

Learning Without Barriers

Building brighter futures through education: 'Every Day, Every Way'.

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BARRIERS**

NAPLAN: National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy

13 to 25 March 2024

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit in Australia each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students undertake.

- [Key dates for NAPLAN 2024.](#)

The aim of NAPLAN is to provide information about student's progression through their school years, and to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

- NAPLAN is now measured using a 'proficient' benchmark for the year level.
- There are 4 proficiency levels: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

These levels now provide better information about whether your child is on track at school or might need some extra support.

What you need to know about NAPLAN

- Students do four different tests. The names of the four tests are: **Writing** (imaginative writing, narrative, informative and persuasive writing), **Reading** (reading of written English, using both text and illustrations), **Conventions of Language** (spelling, grammar and punctuation), and **Numeracy** (mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding).
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test.
- Students in Year 3 will do the writing test using pencil and paper and the other test questions on the computer/ipad.
- Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will answer all their test questions on computers/ipads.
- Students can access the NAPLAN Public Demonstration Tests that allows them to familiarise themselves with the type of questions and related functionalities available in the NAPLAN Online assessment. It is commonplace for students be made familiar with this site at school.
- Access the [Public Demonstration Site](#) to access a Demonstration Test

Participation in NAPLAN

- The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) supports inclusive testing, so all students can participate in the national assessment program.
- **Adjustments** are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs. 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.
- **Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.**
- [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#)
- [Accessibility information](#): including physical, cognitive, sensory, and social/emotional adjustment information.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at a rescheduled time during the school's test schedule.

Participation in NAPLAN

What is an exemption?

While a range of adjustments are available for students with disability, **exemption** may be suitable for some students with disability and for some students with a language background other than English. In both cases, schools need to discuss the proposed exemption with the student's parent/carer and gain their permission prior to testing.

What is a withdrawal?

NAPLAN tests are a routine part of the school calendar. However, students may be **withdrawn** from the testing program by their parent/carer for reasons such as religious beliefs or philosophical objections to testing. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers in consultation with their child's school. A formal application in the manner specified by the relevant test administration authority must be received by the principal prior to testing.

What can I do to support my child?

- Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN.
- You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best.
- Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests.

What if adequate adjustments cannot be made to support my child's participation in NAPLAN?

While a range of adjustments are available for students with disability, exemption may be suitable for some students with disability and for some students with a language background other than English.

In both cases, schools need to discuss the proposed **exemption** with the student's parent/carer and gain their permission prior to testing.

More information on [Exemption](#).

How will I know if withdrawal from NAPLAN is the best option for my child?

Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. There may be circumstances where students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. Ultimately, this is a decision for parents/carers but is best done in collaboration with the school. A formal application must be received by the principal prior to the testing.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may 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**

If you have any questions or concerns about your child participating in NAPLAN 2023, please contact the team at Learning Without Barriers: learningwithoutbarriers@lwb.org.au

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