

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment sat by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in May each year. Literacy and numeracy skills are the critical foundation for all learning. NAPLAN is the only national assessment that all Australian children can undertake. Questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

NAPLAN results allow parents/carers and educators to see how students are progressing in literacy and numeracy over time – individually, as part of their school community, and against national standards.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance. Your child's teacher will have the best insight into your child's educational progress. Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN reports can be used to discuss your child's strengths and areas for improvement with their teacher.

When will I receive my child's NAPLAN report and what will it tell me?

If you are a parent/carer of a student who undertook the NAPLAN tests in May this year, your child's school will provide you with an individual report of your child's results.

You can expect to receive your child's NAPLAN report from August onwards, once state and territory test administration authorities (www.nap.edu.au/taa) have provided the NAPLAN individual student reports to schools.

You will see five achievement scales (or 'rocket ships') showing your child's NAPLAN results for reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy.

The Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessment results are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. This scale represents increasing levels of knowledge, understanding and skills demonstrated in the assessments.

How is NAPLAN delivered in schools?

NAPLAN is moving online, with the aim to have all schools transition from paper to online testing by 2022.

This means that in May 2021 some students sat NAPLAN on paper, while others sat the tests online.

NAPLAN Online provides a better assessment, more precise results and is more engaging for students.

How do I read the report?

Under each rocket ship, there is a statement specifying whether your child completed each of the assessments online or on paper. All Year 3 students complete the writing test on paper.

Regardless of whether students complete the test online or on paper:

- students are assessed on the same underlying literacy and numeracy skills taught through the curriculum content
- student results will continue to be measured against the same NAPLAN assessment scales, meaning results of both formats are comparable.

NAPLAN is a valuable tool that can give useful insights into a student's performance over time, but individual reports should be interpreted with care as they reflect the student's performance on the day of testing.

Only the most relevant six bands for each year level are shown on the student report. The Year 3 report shows bands 1–6, the Year 5 report shows bands 3–8, the Year 7 report shows bands 4–9, and the Year 9 report shows bands 5–10. The diagrams in the student report show the range for the middle 60 per cent of students, the national average result and the national minimum standard for each year level. Reports in some states and territories also show the school and/or state average. The report also summarises the skills that students have typically demonstrated in the assessments at each band.

How does NAPLAN help my child?

NAPLAN provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learnt in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Individual student results show parents/carers how their child performed in the reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy tests.

Your child's achievements are compared with the achievements of all students in Australia, not just with their classmates' achievements. NAPLAN results can help parents and students to discuss individual student progress with teachers. Because NAPLAN tracks your child's progress across Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, it also provides objective information about growth in student attainment in literacy and numeracy.

What impact will the results have on my child's future?

NAPLAN results provide important information about literacy and numeracy skills that your child is learning through their regular school curriculum. The results complement the other assessments your child does at school. They provide you and your child's teachers with an understanding of your child's achievements and progress at the time of the assessments. The information can be used to support your child to reach their full potential.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN reports, in addition to school reports, as part of their admissions process. NAPLAN assessments are not designed to be a school admission test. However, results may be useful for informing a new school of a student's needs. If you have any concerns, ACARA encourages you to talk them over with the school.

How does NAPLAN help my school?

NAPLAN is the only national assessment that Australian children undertake. NAPLAN helps:

- teachers to better identify students who need greater challenges or extra support
- schools to identify strengths and areas of need in teaching programs

- schools to set goals in literacy and numeracy
- school systems to review programs and support offered to schools
- the community to see average school results on the *My School* website.

NAPLAN also complements other school assessments and provides nationally comparable data to help governments evaluate how education programs are working and whether students are meeting important literacy and numeracy standards.

Who else will see the results?

Each year, test administration authorities provide schools with results for all students who sit NAPLAN. Schools are encouraged to use the results to inform their planning for improvement across the school. Individual student reports are confidential. No-one outside of your local test administration authority or your school will see your child's report.

Average school results are publicly reported on *My School* (www.myschool.edu.au). The website is updated with the previous year's results in the first quarter of each year. *My School* allows the community to look at aspects of each school's profile, as well as to make comparisons with schools that serve similar student populations. Your child's individual results are not available on *My School*.

What if the results are not what my child and I expected?

NAPLAN tests assess learning progress in literacy and numeracy. Students are provided with an indication of where their results are located on the assessment scale for each test. While NAPLAN results can be compared nationally between all students and over time, a student's experience on the day of the test may affect their performance.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's NAPLAN results, you should discuss these with your child's teacher, who will have the best insight into your child's educational progress.

To find out more about NAPLAN and/or the move online, visit www.nap.edu.au