

# NAPLAN 2026

## Information for parents and carers



### Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum, and allows parents and carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

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

### Your child will do the NAPLAN tests on paper

While most schools will complete NAPLAN tests online, a small number of schools, which have an approved alternative curriculum, will continue to complete paper tests.

### What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content aligned to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](https://www.nap.edu.au).

### Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the [National protocols for test administration](#).

Schools should work with parents, carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

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

### What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN 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 within the test window.

### What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. However, it is not necessary for parents and carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

Read about the NAPLAN tests at [nap.edu.au/naplan/whats-in-the-tests](https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/whats-in-the-tests).



## How is my child's performance reported?

NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school. If further assistance is required, you should contact your relevant state or territory test administration authority. ACARA cannot provide individual student reports.

### NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN paper test window starts on **Wednesday 11 March 2026** and finishes on **Tuesday 17 March 2026**.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students, parents and carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](https://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](https://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](https://nap.edu.au)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](https://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy).

Test sequence	Test time
<b>Writing</b> Students are given an idea or topic called a writing prompt and asked to write a response in a particular text type (narrative or persuasive writing).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 40 min Year 7: 40 min Year 9: 40 min
<b>Reading</b> Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min
<b>Conventions of language</b> Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min
<b>Numeracy</b> Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min

