

NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers



2018

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN tests also provide schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

What will be tested?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

In 2018, for the first time, some students will sit NAPLAN online. To get an idea of what the tests look like, visit the public demonstration site at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

NAPLAN Online will not be a test of keyboard skills. There are variations in how fast and well a student can type – just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing test on paper.

How can I help my child prepare for NAPLAN?

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that the tests are just one part of their school program, and by reminding them on the day to simply try their best. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Ensuring students are familiar with using devices, typing on them and navigating through programs are a part of student learning and a requirement of the Australian Curriculum from the first year at school.

ACARA does not recommend the use of services by coaching providers or excessive preparation. NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress.

Will my child sit NAPLAN on paper or online?

Your child will sit the NAPLAN online tests in 2018.

However, children in some other schools across Australia will sit the NAPLAN paper tests this year. Federal, state and territory education ministers have agreed that NAPLAN will move online over the next two to three years. State and territory education authorities will determine when their schools move online.

NAPLAN Online uses an adaptive test design, which presents questions that better match student achievement levels and provide more precise results for teachers and schools. As students are presented with questions that test the same range of difficulty, regardless of whether they complete the test online or on paper, results for both formats will be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale.

To find out more about NAPLAN Online, visit nap.edu.au/online-assessment

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN tests.

Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. Where applicable, you should first discuss the use of any disability adjustments for your child with your child's teacher.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on NAPLAN Online disability adjustments or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

NAPLAN Online 2018 tests timetable

The test window for NAPLAN Online is extended from three days provided for the paper test to nine days to give schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices. The NAPLAN Online test window starts on Tuesday 15 May and finishes on Friday 25 May.

The online tests must be taken in the following order:

Test	Duration	Order	Details
Writing	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 40 min. Year 9: 40 min.	To be completed in the first two days	Year 3 students do a paper-based writing test
Reading	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	To be completed before the conventions of language test	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts
Conventions of language	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 40 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	To be completed after the reading test	This test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 60 min. Year 9: 60 min.	To be completed after the conventions of language test	This test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability

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

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule. Individual students are not permitted to sit NAPLAN online tests after Friday 25 May 2018.

How is my child's performance measured?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your school.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results at myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

For information about how personal information for NAPLAN will be handled by ACARA, visit nap.edu.au/naplanprivacy