

Supporting students

It is important that parents and carers help their children to feel comfortable and positive about assessment programs. They can do this by reassuring their children that the tests cover a variety of skills and include content that was taught in the classroom.

Students with disabilities or learning difficulties are encouraged to participate, however they may be granted exemption from an assessment for reasons such as:

- lack of competency in English where students have arrived from overseas less than a year before the test
- intellectual impairment
- special circumstances.

Special provisions are made so that students with special needs have the opportunity to participate.

Parents and carers should speak to their child's school if they have any questions about exemptions.

Reporting the results

Parents and carers of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will receive individual reports that show the results for their child in relation to the national average and national minimum standard in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The report will also give a comparison of a student's performance against all other Australian students in that year level.

State and Territory results from the national sample assessment program for science literacy, civics and citizenship and ICT literacy are reported nationally and can be viewed on the MCEETYA website.

State and Territory results from the international assessment programs can be found in specific international and national reports. Summaries of the results are provided in the annual *National Report on Schooling in Australia* which is also available on the MCEETYA website.

In addition, schools receive valuable information on student performance in national and/or international sample assessments that can be used to inform teaching and educational planning.



MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS



2009 National and International Assessment Program



2009 Assessment	Participation
Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)	All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 during May 2009. Individual student reports are issued through the school.
Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2010 trial	A trial will be conducted in mid 2009 for a sample of students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 in selected schools throughout Australia.
Science Literacy	In Year 6, 12,000–13,000 students from 650 schools will be assessed during October 2009.
Civics and Citizenship trial	A trial will be conducted in late 2009 for students in Years 6 and 10, in preparation for the main assessment in October 2010.
Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	A sample of 18, 000, 15-year-old students from approximately 370 secondary schools, will be selected to participate. The assessment will occur during July to September 2009.

For further information:

Visit the websites:
www.mceetya.edu.au
www.naplan.edu.au

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Assessing Student Achievement in Australia 2009

Information for Parents and the Community



MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS





Information for parents and the community

As a nation, we want to make sure all Australian students develop the skills and knowledge needed to lead productive and rewarding lives.

Australian students will be better able to do this if they can read, write, spell, use numbers and communicate at an appropriate level.

If young Australians are to attain these goals, we need to know how the achievements of students in States or Territories compare with national and international standards.

Benefits of national and international assessments

Participation in national and international assessment programs allows parents, schools, education Ministers and the community to monitor student progress over time against national and international standards.

This helps to develop a better understanding of how Australian students perform against Australian States and Territories, and against other countries.

The assessment programs aim to support student learning by providing schools with information that enables strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs to be identified, thereby improving the learning outcomes for all Australian students.

www.mceetya.edu.au



What are the standards?

National and international standards describe the level of skills and understanding needed by students to participate in our society.

Literacy and numeracy achievement is measured using the annual National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test. NAPLAN results are reported using five National Achievement scales: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy.

The national standards represent increasingly challenging skills and understanding matched by increasingly higher scores on the NAPLAN scale.

A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic skills of literacy and numeracy needed to participate in that particular year level. A result in the lowest band for the year level indicates that the student has not achieved the basic skills of literacy and numeracy for that year level, and may need focused intervention and additional support to help achieve these skills.

Achievement in science literacy, civics and citizenship, and information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy is measured against nationally agreed proficiency standards. Each proficiency standard represents a reasonably challenging level of performance where students need to demonstrate more than the minimal skills expected at the year level.

Achievement in reading, mathematics and science is measured internationally against proficiency standards developed by either the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) or the International Education Association's Trends in international Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

National Assessment Programs in 2009

The National Assessment Program (NAP) encompasses all tests endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA), such as the national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN), three-yearly sample assessments in science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy, and Australia's participation in PISA and TIMSS.

The National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia complete a series of tests each year in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and numeracy (working effectively with numbers, space and measurement). All students in those year levels are expected to participate.

The 2009 test dates are 12, 13 and 14 May 2009

For further information and a timetable for the national literacy and numeracy tests, go to www.naplan.edu.au.

The National Assessment Program — sample assessments

The national sample assessments test students' skills and understanding in science literacy, civics and citizenship and ICT literacy. Only selected groups of students in Years 6 and 10 participate in these sample assessments, which are held on a rolling three-yearly basis.

In 2009, the test will be in science literacy. If you have a child in Year 6, the school will notify you in mid 2009 if your child has been randomly selected to participate in the assessment.

In October 2009, there will be a trial of civics and citizenship items for a small number of students in Years 6 and 10, in preparation for the main assessment in 2010.

The National Assessment Program — international assessments

Australia is participating in an international sample assessment program in 2009 called the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). This will involve the assessment of 15 year-old students in Years 9, 10, or 11, in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy. These tests will occur between July and September.

In 2010, a sample of Australian students in Years 4 and 8 will participate in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

For more information about the specific key performance measures against which student performance is assessed, and about the assessment cycle in future years, please refer to the *Measurement Framework for National Key Performance Measures* on the MCEETYA website.