

# Vocational Education and Training in Schools 2026

## Frequently Asked Questions



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## 1. Introduction

Commencing from January 2026, the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET), VET in Schools (VETiS) 2026 program will offer access to immersive industry experiences and funded certificate training, with a greater focus on school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

VETiS 2026 is designed to support students as they explore career options, build employability skills, and connect with real-world learning experiences. It brings together schools, industry, government and community partners to ensure every young Queenslanders is equipped with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive in the workforce of today and tomorrow.

### VETiS 2026 programs include:

- Gateway to Industry Schools
- Career Tasters (pilot)
- Subsidised certificate training (certificate I or II qualifications)
- School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs)

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document provides clear, concise answers to common questions about VETiS 2026 — from program objectives and implementation to access resources and support.

It is intended to assist educators, school leaders, training providers, employers, and other key stakeholders in understanding how VETiS 2026 will be implemented, how it will work, and how they can play an active role in helping students become confident, capable, and VETiS 2026.

Whether you're introducing VETiS 2026 to your school, partnering to offer workplace experiences, or supporting young people on their learning and employment journey, these FAQs will help you get started and stay informed.

VETiS 2026 will continue to evolve in 2027 based on consultations with critical stakeholders across industry and education sectors. Details will be released in time to facilitate school planning.

## 2. Exploration | Career Tasters and GISP

### **Q. Where will Career Tasters be delivered?**

A. TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity are currently designing Career Taster pilot programs with a focus on supporting students in regional Queensland, and those that may not have access to other structured experiences such as Gateway to Industry School program. As a pilot in 2026, Career Tasters will not be available to all schools and students.

### **Q. Can Career Tasters be delivered to Year 9 students?**

A. Career Tasters pilots for 2026 are currently under development. Pilot details will be released in Semester 2, 2025.

### **Q. Do Career Tasters have a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) credit attached?**

A. Career Tasters are not assessable and are designed to provide insight into working in a sector, without a concentration of workplace learning that would count toward a QCE credit.

### **Q. Are Career Tasters available to students in Year 11 in special assistance schools?**

A. Career Tasters pilots for 2026 are currently under development. Pilot details will be released in Semester 2, 2025.

### **Q. Will Career Tasters be open to schools that are not in the Gateway to Industry Schools program?**

A. Yes. Career Tasters will not be exclusively offered to students from participating Gateway to Industry Schools. They are designed to be complementary and to provide students who may not have access to other programs with an opportunity to participate in experiential opportunities.

### **Q. Are Career Tasters limited to delivery from only CQUniversity and TAFE Queensland or can any provider with Skills Assure Supplier status deliver a Career Taster program?**

A. CQUniversity and TAFE Queensland are designing Career Taster pilots and will deliver them during the pilot in 2026.

### **Q. What are the opportunities on offer for students who are in regions and industry areas that will not be serviced by the CQUniversity and TAFE Queensland Career Taster delivery?**

A. We are working together with TAFE Queensland and CQUniversity to design Career Taster pilots for 2026 to provide industry-led, experiences to Queensland students, including in regional areas. As a pilot, Career Tasters will not be available to all schools and students.

Delivery will be reviewed with opportunity to expand as the program evolves. Additionally, the Gateway to Industry Schools program provides students with industry connections and activities.

**Q. When will the Career Taster (and industry areas) be released?**

A. The Career Taster pilots program is currently under development by CQUniversity and TAFE Queensland. They are on schedule to be available in Semester 1, 2026.

### **3. Employment | DTET funded qualifications and SAS**

**Q. Are students still able to access multiple funded qualifications in 2026?**

A. DTET funded VETiS offers either a general training pathway or a school-based apprenticeship/traineeship pathway. Under the VETiS 2026 Policy, a student may access a subsidised training place through a general training pathway and/or an apprenticeship/traineeship.

If a student has previously completed a DTET funded qualification they are not eligible to access another qualification under VETiS 2026.

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

**Q. Can students be funded to undertake both a certificate I or II, and a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship in 2026?**

A. Under the VETiS 2026 Policy, a student may access a subsidised training place through a general training pathway and/or an apprenticeship/traineeship. 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 benefit from the government's investment in their training, it is important that their qualification selection aligns with both the program's objectives and each student's individual career goals.

**Q. What are the restrictions that will be placed on funded qualifications in 2026?**

A. The VET qualification list offered through VETiS 2026 has been produced based on industry consultation, providing advice on the qualifications that should be funded and suitable modes of delivery for those funded qualifications. These are detailed on the VETiS 2026 qualifications list.

**Q. Why is the Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot) being removed?**

A. The Certificate III in Aviation is unique among VET school training funded by the department, as no other Certificate III qualification is offered to school students outside of school-based apprenticeships or traineeships. While it has been popular with students, there is no clear evidence linking it to high-demand entry-level jobs or strong pathways into employment or further VET study.

**Q. How can students still access the Certificate III in Aviation?**

A. The Certificate III in Aviation continues to stay available and subsidised under Career Start which provides a government subsidy to allow eligible Queenslanders to obtain their first post-school certificate III level Qualification.

It is also important to note that schools can continue to offer the qualification through school-based RTO's or alternative funding arrangements including fee-for-service training delivered by an external RTO.

Additionally, from 2026, the Certificate III in Aviation will be available via a new Industry Skills Solutions program dedicated to drone operated skills in regional and remote communities. This program will be designed in consultation with employers and industry to ensure participants, which may include school students are connects to local employment opportunities.

**Q. Will Year 10 students be able to complete a certificate qualification?**

A. Yes. Year 10 students will be able to access DTET funded qualifications under VETiS 2026.

**Q. Will 2025 Trade Taster students still have access to a funded Certificate I or II in 2026?**

A. Yes. Please refer to the Trade Taster Eligibility Summary in the Resource Kit.

**Q. When will we know what restrictions will be applied to qualifications under VETiS 2026?**

A. The finalised VET qualification list is available on the DTET website.

**Q. How are decisions being made about which qualifications will be funded under VETiS 2026?**

A. The list of certificate I and II qualifications funded under VETiS 2026 has been developed following consultation with employers, industry stakeholders and the education sector.

DTET will continue to consult with key industry stakeholders to review the list of funded qualifications to ensure industry supports the qualification as a clear pathway into post school employment or further training.

The certificate I and II qualifications list is subject to annual review and may change as the Department continues to work with industry to refine preferred pathways.

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SATs) that are funded under VETiS 2026 are also supported by industry.

**Q. Will there be enrolment caps for qualifications?**

A. There are no enrolment caps in 2026. There are no caps on School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

**Q. Under VETiS 2026, can a Year 10 student who has commenced a qualification in 2025, continue to complete this qualification?**

A. Students in Year 10 in 2025 who are currently undertaking a funded qualification but will not complete it in 2025, can continue with their current training provider into 2026 under a continuing student agreement. However, they will not be able to undertake another DTET funded general training pathway qualification.

They may be eligible to undertake a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship under the VETiS 2026 program if they have not previously completed an apprenticeship/traineeship.

No current VETiS student enrolled in a DTET funded qualification will be disadvantaged by the implementation of VETiS 2026.

**Q. There are currently some students who are completing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship one day per week while completing a second qualification on a different school day. Is this permitted and funded through VETiS 2026?**

A. The funding and conditions that were in place in 2025 for VETiS, will remain for these continuing students. It is not the policy intent for students to concurrently enrol in DTET funded qualifications.

This does not apply to qualifications that are not funded by DTET for example, a student could enrol in a DTET funded school-based apprenticeship and a fee-for-service or school funded qualification at the same time.

**Q. What are the opportunities for students to gain industry experience, or be well informed prior to commencing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, if the Certificate I and II qualifications cannot be used as subsidised pathways?**

A. Unless it is documented entry requirement for a qualification, there is no requirement for students to complete a certificate I or II qualification prior to commencing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. There are a variety of practical ways a student can gain industry experience without undertaking a formal qualification, these include but are not limited to:

- work experience e.g. organised through the school
- participating in the Gateway to Industry Schools program
- Career Taster pilots (coming in 2026).

You may wish to speak to your education sector peak agency, or network with other local schools for further ideas.

**Q. If students enrol in a certificate course, then drop out, can they then still access a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship?**

A. Unless it is documented entry requirement for a qualification, there is no requirement for students to complete a certificate I or II qualification prior to commencing a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. Partial completion does not deem the student ineligible for future enrolments however, repeated or patterns of cancellations may require further consideration.

**Q. How can we promote VETiS 2026 at upcoming senior education and training planning events based on currently available information?**

A. Further information about VETiS 2026 including the funded qualification list and approved Skills Assure Suppliers is available on the DTET website here:  
<https://dtet.qld.gov.au/training/providers/funded/vetis>.

You can also speak to your education sector peak if you need assistance with appropriate messaging.

## **4. Training delivery partners**

**Q. What date will you advise which registered training organisations have been approved to deliver VETiS 2026?**

A. The list of RTOs approved to deliver Certificate I and II qualifications under VETiS 2026 is available on the DTET website here: <https://dtet.qld.gov.au/training/providers/funded/vetis>.

**Q. If a school is a registered training provider, can they deliver Certificate I and II courses at school?**

A. Schools as registered training organisations (RTOs) can deliver any qualification that they are registered to deliver however, school RTOs cannot deliver DTET funded training.

**Q. Why can't school-RTOs apply for Skills Assure Supplier status and access funded delivery?**

A. The department does not fund school RTOs, and school RTOs are not eligible to apply to become a Skills Assured Supplier (SAS) under VETiS 2026. State schools receive Queensland Government funding through the Department of Education to support students in vocational pathways.

**Q. Can school teachers deliver training and assessment on behalf of SAS for VETiS 2026?**

- A. While the Department's preference is for the RTO contracted by the Department to deliver all training and assessment to the school students, the Department understands that some school staff may be qualified to deliver training and assessment services in partnership with RTOs.

Involvement of school staff in training and assessment is classified as a third-party arrangement and must not exceed 50 per cent of total training and assessment services for each qualification.

This is a continuation of the third-party arrangements under the previous SAS Agreement and policy framework.

School staff providing supervision for their school students undertaking training and assessment with the RTO who are not involved in training and assessment services of the VET qualification are not classified as a third-party arrangement.

Please note that following industry stakeholder consultation, some qualification delivery restrictions may include no third-party delivery.

**Q. What will be the impact on the MOUs that have been in place with registered training providers up until this point?**

- A. This is a school issue and DTET cannot provide advice on these arrangements.

**Q. When will schools know which registered training organisations have been approved to continue working with schools?**

- A. The list of funded qualifications and approved Skills Assure Suppliers is available on the DTET website here: <https://dtet.qld.gov.au/training/providers/funded/vetis>.

There may be some changes to SAS approved to deliver qualifications funded under VETiS 2026 due to strengthened entry requirements for RTOs to have industry connections and the ability to support school to work transitions.

There may also be new SAS approved for delivery.

Schools wanting to continue to deliver courses with other providers can continue to do so under fee-for-service arrangements.

**Q. Will the new Skills Assure Supplier arrangements provide more equitable access to registered training organisations in rural and remote locations?**

- A. The VETiS 2026 contracting model specifies delivery regions to support equitable access for Queensland's secondary school students across the state.

When applying to become VETiS 2026 suppliers, registered training organisations were asked to specify where they are willing and able to deliver.

Government investment will be actively targeted, with evidence and data informing what qualifications will be delivered by what providers and where.

Key considerations include current and projected skills needs, supply and demand, provider performance and job outcomes, and regional coverage.

The list of qualifications, approved providers, and locations is available via the Queensland Government Publications portal – [download here](#).

## 5. Operationalising VETIS 2026

**Q. Under the current system, there are two separate funding sources, VET in Schools and User Choice, will this still be open to students?**

- A. All current programs are changing as part of a new funded training journey represented by VETiS 2026, Career Start and Career Boost. This means that User Choice has been phased out and replaced by VETiS 2026 for school students.

This means that the student's entitlement to access DTET funded training through general training pathways or a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship will be assessed according to the VETiS 2026 policy.

**Q. Will factsheets be provided for schools to provide to students and their families about the new VETiS 2026 program?**

- A. Yes, these are currently in development and will be made available as soon as possible. For the latest news and updates please subscribe to the department's Queensland Jobs and Skills Connect newsletter via [www.desbt.qld.gov.au](http://www.desbt.qld.gov.au).

**ENDS**