

NAPLAN 2023 and Ramadan

In 2023, NAPLAN testing starts on 15 March and ends on 27 March. This overlaps with the beginning of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which is expected to begin on 22 March 2023. Muslims may observe the period by fasting from food and drink from sunrise to sunset, with a focus on devotion and spiritual contemplation.

NAPLAN testing dates are established in consultation with state, territory and federal authorities, accommodating different term dates in all states and territories. As Ramadan's commencement date changes each year and has a duration of one month, it may at times fall during NAPLAN.

During the NAPLAN testing period, what support can schools, parents and carers provide for students who are observing Ramadan?

Following consultation with Islamic schools' representatives, the following information and guidance is provided for schools, parents and carers in offering support to students observing Ramadan and undertaking NAPLAN:

- Parents and carers should discuss any concerns with their child's school to identify what support measures are available, including with scheduling tests.
- At the beginning of Ramadan, many families and students may be getting into the rhythm of fasting, as well as rising before dawn, and may be more tired than usual. Schools are encouraged to schedule tests as soon as possible within the test window, prioritising scheduling in week 1 over week 2, when Ramadan commences. If test sessions will be run between 22 and 27 March, schools with Muslim students can schedule NAPLAN tests first thing in the morning to ensure fasting students' energy levels are at their highest.

What happens if a child is absent from school on test days?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What happens if a school is closed on test days?

Schools that will be closed during testing days and who need to vary their NAPLAN test schedule must request permission from their local [test administration authority](#). Schools have the flexibility of the 9-day test window and, if required, the 4-day security period to schedule NAPLAN tests.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a nationwide measure to see whether or not young Australians are developing the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for other learning, and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.

2023 NAPLAN test window

15–27 March

Further information

For more information about NAPLAN visit the NAP website at nap.edu.au or contact your child's school or your [state or territory test administration authority](#)

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