

Information for parents and carers

ACARA Item Trial

Your child's school has been selected by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to participate in this year's ACARA Item Trial. The trial is being held in approximately 440 schools across Australia between Monday 30 July and Friday 17 August 2018.

Item Trial tests have occurred each year since 2007. Each year a small number of schools participate. Schools are carefully selected to ensure a diverse range of student backgrounds and abilities is represented.

ACARA appreciates the participation of your child in the Item Trial. The purpose of the trial is to evaluate potential questions (items) for use in future NAPLAN tests. Your child's involvement and the results from the trial will help ACARA ensure that NAPLAN tests remain valid, reliable and fair for all students.

Please be assured the Item Trial is about testing the questions, not students.

No information that identifies your child will be collected during the Item Trial, and your child's results are not reported. There are no consequences for your child or the school based on how many questions your child gets right or wrong.

What the trial involves

Your child will sit two Item Trial tests. These will be, for example, a Reading and Numeracy test; a Reading and Conventions of Language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) test; a Numeracy and Conventions of Language test; or two Writing tests.

The tests will be administered at the school by trained test supervisors. The teacher will remain in the classroom. Where tests are online, your child will use the device that they use for everyday classroom activities, such as a desk-based computer, a laptop, or a tablet.

All selected students are expected to participate in the Item Trial, unless they have been exempted or withdrawn from NAPLAN tests. If you have questions about your child's participation, please raise these with your school.

Further information about NAPLAN and the move to online assessment is available at www.nap.edu.au For an idea of what the NAPLAN online tests look like, visit the public demonstration site at www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site