

What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Federal, state and territory education ministers agreed that NAPLAN will move online from 2017, over a three-year period. This means moving NAPLAN from the current paper-based tests to computer-based assessments.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not students are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas could be improved. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN Online tests.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

NAPLAN Online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information. Assessments will use an adaptive 'tailored test design', which gives students questions better suited to their achievement level. This form of testing will help teachers customise their teaching more specifically to student needs.

Will all schools start doing NAPLAN Online at the same time?

No. States and territories will each determine when their schools will move to NAPLAN Online. Some schools will continue to administer paper-based NAPLAN assessments until then.

What will be tested as part of NAPLAN?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. NAPLAN content is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. To become more familiar with NAPLAN Online, please visit the public demonstration site at the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. State and territory education authorities are responsible for implementation in their state/territory.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the online test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Parents can also familiarise themselves with the testing experience by using the public demonstration site available at www.nap.edu.au

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and reminding them on the day to simply try their best. If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN Online, you should make a time to speak with their teacher. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN Online will meet the needs of all students, including those with a disability. As students with an identified need progress through the online tests, as appropriate, they will be given an alternative question that is more accessible but still assesses the same content. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia. The results for students sitting NAPLAN online are comparable to those from the paper-based assessment.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the NAPLAN Online test window.

Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

Schools that administer NAPLAN Online will receive a student summary report commencing the week of 19 June. A final Individual Student Report (ISR) will also be issued later in the year, at the same time as the reports are issued to students who completed the test on paper. The same final ISR report format is used for every student in Australia.

The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive the reports, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to improve teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- NAPLAN current and trend results are available on the *My School* website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN Online:

- visit the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website).

For ACARA's privacy policy, go to: www.acara.edu.au/contact-us/privacy

NAPLAN Online 2017 tests

In 2017, NAPLAN Online has a longer test window than the paper test to ensure each school participating in online testing can plan for the use of their in-school computer resources.

The NAPLAN Online test window starts on 9 May and finishes on 19 May. The online tests need to be taken in a specific order, as shown below.

Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed in the first two days.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed before the conventions of language test.
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed any time after the reading test.• This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the conventions of language test.• The numeracy test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability.• Calculators are not permitted to be used for the online numeracy tests in Years 3 and 5 (just like for the paper test). In Years 7 and 9, there will be a short section at the start of the online test that assesses important mental calculation skills. For all questions after this section, a calculator will be provided by the online test, which will be available for use if needed.

In 2017, Year 3 students will undertake online assessments for numeracy, reading and conventions of language. However, they will do a paper-based writing test. Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will complete all NAPLAN assessments online.