

STUDENT REPORTS

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NAPLAN 2014 student reports

NAPLAN 2014 results will be provided to schools from mid-August to mid-September, depending on your state or territory Test Administration Authority.

If you are the parent of a student in Years 3, 5, 7 or 9 you will be receiving an individual report of your child's results for the tests they sat in May. These tests in key areas of literacy and numeracy provide parents and educators with a snapshot of how students are progressing — individually, as part of their school community and as a nation.

NAPLAN results enable parents and teachers to see how students are progressing, not just within their class but also against national standards that have been agreed upon by all state and territory governments.

How do I read the results?

The front page of the student report provides some general information about the tests and an explanation of how to read the report.

The second and third pages have diagrams that show your child's results for each area (numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation) on the common assessment scale. The common assessment scale has ten bands and is used to report results for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. However, only the relevant six bands for each year level are shown on the student report.

The diagrams in the student report also show the range for the middle 60 per cent of students, the national average result and the national minimum standard for each year level. Reports in some states and territories show the school average.

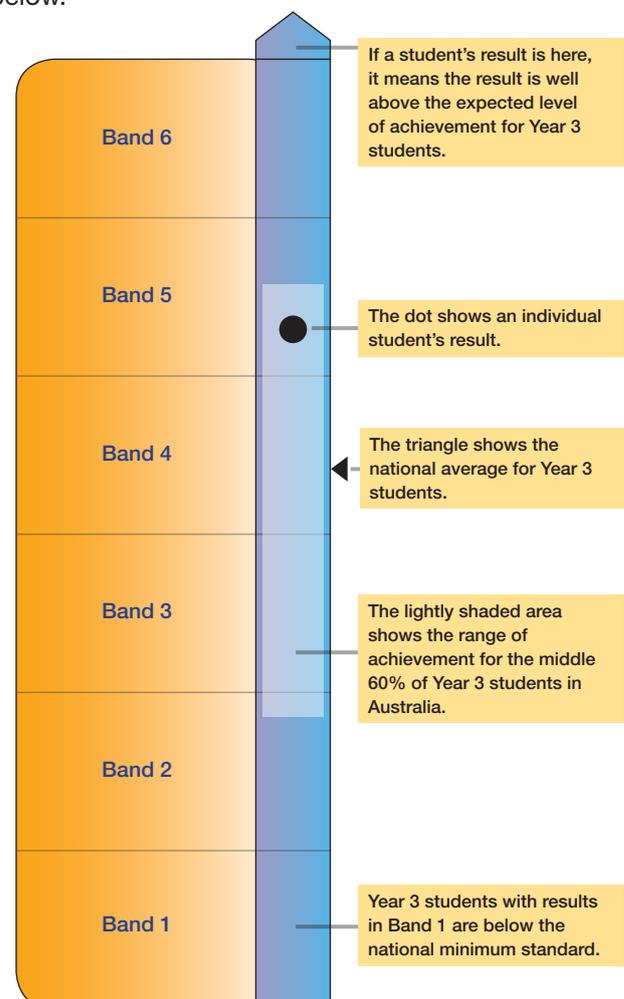
The final page of the report has a table that provides a brief description of the skills students have typically demonstrated in the tests at each band.

How to read the achievement scale

A student's result is shown on an achievement scale for each assessment area.

Results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

For example, results for Year 3 are reported across the range of Band 1 to Band 6, as illustrated in the diagram below.



How does NAPLAN help my child and my school?

NAPLAN is designed to provide data on a student's literacy and numeracy achievements. It complements school assessment and provides nationally comparable data that allow for objective discussions, for successes to be celebrated, additional support focussed where it is needed and to address areas requiring improvement.

NAPLAN allows for an understanding of a child's literacy and numeracy ability at a school, state and national level. It helps governments to know whether programs designed to improve student literacy and numeracy are effective. It assists parents to know how their child is tracking against students in the same year level across Australia.

Your school principal will be able to give you more details on how your school uses NAPLAN data.

What impact will the results have on my child's future?

NAPLAN results can help teachers and parents direct extra attention where it is needed to help students improve their literacy and numeracy skills. As such NAPLAN tests are 'low stakes' for students as there are no rewards or punishments for the result a student achieves. Testing children is not new. NAPLAN is unique because it gives a national snapshot of how students are doing in the important skills of literacy and numeracy. NAPLAN does not carry the same potential consequences as 'high stakes' tests, such as Year 12 exams.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN results in addition to school reports as part of the admissions process for secondary school, or for students changing schools. NAPLAN tests are not designed to be a school admission test, however, results are sometimes used to inform new schools of student needs. If you have any concerns, ACARA encourages you to talk them over with the school.

Who else will see the results?

Schools will be provided with results for all students who sat NAPLAN in 2014. Schools are encouraged to use the results to celebrate success, inform their planning and address areas requiring improvement across the school.

Average school results are publicly reported on the *My School* website (www.myschool.edu.au). The website is updated with the previous year's results in the first quarter of each year. *My School* also offers the opportunity for the community to look at a number of different aspects of each school's profile, as well as comparisons with schools that serve similar student populations. Your child's individual results are not available on *My School*.

What if the results are not what I expected?

NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. Students are provided with an indication of where their results are on the common assessment scale. The student report also indicates the skills and understandings that students are expected to demonstrate at each band of the scale. The same scale is used for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 so you will be able to track your child's progress over the years.

NAPLAN results provide a snapshot of student performance on the days of the tests. There are many reasons why students may not have performed to the best of their ability, such as illness or other distractions. Equally, some students may perform much better than expected when compared against their regular classroom assessment results.

If your child's results are either higher or lower than you expected, you should discuss these results with their teacher.

Where can I go for more information?

Your child's classroom teacher or school principal should be your first point of contact for any concerns you might have about your child's results.

More information about NAPLAN tests and the National Assessment Program can be found by visiting the NAP website (www.nap.edu.au).

What is ACARA?

As an independent authority, ACARA is tasked with improving learning for young Australians through the development and implementation of world class school curriculum, assessment and reporting. Our work is informed and guided by the generous assistance of a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, principals, governments, education authorities, professional education associations, community groups and the general public. For more information, visit www.acara.edu.au