



2016

Information for
parents



NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM LITERACY AND NUMERACY 2016

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment of all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students are expected to participate in the testing. They will be assessed in language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation), writing, reading and numeracy.

What will be tested?

The content of each test is informed by the Australian Curriculum (English and Mathematics).

Language Conventions: students identify and correct spelling errors and answer questions on aspects of grammar and punctuation.

Writing: students write a text in response to a given stimulus. They are assessed on the quality and organisation of ideas, structuring of sentences and use of correct spelling and punctuation.

Reading: students read a number of short texts and answer questions to show understanding of the texts.

Numeracy: students solve problems across *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Geometry*, and *Statistics and Probability*.

The NAPLAN tests are designed to complement the regular assessments made by teachers throughout the year.

What are the benefits of a national test?

The test results provide a snapshot of a student's achievement in comparison to all students of the same year level across the country. They assist teachers to better identify students who require additional support or enrichment. Students and parents can use individual results to discuss achievement with teachers. The tests allow the progress of each student to be monitored over time.

The results support schools to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs. State and territory departments of education gain information to help them evaluate programs and allocate resources.

Who administers the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal.

When will the tests be held?

The tests are scheduled for the mornings of Tuesday 10 May, Wednesday 11 May and Thursday 12 May 2016. All schools across Australia must complete the tests on the same days. The times shown below are student working times. Additional time is allocated for instructions.

| Year group | Tuesday 10 May | Wednesday 11 May | Thursday 12 May |
|------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 3 | Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes | Reading 45 minutes | Numeracy 45 minutes |
| 5 | Language Conventions 40 minutes Writing 40 minutes | Reading 50 minutes | Numeracy 50 minutes |
| 7 | Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes | Reading 65 minutes | Numeracy Calculator allowed 40 minutes Non-calculator 40 minutes |
| 9 | Language Conventions 45 minutes Writing 40 minutes | Reading 65 minutes | Numeracy Calculator allowed 40 minutes Non-calculator 40 minutes |

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

Wherever possible, schools will organise another time between 10 – 13 May for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests. Students are **not** permitted to sit tests before or after these dates.

Students who are travelling within Australia during the testing week may be able to arrange to sit the tests at a local school. For more information contact the principal of your school.

Can I help my child prepare for the tests?

The provision of comprehensive teaching and learning programs is the best preparation that schools can provide for their students. Schools will ensure students are familiar with the format, language, response types and time constraints of the tests.

Sample questions can be accessed at nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests.html on the national NAPLAN website.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

What additional support can schools provide to enable students to participate?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN. Students with disability or who have a temporary injury will be provided with assistance during the tests as specified in the *National Protocols for Test Administration*.

Formal exemptions may be granted for students with disability, or who have recently arrived in Australia and are from a non-English-speaking background.

Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from the tests. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, you must sign a parent or carer consent form. Please contact your school principal for more information.

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

Your child's NAPLAN report will be issued through your school in mid-August. The report will be accompanied by an information brochure. All students' individual results are strictly confidential.

If you have not received your child's report, please contact the school.

Where can I get more information?

You can get more information on the NAPLAN testing process by:

- contacting your child's school
- accessing the NAPLAN website and the *My School* website
nap.edu.au myschool.edu.au
- accessing the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website
sca.wa.edu.au/internet/Years_K10/NAPLAN
- phoning the office of your child's sector or system
Public Schools (including IPS): 9442 9461
Catholic Schools: 6380 5302
Non-Government Independent Schools: 9441 1678