

# Memo

## Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

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7 October 2025

Prep – Year 10

Number: 041/25

# Preparing for NAPLAN 2026

## Purpose

To advise schools to begin preparations for the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2026 in Term 4 2025.

## Background

All eligible students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN 2026 tests. As the nine-day test window is in March 2026, some preparations need to begin in Term 4 2025.

Test books for the Year 3 writing test will have student names and schools printed on them. The submission of Year 2 2025 census data to the QCAA in Term 4 2025 will enable the printing and delivery of these test books to begin in the end-of-year school holiday period, to be ready for the start of the 2026 school year.

## Information

### NAPLAN AARA for students with disability

Information about NAPLAN access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA), including alternative format test materials, can be found at [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/naplan/disability-adjustments](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/naplan/disability-adjustments). In Term 4 2025, schools should begin consultation with parents/caregivers for students who may require alternative format test materials as NAPLAN AARA. See [Memo number 026/25](#) for more information about applying for alternative format test materials.

### Year 2 2025 census data

In Term 4 2025, Year 2 2025 census data is submitted to the QCAA to enable the printing of Year 3 writing test books to begin in the end-of-year school holiday period. The following table summarises the process to upload and check student data for this purpose. Use the table to confirm if your school or your sector authority is responsible for uploading your school's student data. This will avoid student records being duplicated and test materials being overprinted, which would require your attention at a later time. If you are unsure, the QCAA NAPLAN Helpdesk can assist.

	Department of Education schools and Catholic Diocese schools	Independent schools and religious institute schools other than Catholic Diocese schools
Who <b>uploads</b> Year 2 2025 census data into the NAPLAN Administration application (app)?	The school's <b>sector authority</b> uploads the data on behalf of the school.	The school uploads the data.
When will the census data become available to be checked?	The data becomes available in the NAPLAN Administration app on <b>10 November 2025</b> .	As schools upload their own files, data becomes available in the NAPLAN Administration app <b>progressively, starting on 27 October 2025</b> .
Who should <b>check</b> the uploaded data?	Each school should check its own uploaded data.	
What is the deadline for checking the uploaded data?	The deadline for checking the uploaded data is <b>21 November 2025</b> . The uploading and checking functionality in the NAPLAN Administration app will cease at close of business on this date.	

Refer to the [QCAA Portal help guide Check Year 2 census data](#) to assist with the Year 2 2025 census data checking for your school. Schools should contact the QCAA NAPLAN Unit at [naplan@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:naplan@qcaa.qld.edu.au) or phone 1300 214 452 if any issues or errors are found in the data-checking process.

**Note:** Year 3 2026 census data will be collected early in 2026 to confirm the most current data is imported into the [National Online Assessment Platform](#). As Year 2 2025 class groups will **not** be used for the printing, packaging or delivery of test books, class groups are **not** required to be uploaded or verified as part of the Year 2 2025 census data collection.

## Student devices

Updated requirements for student devices to be used in NAPLAN 2026 have been added to the National Online Assessment Platform website: [www.assessform.edu.au](http://www.assessform.edu.au). Schools should visit the [Device requirements page](#) on the [National Online Assessment Platform](#) website to ensure school/student devices intended for use in NAPLAN 2026 meet the required technical specifications.

**Note:** Touchscreen devices (not including iPads) continue to be unsupported for the NAPLAN tests. Use of these devices may result in answer selections not being saved to the [National Online Assessment Platform](#).

## Your school's test schedule, camps, excursions and sports days

Schools are encouraged to create their 2026 test schedule after considering:

- their expected enrolments in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 for 2026
- the devices they have available
- their network capacity.

Do **not** schedule camps, excursions, sports days or other events that require students to be offsite/unavailable in the nine-day test window until your school has completed all testing.

## NAPLAN Training and Practice environment

The NAPLAN Training and Practice environment will be available to schools from January 2026. Schools are encouraged to use it to support student familiarisation with the [National Online Assessment Platform](#), staff training, and device/network readiness testing.

Refreshed login credentials for the NAPLAN Training and Practice environment will be uploaded to the fileShare app (QCAA Portal) for your school prior to the Term 1 2026 staff professional development days.

Practice tests conducted from January 2026 onwards should use the 2026 locked-down browser, which will become available for download in January 2026 from the [National Online Assessment Platform](#) website: [www.assessform.edu.au](http://www.assessform.edu.au).

## NAPLAN training sessions

In Term 1 2026 the QCAA will deliver online webinars to support schools in administering NAPLAN. Visit the [QCAA PD & events](#) page for further details and to register.

## What you need to do

In Term 4 2025:

- download the 2025 QCAA NAPLAN school reports and digital Individual School Reports from the fileShare app (QCAA Portal), as access will expire on 31 January 2026
- apply for [QCAA-approved alternative format AARA](#) by the relevant due dates
- **independent schools and religious institute schools** — upload Year 2 2025 census data to the NAPLAN Administration app (QCAA Portal) from **27 October 2025**
- **all schools** — verify the accuracy of Year 2 2025 census data in the NAPLAN Administration app (QCAA Portal) by **21 November 2025**
- contact the QCAA NAPLAN Helpdesk if any issues or errors are found in the data-checking process
- ensure the devices you intend to use in NAPLAN 2026 meet the minimum requirements outlined on the [Device requirements page](#) on the [National Online Assessment Platform](#) website: [www.assessform.edu.au](http://www.assessform.edu.au)
- register for webinars via the [QCAA PD & events](#) page to support your preparations for NAPLAN 2026.

## Finding out more

For further information or support, please email the QCAA NAPLAN Helpdesk at [naplan@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:naplan@qcaa.qld.edu.au) or phone 1300 214 452.

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