

# NAPLAN Participation

## What is NAPLAN and who participates in NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), is an annual assessment for all students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail test, rather, it assesses the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Conducted in schools in the second full week of May each year, NAPLAN tests reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

## Why should students participate in NAPLAN?

NAPLAN tests are designed to assess how a student is progressing in their learning. They reflect important aspects of the Australian Curriculum and are used to assess education programs, what is working and what improvements should be made.

## What are the benefits to students of participating in the tests?

The NAPLAN tests are designed to identify where a student may need additional support to improve their learning outcomes. By understanding how a student is progressing, schools can work with students to focus on particular areas of their education.

## Do students need to ‘study’ or practise for the tests?

Students are expected to do their best, but NAPLAN is just one part of assessing how students are progressing in their learning. Whilst familiarity with the look and feel of the test will help, schools should not encourage excessive test preparation.

## How can we assist students to prepare for the tests?

The best way to help students prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to encourage them to simply do the best they can. However, if

students would like to get a sense of the ‘look and feel’ of the tests and an understanding of the types of questions that may be asked, sample tests are available at [www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests](http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests).

## Why does it matter if students don’t participate in NAPLAN?

Schools use NAPLAN tests to make informed decisions about how educational programs are working and what needs to be improved. If there are a low number of students participating from a particular demographic or location, it is difficult to determine what is working and how learning outcomes could be improved.

## What happens if a student does not participate in the tests?

Data about school performance is less reliable when information about some students is missing. NAPLAN results on an individual level assist teachers to identify a student’s strengths and work with students who need support.

## What if a student is unable to participate in NAPLAN on the designated day?

Catch-up tests for students who were absent from the scheduled testing sessions are permitted up to Friday 12 May.

## How can students with disability participate?

Reasonable support and adjustments are available to students with disability to participate in NAPLAN tests where possible, similar to the support they are provided in the classroom. Parents should be encouraged to discuss the possibilities with their school before making a decision on whether their child should participate.