Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Our Ref: 2022/27270

Ms Marisa Schiavi
President
Modern Languages Teachers' Association of Western Australia

By email: president@mltawa.asn.au

Marisa

Dear Ms ~~Schiavi~~

THE IMPACT OF SMALL CANDIDATURE LANGUAGES ON THE PROVISION OF ROMANIAN CONTINUERS AT YEAR 12 LEVEL

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) collaborates with other curriculum and assessment authorities across Australia to deliver and assess many language subjects through the Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL) Project. By sharing resources, students are able to study small candidature language subjects at Year 11 and Year 12 that might otherwise be unsustainable.

There are criteria that need to be met for a language to be provided through the CCAFL Project in the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). One of these criteria requires a CCAFL language to have 15 or more students nationally each year. If the number of students who sit the end-of-year written examination in Year 12 falls below 15 students for three years in a row, the language would normally face suspension from the CCAFL Project.

Romanian Continuers has been identified by the CCAFL National Reference Group as a subject where the number of students completing the Year 12 end-of-year written examination was below 15 students nationally in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

However, an exception to CCAFL low candidature policy was approved last year by the authorities in response to the impact of COVID19. This exception allows languages with candidatures that fell below 15 students in 2021 to discount this data if the suspension of the language is being considered in following years.

This information has been provided to alert you to the possibility that there may be low candidatures in Romanian Continuers nationally in 2022. If this is the case, it will be essential for student enrolments in Romanian Continuers to increase in the following years to avoid the CCAFL suspension processes being applied.

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Should the candidature in Romanian Continuers fall again below 15 students nationally in 2022, the course will be suspended following the 2024 WACE examinations and the following will apply:

Year	Action
2023	Last year for Year 11 enrolments in Romanian Continuers
2024	Romanian Continuers not offered at Year 11
	Last year for Year 12 enrolments and WACE examination for Romanian Continuers
2025	Romanian Continuers not available as a WACE subject. Students will not be able to repeat Romanian Continuers at Year 12.

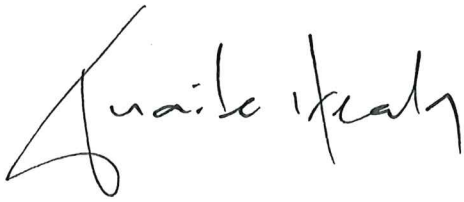
The suspension of Romanian Continuers will still allow students undertaking the Year 11 course in 2023 to continue and complete their WACE in 2024.

If Romanian Continuers is suspended through this process, at some later time the syllabus may be reactivated if documented evidence of its sustainability and viability can be provided to the Authority. There are procedures for the suspension, reactivation and extension of languages. Please refer to the policy and procedures in relation to the suspension, reactivation and extension of languages in the attachment.

On behalf of the Authority I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the Romanian-speaking community, teachers, parents, students and others in supporting the study of Romanian Continuers.

If you require any further advice about this matter, please contact Nadia Civa, Principal Consultant, Curriculum and Assessment, on (08) 9273 6355 or by email at nadia.civa@scsa.wa.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



JUANITA HEALY
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS

21 June 2022

Attachment: Procedure for appeal of a decision to suspend a language from the CCAFL Project – Information for stakeholders

PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL OF A DECISION TO SUSPEND A LANGUAGE FROM THE CCAFL PROJECT

Information for stakeholders

An appeal of the decision to suspend a small candidature language from the CCAFL Project may be made. It must be submitted in writing to the appropriate state or territory Authority by the end of July in the same year the notification of suspension is received.

Those who submit the appeal need to provide documented evidence with the appeal to show that the subject will remain viable nationally at senior secondary level if it is not suspended. The evidence must satisfactorily demonstrate all of the following points.

That there is:

1. Ongoing demand to sustain the language nationally. Evidence of this could include, but is not limited to:
    - a projected candidature of 15 or more students wishing to sit the written examination at Year 12 over the following three years
    - current enrolments in junior secondary/middle school
    - the number of students currently studying the language through community or ethnic schools.
2. Sufficient language expertise available nationally to support the language subject, including people with expertise and qualifications to set, vet and mark examinations, including a Chief Examiner, and to teach the language at Year 11 and Year 12.
3. Sufficient tertiary or equivalent expertise available nationally to support the continued teaching and assessing of the language subject at this level.

It is recommended that those wishing to lodge an appeal should contact the appropriate Authority in their state or territory as early as possible to discuss how this may be done.

If the evidence demonstrates each of the above points satisfactorily and is supported by the Authority where it was lodged, the CCAFL Representative from that Authority will forward the appeal and documented evidence to the CCAFL National Coordinator.

The CCAFL Representatives from all participating states and territories will consider the appeal and make a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officers of the Australasian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities (ACACA), who will reach agreement on the recommendation in the same year.

In the case of a successful appeal

Stakeholders and schools will be notified by their local Authority of an extension to the CCAFL suspension process for the language subject. The Authority where the appeal was lodged will notify those who submitted the appeal of the successful outcome. The notification will:

- confirm that the suspension process for the language has been extended, subject to the annual review procedure
- indicate that enrolments for the language will continue to be monitored,

and

- provide contact details for further discussion, as required.

What happens after a successful appeal

The language subject enrolments will be monitored in accordance with CCAFL procedures for very small candidature languages. This means that:

1. The language will move from being monitored as a very small candidature language to normal CCAFL monitoring procedures if:
    - over the next three consecutive years, fifteen or more students nationally complete the language subject and sit the end-of-year written examination

    and

    - there continues to be sufficient expertise nationally to teach and support the annual assessment processes for the language.
2. In any of the three years following a successful appeal, if there are fewer than fifteen students nationally who sit the end-of-year written examination, the extension to the suspension will no longer apply. The CCAFL procedures for the notification of suspension of a very small candidature CCAFL Language subject will be applied at that time.

In the case of an unsuccessful appeal

If the appeal is not successful, the Authority where the appeal was lodged will notify those who submitted the appeal. The notification will provide:

- reasons for the appeal not being successful

and

- contact details for further discussion of the suspension process and how a language may be reactivated as a CCAFL Language in the future.

Information has been provided to stakeholders during the suspension process about alternative ways students may be able to study this language in their state or territory, as applicable.

Updated	2021	VCAA CCAFL National Coordinator	For implementation 2021 to be confirmed
Review date	2024	CCAFL National Coordinator	For implementation 2025