolled in the previous VETiS program will still be able to complete their training with their existing provider but must complete all training and assessment by 30 June 2028.

Note: Foundation skills training products (including, but not limited to foundation skills qualifications or where foundation skills units of competency are specified electives in a qualification) are not approved for VETiS delivery and will not be subsidised as the school is responsible for foundation skills training.

School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Pathway

School students can only undertake apprenticeships and traineeships through a registered SAT. School students cannot undertake a part-time apprenticeship/traineeship funded through Career Start. This is to ensure a school student does not use their entire apprenticeship/traineeship entitlement while at school.

To be eligible to receive government subsidised training, the school based apprentice or trainee must:

- have entered into a Contract (training contract) for a qualification funded by DTET and be registered on DTET's training database, and;
- not have already completed or be enrolled in a SAT.

Note: A student can only undertake two funded apprenticeship/traineeship qualifications across the suite of core programs: VETiS; Career Start and Career Boost, within a 10-year period. **A SAT uses one of these entitlements.**

Co-contribution Fees

School students do not have to pay any student or co-contribution fees for the VETiS 2026 and 2027 program. The Queensland Government covers the cost by paying the SAS so students can do the training for free.

When a SAT converts to a full-time or part-time apprenticeship or traineeship, co-contribution fees must be charged for training and assessment for any units of competency not yet commenced. This does not apply to qualifications funded under Free Apprenticeships for under 25s.

What a SAS must provide

Before enrolling, the SAS must provide the student (or parent/guardian, if applicable) with the following information to support informed decision making:

- confirmation the student understands their entitlement to a subsidised training place under VETiS 2026 and 2027 and when this will be exhausted.
- qualification Fact Sheet (a summary of their training offering) that includes:
    - information on delivery mode, training and assessment timelines, assessment methods, delivery locations, and all requirements for successful completion of the qualification, including licensing and vocational placements if applicable (note: vocational placements must be arranged by the SAS) by 30 June 2028;
    - any portion of the qualification not completed by 30 June 2028 will not be funded by DTET;
    - details of student support services available;
- Privacy Notice;
- Details of any third-party arrangements the SAS has with:
    - the student's school – this means where the school has been engaged to help deliver or support the training. For example, the school might help organise the training, provide facilities, or support the student's learning alongside the SAS;
    - an external organisation engaged to deliver training and/or assessment, including a clear description of the respective roles and responsibilities of each party, and which parts of the training and assessment each party will deliver.

Note: DTET will not accept new third party arrangement for 2027 except granted at DTET's sole discretion. If approval is granted it may be limited to arrangements in regional and remote locations.

What training is available?

Eligible VETiS 2026 and 2027 qualifications are listed on the Queensland Subsidised Training List (QSTL). This list of funded qualifications has been developed in consultation with industry to ensure they suit school students and support, rather than limit, post-school pathways.

Some qualifications are only available through specific training pathways, depending on industry advice on preferred training methods:

- Years 10, 11 and 12: Students can enrol in a certificate I or II qualification through a general training pathway. These qualifications are recognised by employers and can help students find a job after school;
- Years 10, 11 and 12: Students can enter into a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship at Certificate II or III level.
    - Limits apply on the amount of training and assessment which a SRTO can deliver to a SAT based on the nominal term of a full time training contract.
    - For further information in relation to the SATs (including the limits) refer to the Guide to school based apprenticeships and traineeships.

Information for Schools

Schools play a vital role in supporting students, together with their parents or carers, to make informed decisions about their training and career pathways.

To ensure students get the most out of the VETiS 2026 and 2027 program, it is important their participation aligns with both the program's objectives and each student's individual career goals.

Schools are encouraged to take a targeted approach, enrolling students in training that supports their intended post-school pathways.

Expected outcomes

VETiS 2026 and 2027 helps school students:

- build job-ready skills and gain the confidence needed to pursue their career goals;
- earn a nationally recognised vocational qualification;
- access further training or employment opportunities after graduation.

After finishing training, it is recommended the SAS support students to transition into work or further education and training beyond school. This support may include career advice and connecting students with potential employers.

As part of receiving a subsidised training place, students may be asked to complete a DTET student survey. This helps ensure students have an effective and supportive training experience and will also improve outcomes for other Queensland students.

Information for Employers

While industry is primarily responsible for training its workforce, the government supports this effort by investing in training that addresses emerging needs and strengthens Queensland's economy.

VETiS 2026 and 2027 can help by providing subsidised training for employees through school based apprenticeships and traineeships. General training pathways support skills development and prepare school students for the world of work, benefiting both employees and the business.

For more information

RTOs (non-SAS) can find further information on the DTET website.

Prospective apprentices, trainees, students and employers can call 1300 369 935.

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