

NAP Opt-in assessments

Information for schools

Australian schools can enrol Year 6 and Year 10 students to participate in NAP Opt-in assessments in key curriculum areas that are informed by aspects of the Australian Curriculum:

- science literacy
- civics and citizenship
- information and communication technology (ICT) literacy.

These assessments are part of the [National Assessment Program](#) (NAP) and completely optional for schools. The assessments have been phased in over 3 years. In May 2024, the first optional science literacy (SL) assessment was successfully completed. In 2025, schools could participate in 2 domains: science literacy and civics and citizenship (CC).

Schools that took part in the first and second rollouts gave helpful and positive feedback. This feedback is being used to improve the third NAP Opt-in assessment in ICT literacy, which will take place in 2026. From 2026, NAP Opt-in assessments in all 3 domains will be available each year.

The value to schools

Schools taking part in the NAP Opt-in assessments will be able to:

1. measure student performance against national standards in key curriculum areas beyond literacy and numeracy
2. use the results (which are available only to the participating school) to review, plan and adapt teaching and learning programs, and share results with the school community, if they wish
3. run the assessments using a self-service platform at a time that suits them in the testing window.

Registering for NAP Opt-in assessment 2026

Registration opens on 24 March and closes on 28 April. There is no fee for schools to participate in the Opt-in assessments.

School principals can register their school at www.assessform.edu.au. ACARA will verify the school's registration details and send confirmation to the email address provided.

Preparing for NAP Opt-in assessment 2026

Schools self-administer the NAP Opt-in SL and NAP Opt-in CC assessments via the platform www.assessform.edu.au. This is the same platform schools use for their NAPLAN assessments. The NAP Opt-in ICT literacy (ICTL) test delivery is slightly different and instructions will be included in the training materials provided to schools.

Principals use the platform to nominate their school technical support officer, NAP coordinator and test administrator.

Ahead of the testing window, participating schools will:

- access the training manual and guides on the NAP website
- carry out technical preparation including device checks
- select their preferred assessment domains and dates
- enrol students.

Schools do not have to enrol all students in Years 6 and 10. Schools can enrol both years, or one year, or individual classes of students within either year. When schools enrol full-year cohorts, they may benefit from more data for school-wide planning.

All students are enrolled in all 3 domains by default. Schools can choose to participate in any or all of the 3 domains.

If completing more than one domain, schools can complete the assessments simultaneously or at a different time during the test window, depending on the school setting and school preference.

Receiving results

ACARA will:

- mark the assessments and analyse the assessment data
- provide principals with school-level reports, which can be accessed from the platform.

Note: ACARA will not make any NAP Opt-in assessment results public – only a participating school can see its results. Schools can use the information to review, plan and adapt teaching and learning programs.

2026 Key dates

Tuesday 24 March – Tuesday 28 April

School registration and enrolment window

Monday 4 May – Friday 29 May

Test window

July – August

Results window

More information

Schools can find more information on the [NAP Opt-in](#) website or email NAP Opt-in assessments helpdesk: opt-inhelpline@acara.edu.au.

? Frequently asked questions

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? What are the NAP Opt-in assessments and why are they available?

The NAP Opt-in assessments are an important improvement to the National Assessment Program, as agreed to by all education ministers.

These optional assessments are in the same domains tested through the [NAP sample assessments](#) for Year 6 and Year 10 students: science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy. They are available, at zero cost, to any school that chooses to participate.

For schools that take up the opportunity, NAP Opt-in assessments will provide information on their Year 6 and Year 10 students' performance in relation to national standards in these domains. Results can be used to assist with school-level planning, and inform teaching and learning programs. Results will not be publicly available.

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? **How does the NAP Opt-in assessment program differ to NAP sample?**

Schools are selected to take part in the NAP sample program and their participation is mandatory.

NAP Opt-in assessments are optional, and it is up to schools to decide if they want to participate. This optional assessment makes use of the resources from NAP sample assessments. Schools will be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN.

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? **How do schools register to take part in the NAP Opt-in assessment in 2026?**

The NAP Opt-in assessments are run by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) directly with schools.

Schools that want to participate can register via the NAP Opt-in assessment tile on www.assessform.edu.au from 24 March 2026. Registration will be open to all schools across Australia for Year 6 and Year 10 students.

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? **Will schools be able to choose a single assessment, or will they have to do all 3 – science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy?**

From 2026, schools can choose any or all the available domains in the NAP Opt-in assessments.

Schools can choose to participate in as many or as few of the assessments as they like and for as many years as they wish to. For example, a school may choose to undertake only the NAP Opt-in assessment in ICT literacy in Year 6 every 2 years for a 6-year period. Another school may do the NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy in Year 10 for 5 years in a row.

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? **Do entire classes have to be signed up?**

Schools that undertake NAP Opt-in assessments are not expected to enrol all students in the relevant year group (Year 6 and Year 10) for the assessment. However, there are benefits in doing so as full cohorts will provide more data to inform school-wide planning.

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? **What will be the process for schools to enrol students?**

Once schools have registered, they will have access to the NAP Opt-in assessment area on the www.assessform.edu.au website to complete the enrolment. Schools will already be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN.

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? **How do schools manage and administer the assessment?**

After the successful enrolment of students, schools self-administer the assessment, following the NAP sample assessment procedures.

NAP Opt-in assessments in SL and CC are conducted on the Education Services Australia (ESA) assessment platform: Assessform. The NAP Opt-in ICTL assessment is conducted on a different assessment platform, designed to reflect how students use digital tools in their lives. The test delivery interface and login process are slightly different.

Schools will already be familiar with the Assessform platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN. The NAP Opt-in ICTL test delivery instructions differ slightly and are included in the training materials provided to schools.

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? Have these assessments been used before?

NAP Opt-in assessments have been running since 2024. ACARA has worked with schools to seek feedback on this initiative to improve future opt-in assessments.

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? How do schools get ready for the assessment?

Schools are provided with online support and training materials as they undertake test readiness and administration. There is a toll-free 1800 telephone number and email helpdesk staffed by ACARA contractors to support schools with queries and issues.

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? What is the structure of the NAP Opt-in assessment 2026 and how long does it take?

NAP Opt-in 2026 will offer 3 domains for schools to participate: science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy. The NAP Opt-in assessment in each domain consists of:

- a set of introductory practice questions. This will help to familiarise students with the format of the test questions and show them how to navigate the test platform
- a set of timed test questions. For science literacy and civics and citizenship, the Year 6 test is 60 minutes and the Year 10 test is 75 minutes. For ICT literacy, the test duration is 60 minutes for both year levels
- NAP Opt-in ICTL test has 3 modules (shortened from 4 modules in the NAP-ICTL sample assessment). This has been implemented to ensure schools can complete the assessment effectively in a shorter amount of time with results comparable to the national statistics.

We recommend that schools allow approximately **2 hours** for each test (this includes the entire assessment set up and test duration).

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? What results and reports will be available?

There are 3 reports provided to participating schools only:

1. Items report:

- items are categorised based on various aspects such as strands, skills, etc at each year level. This will help schools to gauge their students' performance
- relative item performance in schools is compared to national performance for each year level, which will provide better visibility for schools of their relative performance in different content areas of the curriculum.

2. Class performance report:

- students are grouped by different variables including class group and gender for each year level. This will provide a better understanding of the performance of students and class groups
- students' performance is placed on a scale against the proficiency level and other national statistics from the NAP sample assessment for each year level.

3. School summary report:

- overall performance of students in the school is compared to different national statistics obtained from the NAP sample assessment for each year level.

Results will not be published or reported in any other way.

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? What information will parents and carers be given if their child takes part?

Participating schools will be provided with reports looking at school and student performance, which they can use to inform teaching and learning.

While these reports are for the school's use only, we would encourage schools to consider how they share this information with their school community, including parents/carers; for example, through parent-teacher meetings.

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