

Parent and carer factsheet

NAPLAN individual student report Information for parents and carers

2023

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. Literacy and numeracy skills are the critical foundation for all learning and for the ability to participate effectively in society. NAPLAN questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum in English and Mathematics.

NAPLAN tests are only one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process. As they are held once every 2 years for each student, they cannot replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. Your child's teacher will have the best insight into your child's educational progress. Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN individual student reports can be used to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

How does NAPLAN assess students?

NAPLAN tests are delivered online to schools across Australia. Online assessment presents questions tailored to an individual student's responses, delivering more precise results and an engaging test experience for students.

Questions in NAPLAN are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years of schooling. A few questions assess additional content from the year of testing and the following year. These questions have been designed so that they can be answered using strategies students have learnt in previous years. This ensures students of all abilities can show their capabilities.

Detailed information on the knowledge and skills being measured in NAPLAN is available at www.nap.edu.au.

New proficiency standards

From 2023, new standards were introduced to NAPLAN reporting. This reporting replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN reporting bands and national minimum standards. Education ministers agreed 2023 was the right time to introduce this change alongside moving NAPLAN to March.

Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

There are 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.

What NAPLAN assesses has not changed. Page 4 of the individual student report provides a more detailed summary about what students know and can do within each of the proficiency levels. Further information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

How were the proficiency levels determined?

Panels of expert teachers identified the levels of proficiency against learning expectations for each assessment area and year level. Parent and carer input on student reports was also provided through focus groups and national parent organisations.

Reading the NAPLAN report

The NAPLAN report shows a proficiency scale for each assessment area (numeracy, reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation) with a student's result shown as a black dot on the scale.

The report continues to show each child's achievement against the national average for their year (shown as a black triangle) and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level (shown as a light shaded rectangle).

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

What if my child's report says they took their test on paper?

While NAPLAN is an online test, there are a small number of circumstances where students may complete tests on paper. These include when:

- schools use a recognised alternative curriculum
- students require paper tests for accessibility reasons
- issues during testing require paper tests to be used as a contingency measure.

Year 3 students always complete their writing test on paper.

Can I compare my child's performance to previous NAPLAN reports?

Results from 2023 onwards cannot be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022. This is because a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests has been introduced with the new standards. Also, in 2023, the tests moved to Term 1 from Term 2. However, as in previous years, you can continue to see your child's achievement against the national average for the year.

How does NAPLAN help my child?

NAPLAN allows parents and carers to see how their child has performed in literacy and numeracy against national standards. Your child's achievement can be compared to the national average of all students in the same year and against the proficiency levels.

Results can help parents, carers and students to discuss individual student progress with teachers.

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 school curriculum. The results complement other assessments your child does at school, providing you and your child's teachers with an understanding of your child's achievements at the time of the tests. 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 is not designed to be a school admission test; however, results may be useful for informing a new school of a student's learning needs.

How does NAPLAN help my child's school?

NAPLAN is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. It 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.

NAPLAN also 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 but your local test administration authority and staff at your child's school will see your child's report.

Average school results are publicly reported on My School at www.myschool.edu.au. The website will be updated with each year's results towards the end of the year. Your child's individual results are not available on My School.

New reporting for NAPLAN: FAQs for parents and carers

Why have the changes been introduced?

- Education ministers agreed 2023 was the right time to introduce this change, alongside the move to an earlier NAPLAN in March.
- These changes meet an initiative of the 2019 National School Reform Agreement.
- The new standards and proficiency levels provide simple and clear information to parents and carers about a child's NAPLAN achievement based on a more realistic guide for where students should be achieving at the time of testing.
- They replace the previous numerical NAPLAN bands which did not, on their own, clearly indicate for parents whether students were meeting expectations in literacy and numeracy.
- The standards are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of testing, based mainly on skills learnt from previous years of schooling.
- Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN results can be used to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

Will individual student reports change?

- Yes. The new reporting will be reflected in the Individual Student Reports parents and carers receive after this year's NAPLAN.
- That means a student's result in each assessment area will be reported against a new measurement scale with 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.
- As with previous ISRs, the new report continues to show each child's achievement against the national average and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level.
- 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.

New reporting for NAPLAN: FAQs for parents and carers

When will my child's NAPLAN results be available?

- Individual student reports will be sent to schools to provide to parents in July.
- The exact timing of the reports is determined by state and territory testing administration authorities.

What is assessed in NAPLAN?

- NAPLAN continues to assess student achievement in literacy and numeracy.
- Questions are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years of schooling. A few questions assess additional content from the year of testing and the following year. These questions have been designed so that they can be answered using strategies students have learnt in previous years. This ensures students of all abilities can show what they are capable of.
- A summary of what students know and can do within each of the proficiency levels in each assessment area is included on page 4 of the individual student reports, with more detailed information available at www.nap.edu.au

Can I compare my child's results in 2023 to previous results?

- No. Results from 2023 onwards cannot be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022. This is because a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests has been introduced with the new standards. Also, in 2023, the tests moved to Term 1 from Term 2.

How are my child's NAPLAN results used?

- NAPLAN results provide important information about literacy and numeracy skills that your child is learning through their school curriculum. Together with other school assessments, they can be used by your child's teacher to support your child to reach their full potential.
- Schools are encouraged to use the results to inform their planning for improvement across the school.
- Individual student reports are confidential. No-one but your local test administration authority and staff at your child's school will see your child's report.
- NAPLAN also provides nationally comparable data to help governments evaluate how education programs are working and whether students are meeting important literacy and numeracy standards.