

NAPLAN 2026 results: Information for parents and carers

This fact sheet will help you interpret your child's NAPLAN results.

NAPLAN measures student achievement in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Individual results reflect your child's performance at the time of testing. NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, it is intended to assess learning progress over time.

What are proficiency standards?

Since 2023, NAPLAN results have been reported against proficiency standards.

Proficiency standards are set at a level expected for your child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

The proficiency standards include 4 proficiency levels:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

Proficiency level descriptions are available on the National Assessment Program website: nap.edu.au/naplan

Why are proficiency standards used?

Proficiency standards are used to provide clear information about a student's NAPLAN achievement. The standards will allow you and your child's teachers to easily identify areas of strength, as well as any areas that may need more support.

How do I know if my child is meeting expectations?

A result in the *Exceeding* or *Strong* level means your child has exceeded and/or met expectations for their current stage of schooling.

A result in the *Developing* or *Needs additional support* level means your child has not yet demonstrated they are meeting expectations for their year level at the time of testing.

The levels will allow you to easily identify areas where your child may require additional support.

Can I check my child's progress against previous NAPLAN reports?

Results from 2008 to 2022 cannot be directly compared with results since 2023. This is because a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests was introduced in 2023.

Results from 2023 onwards can be compared to check progress.

How do I know if my child is making progress?

As students move through the NAPLAN years, proficiency levels become progressively more demanding. Maintaining a consistent proficiency level may still reflect genuine learning growth as students meet increasingly challenging academic standards.

Your child's teacher will have the best insight into your child's educational progress.

What has been done to acknowledge the impact of technical disruptions on my child's results?

A widespread outage on the first day of testing caused disruptions to some students who were completing their writing test in Years 5, 7 and 9.

Year 3 students were unaffected by the technical issues on the day as they complete the writing test on paper.

ACARA has recognised that this affected students differently across individual students, classes and schools.

To acknowledge the range of impact on a student's writing test, a caveat has been included on your child's report. ACARA has also recommended not including the school's writing mean, due to the variability in school experience following the platform outage on day 1.

We recognise the exceptional efforts of teachers and principals who supported students to complete testing despite this year's disruptions.

Can I appeal my child's result due to illness or stress on the day of testing?

There is no provision for illness or misadventure in NAPLAN to adjust the score a student receives. There are processes in place that schools must follow to resolve any issues at the time of testing.

It is important to highlight that NAPLAN results reflect your child's performance on the day of testing, rather than being a full measure of their overall learning. Therefore, results should always be interpreted with care.

Your child's teacher can help you understand your child's NAPLAN results including how they relate to their other school-based assessments and classroom learning, and whether your child might need any additional support.

Questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's school.