



School Curriculum  
and Standards  
Authority

Western Australian Certificate of Education  
Literacy and Numeracy Standard

**OLNA and Prequalification through Year 9 NAPLAN:**  
Information for Parents/Carers and Schools



## Western Australian Certificate of Education literacy and numeracy standard

To meet the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) literacy and numeracy standard students may:

- prequalify through the reading, writing and numeracy tests of the Year 9 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), or;
- demonstrate the standard by successfully completing the relevant components of the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

### Prequalification for the WACE literacy and numeracy standard

The graphic on page 3 illustrates the Year 9 NAPLAN cut point scores required to demonstrate the WACE literacy and numeracy standard. Information regarding a student's prequalification is not printed on the NAPLAN Individual Student Report (ISR) and will be provided to students and parents/carers by their school. As the ISRs are provided by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and the WACE is administered by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority), prequalification for the WACE literacy and numeracy standard is provided to schools separately by the Authority.

The dotted lines, on the graphic on page 3, show the Year 9 NAPLAN prequalification cut point scores that correspond to the literacy and numeracy standard that students must demonstrate by the end of Year 12 to achieve the WACE. This literacy and numeracy standard for the WACE equates with Level 3 of the *Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF)* which can be found at <https://www.dewr.gov.au/foundation-skills/australian-core-skills-framework-acsf>. It is important to remember that the NAPLAN assessments are for Year 9 students, and it is not expected that the WACE literacy and numeracy standard will be reached by all students in Year 9.

Students who have not prequalified through Year 9 NAPLAN in reading, writing or numeracy are required to sit the corresponding component/s of the OLNA.

### How was prequalification for the WACE literacy and numeracy standard determined given the changes to NAPLAN in 2023?

Students' NAPLAN results show how they performed in each of the assessment domains against four new year-appropriate proficiency levels (Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support), rather than the 10 bands used prior to 2023.

There is a cut point in the 'Strong' level that corresponds to the standard that must be demonstrated by the end of Year 12 to achieve the WACE literacy and numeracy requirement. This WACE literacy and numeracy standard equates with Level 3 of the ACSF.

ACARA has provided the Authority with NAPLAN cut point scores that correspond to the WACE literacy and numeracy standard for reading, writing and numeracy. Previously these cut point scores aligned with NAPLAN Band 8. The standard has not changed, just the method of reporting.

### Two Year 9 students are both in the 'Strong' proficiency level; one has prequalified through NAPLAN and one hasn't. How does this happen?

The method of reporting student results for NAPLAN has changed from bands to proficiency levels. Rather than 10 bands, there are now four proficiency levels (Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support). Each proficiency level covers a broad range of student performance. The cut point for prequalification is located **within** the 'Strong' level. Students can be in the 'Strong' level but are yet to demonstrate the standard for the Year 12 WACE literacy and numeracy requirement.

### How can students demonstrate the WACE literacy and numeracy standard through OLNA?

Students who do not prequalify through NAPLAN have at least six opportunities before the end of Year 12 to complete the OLNA and demonstrate the WACE literacy and numeracy requirement. Students may also sit the OLNA in any year after compulsory schooling, if they have not met the standard by the end of Year 12.

**What are the Year 9 NAPLAN cut point scores for WACE literacy and numeracy standard prequalification?**

- Year 9 Numeracy: the NAPLAN cut point score for prequalification is 570.
- Year 9 Reading: the NAPLAN cut point score for prequalification is 572.
- Year 9 Writing: the NAPLAN cut point score for prequalification is 594.

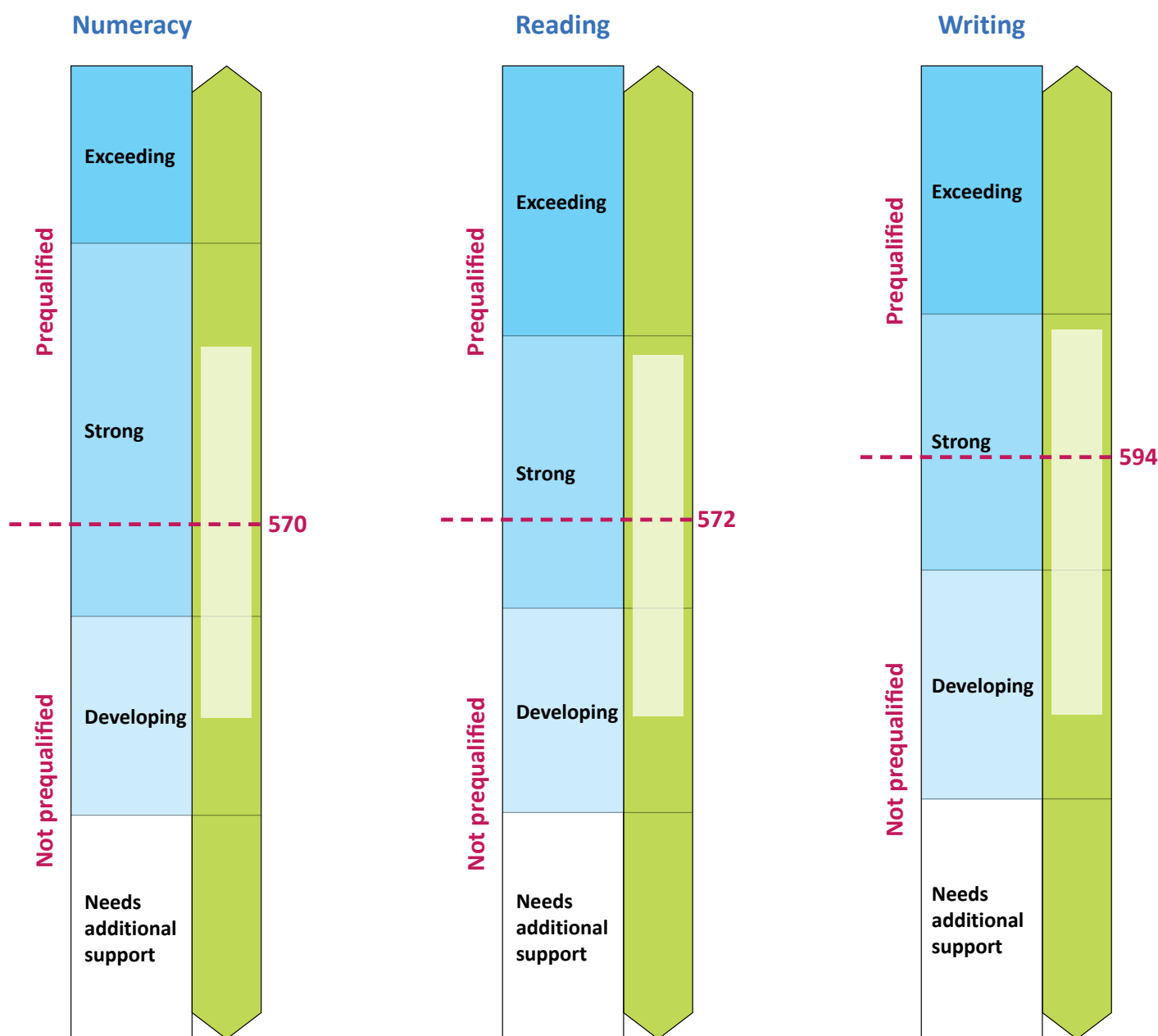
**Note:** the NAPLAN scale has 1000 score points.

**Illustration of NAPLAN cut point scores for WACE literacy and numeracy standard prequalification**

**Student report Year 9**

**KEY**    --- Minimum NAPLAN cut point score for WACE literacy and numeracy standard prequalification     Range of achievement for the middle 60% of Year 9 students in Australia

\*\*\*NOT TO SCALE\*\*\*



**Note:** an Individual Student Report (ISR) will indicate the individual student result, national average and school average.

## Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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