

An open letter from the CEO of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority to parents and carers of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

Dear Parent or Carer

NAPLAN 2015 student reports: your child is one in a million

Each May, around one million students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 take the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

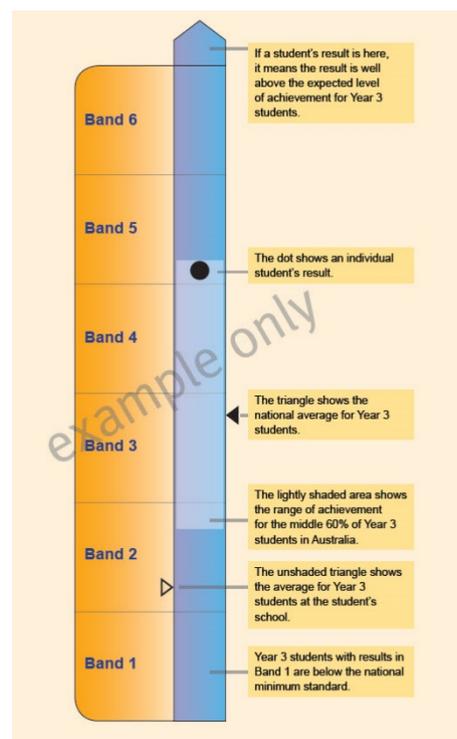
NAPLAN helps you and educators to see if Australia's children are meeting important numeracy and literacy standards. Taking NAPLAN requires less than four hours, four times in a student's life, over seven years of schooling. From that small investment comes a wealth of student, school and national information.

You will receive your child's Individual Student Report during August. The exact timing depends on the state or territory you live in and other factors such as distance.

Reading the results

The Individual Student Report presents graphs that show your child's results for each area (numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation) on a common assessment scale.

- Your child's result is shown by a dot on an achievement scale for each assessment area. The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.
- The achievement scale has 10 bands and is used to report results for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. However, only the six bands – most relevant to your child's year level – are shown on the student report.
- The graphs 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 also show the school average.)



How does NAPLAN help my child and my school?

NAPLAN provides information on your child's literacy and numeracy achievement and summarises information for all children at a school, state and national level. It helps you to know how well your child is achieving in literacy and numeracy and track them 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?

Apart from gaining additional information on how your child is performing in the important areas of literacy and numeracy, NAPLAN results have no consequences for your child's future. NAPLAN results assist teachers and parents to direct extra attention where it is needed to help students improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

NAPLAN tests are not designed to be used for school entry purposes; however, results are sometimes used to inform new schools of students' levels of achievements in literacy and numeracy. If you have any concerns about how NAPLAN information might be used, talk them over with the school.

Who else sees the results?

Schools are provided with results and are encouraged to use the results to celebrate success, help them with their planning and look for any areas requiring improvement across the school.

Average school results are reported on the [My School website](#) in March 2016. Your child's individual results are not available on *My School*.

Improving NAPLAN

Over the past couple of years, we have been working hard to get NAPLAN results back to you and your child's school sooner in the year, so that any potential issues can be addressed as early as possible.

You may have heard that NAPLAN will be moving online from 2017. When this happens, you will be able to see your child's NAPLAN results much sooner. The results will also be more precise, as the online NAPLAN test will be tailored to your child's achievement levels.

There is a lot of work we are doing to prepare for NAPLAN online and I encourage you to visit our [NAP website](#) or follow us on social media: [Facebook ACARAeduau](#) or [Twitter @ACARAeduau](#) to find out more.

As teachers and parents continue on with the rest of 2015, I urge you to keep NAPLAN student reports in context. Don't stop any activities your child enjoys and don't focus your child only on literacy and numeracy. Evidence shows that a well-rounded education, including the pursuit of other activities such as sport and art, contributes to the development of literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills. All activities are crucial to the school program as they help develop informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.

Regards



Rob Randall
Chief Executive, ACARA

ACARA is the national body responsible for improving the learning of all young Australians through world-class school curriculum, assessment and reporting.