

## About NAPLAN (page 1 of 2)

### What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses students using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN tests broadly reflect aspects of literacy and numeracy common to curriculums in all States and Territories. The types of test formats and questions are chosen so that they are familiar to teachers and students across Australia.

### Who participates in NAPLAN?

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in government and non-government schools across Australia sit NAPLAN tests.

### Exemptions

Some students are eligible for exemption from NAPLAN tests. These include students from a non-English-speaking background who have been learning English in Australia for less than one year, and students with severe intellectual or functional disabilities.

### When are NAPLAN tests conducted?

NAPLAN tests are conducted in May each year. All students in the same year level are assessed using the same tests.

### Test development

NAPLAN tests are developed collaboratively by the States and Territories, the Australian Government and the non-government school sectors. Eminent assessment and educational measurement experts provide technical advice in the development of the tests.

### Test administration

A test administration authority in each State and Territory is responsible for printing the NAPLAN tests, as well as for test administration, support for schools and delivery of reports. National protocols for test administration ensure consistency in administering the tests by all test administration authorities and schools across Australia.

### Reporting student achievement

Individual student reports, provided to parents/carers, show student results on NAPLAN tests against the national average and the middle 60 per cent of students nationally. These reports contain a description of what was assessed in each of the tests and provide information about what students can typically do.

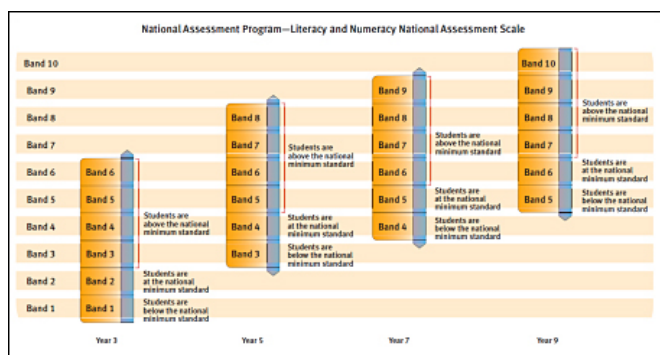
Student outcomes are reported against achievement bands for each of the five NAPLAN assessment domains of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. The band range, from one to ten, reflects the increasing complexity of skills and understandings demonstrated by a student and assessed by NAPLAN testing as the student progresses from Year 3 to Year 9.

For any one year, the full range of student performance is reported using six of the ten bands. For example, student performance at Year 3 is reported within the band range 1 to 6, whereas Year 9 student performance is reported within the band range 5 to 10.

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The top four bands in each group of six represent students performing at a level above the national minimum standard. The bottom two bands in each group of six represent students who are performing at or below the national minimum standard.



The use of common assessment scales and reporting bands that span Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 enables the growth in a student's individual performance to be monitored. This is reflected in individual student reports. Likewise, the common scales enable the monitoring of the progress of groups of students.

### NAPLAN reporting

NAPLAN results are reported nationally through a summary report in September and a full national report in December. Results are available for use by education systems, schools and parents. NAPLAN results, in conjunction with other information, can be used by teachers and schools to determine how well their students are performing and to identify any areas of need for which students require assistance.

### Reliability and validity

To increase the reliability and validity of NAPLAN tests, the following procedures are followed:

- The tests are trialled in each State and Territory to ensure the items function correctly.

- Tests are constructed by the contractor in consultation with test administration officers in each State and Territory, as well as by representatives from the non-government school sector.
- In addition advice is sought from subject specialists, Indigenous perspectives, specialists in language background other than English (LBOTE), and disabilities education specialists within each jurisdiction with respect to curriculum content and cultural inclusivity to ensure diverse access to the tests.
- Procedures for NAPLAN testing are set out in the national protocols for test administration, and the test administration manuals to ensure the integrity and consistency of the testing process.
- Eminent panellists, expert in educational measurement, check that the tests are 'fit for purpose'.

More information can be found in the *Reliability and validity of NAPLAN Fact Sheet*.

### Comparing students' performance from one year to the next

To ensure that it is possible to compare scores on the current year's tests with those of the previous year, test differences between the years have been taken into account, using a rigorous equating process. As a result, changes in performance of students in schools and school systems over time can be identified.