
Further information for families about taking part in NAPLAN

The purpose of the following information about taking part in NAPLAN is to support principals and teachers in their communication with parents regarding NAPLAN implementation and their child's participation. This information can be used to support discussions with parents and it may also be helpful to provide some or all of the information electronically to assist them in understanding NAPLAN and the importance of their child's participation.

What is the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)?

NAPLAN are literacy and numeracy tests run every May in all schools and colleges across Australia, to assess the achievement of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The literacy tests assess reading, writing, and 'language conventions' which includes spelling grammar and punctuation. The numeracy tests assess number, algebra, function and pattern, measurement, chance and data, and space.

Why is NAPLAN valued by schools?

Student results from NAPLAN support principals and teachers to identify where improvements can be made to the literacy and numeracy programs their school delivers. NAPLAN data is used as part of a suite of resources to inform practice in the classroom and is regularly used as a valuable component of whole-school planning for improvement and reporting on student progress.

What does my child gain from participating in NAPLAN?

The tests present an important opportunity for both primary and secondary students to learn about their strengths in literacy and numeracy. With the support of their teachers, students can use their results to see how their learning is developing and where they can focus future learning.

How does NAPLAN help measure my child's achievement?

NAPLAN can be seen as a 'snapshot' of your child's performance. The results reflect each student's performance at a single point in time and contribute to school reporting on student progress in literacy and numeracy, alongside VELS teacher judgments and other assessments already used in schools.

Can my child be prepared for the NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is not a test of content. Instead, it tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum, so excessive preparation is not useful.

Students are prepared by their teachers to feel comfortable in the test environment, and to confidently demonstrate what they know and can do. Supervising Test Administrators (usually teachers) are always present during the tests to support students. Parents are encouraged to contact their school principal or teacher if they have any concerns about their child sitting NAPLAN.

What happens if my child is sick on one of the test days?

Schools organise for individual students who are not in attendance at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week.

Does every child sit the NAPLAN tests?

It is recommended that every student in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take part in NAPLAN, given its importance to school planning and student learning. There can be exceptions to student participation. For students with disabilities or serious illness, schools may grant exemptions in consultation with parents or carers. Parents or carers make the final decision regarding exemptions on a signed form before NAPLAN commences.

Students from a language background other than English with a low level of proficiency in the English language, and who have arrived from overseas less than a year before the test are also exempt.

Students may be withdrawn from the NAPLAN testing program if their parents or carers choose to do so. Parents or carers make the final decision regarding withdrawals on a signed form before NAPLAN commences.

What extra support can schools give to students with disability or temporary injury during a test?

Disability adjustments can be granted for these students that are similar to the kind of support they would usually be provided with in the classroom. Provisions can include extra time, rest breaks,

assistive technology, large print or Braille. Your principal can provide further information on options for your child.

What should I do if I have questions about NAPLAN?

Parents and carers can access comprehensive advice regarding all aspects of NAPLAN, including participation, on the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) website at: <http://www.nap.edu.au/Information/FAQs/index.html>.

Parents and carers will receive an *Information Pamphlet* regarding NAPLAN prior to the tests. An electronic version can be found at: <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/naplan/parents/index.html>.