

## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Testing

In today's world where people are increasingly mobile, many students can expect to live and work in a variety of states within Australia as well as overseas. As a result, from both an individual and a national perspective, there needs to be consistent and easily understood measures of student achievement throughout Australia. Such measures can also be, where necessary, used for future policy development, curriculum planning and intervention programmes.

In Victoria, students from all government, Catholic and independent schools will participate in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

The NAPLAN tests, which replaced the Achievement Improvement Monitor State Wide Testing Program, began in 2008 and will assess reading, writing, language conventions including spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

All Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake identical tests on the same three days: Tuesday 11 May 2010 to Thursday 13 May 2009. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority is responsible for implementing the tests for all Victorian schools.

If a child has a disability which requires special consideration or has been learning English as a Second Language for less than one year, parents should discuss with their school whether or not the child should sit the NAPLAN tests. Large Print and Braille versions of the tests are available on request by the school.

The results from the NAPLAN tests will be reported as individual results to parents, reports to schools and aggregate reports for states and territories against national benchmarks. National benchmarks are the agreed minimum acceptable standards for particular year levels.

An individual child's report will show the child's particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The individual report will further show how the child performed in relation to the national benchmark standards. The results of the tests will provide schools and parents with diagnostic information about a child's performance in literacy and numeracy.

Individual student reports to parents are confidential, and schools will determine the method of distributing the reports to ensure that this confidentiality is protected.

Parents should reassure their children about the benefit of sitting the NAPLAN tests in terms of assisting the development of teaching and learning and improving student achievement.

For further information and sample questions, visit:

- [Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority – NAPLAN Parents' Brochure \(PDF\)](#)
- [Ministerial Council on Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs – Parent Information](#)