Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

NAPLAN 2026 — final preparations

Purpose

To inform schools about the National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2026 final preparation tasks, test environments and support materials prior to the NAPLAN test window, which will run from 11 to 23 March 2026.

Background

Participation in the NAPLAN tests is an important opportunity for schools to gain valuable insights into student learning and progress. These assessments enable a consistent measure of literacy and numeracy skills across Australia, providing an understanding of both your school's and students' results in comparison to national benchmarks. NAPLAN results help identify strengths and areas for improvement, enabling targeted interventions and evidence-based strategies to support student achievement. All eligible students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests.

Information

School checklist

The NAPLAN 2026 School checklist is now available on the QCAA NAPLAN website.

Exemption and withdrawal forms

The *2026 NAPLAN Record of test exemption* and the *2026 NAPLAN parent/carer withdrawal* forms will be available in the NAPLAN Administration application (app) from Monday 16 February 2026.

NAPLAN Companion guide

The QCAA's NAPLAN Companion guide 2026 is now available on the QCAA NAPLAN website.

NAPLAN training sessions

Prior to NAPLAN testing, the QCAA will deliver free webinars to support schools in administering NAPLAN 2026. Visit the QCAA PD & events page for further details.

Copies of the training session presentations will also be published in the NAPLAN Administration app in the QCAA Portal in the Resources tab.

QCAA Portal

NAPLAN Administration application

The NAPLAN Administration app should be used to:

- upload student details, including Year 3 students, from **27 January to 18 February 2026** (Only **Independent** [ISQ] and **Religious Institute Catholic** schools are responsible for uploading their own student data. State schools and schools from each of the Catholic dioceses have their data uploaded centrally by their schooling authority.)

- check uploaded student data from 13 February until **close of business on 18 February 2026.** All schools from all sectors should verify the accuracy of their student data by checking

    - correct numbers of students have been uploaded in each year level

    - student names are correct

    - dates of birth are correct

    - class groups are correct.

        - If necessary, schools should

            - edit student details

            - create a new student (only for newly enrolled students after the data upload)

            - add/delete class groups.

- download student withdrawal and exemption forms

- acknowledge delivery of test materials (which includes the welcome letter, secure grid cards, test books and stimulus materials).

NAPLAN AARA application

The NAPLAN AARA app, accessed via the QCAA Portal, should be used to submit applications for QCAA-approved NAPLAN access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) for students with a disability and for notifying the QCAA of any students with a temporary injury who require an adjustment.

The following documents are located in the NAPLAN AARA app:

- *Record of adjustment for disability (school use only)* form. (Schools must keep a record of any student with a disability who has an adjustment applied for NAPLAN tests.)

- Application for QCAA-approved AARA

- Temporary injury notice.

Dates and times for webinars explaining the different types of NAPLAN AARA available for students and how to submit NAPLAN AARA applications can be found at QCAA PD & events.

Device requirements and issues

Education Services Australia (ESA) and the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) have released their updates for devices used for NAPLAN testing. Schools can access this information on the Assessform website. Schools must ensure they have downloaded and are familiar with the most recent version of the following ACARA resources:

- NAP locked-down browser

- User guide specific to each operating system (includes device issues)

- Device requirements (including those that are not supported)
- Network Firewall Requirements and Recommendations for Schools v6.8.

Schools are also reminded to ensure all devices, including back-up devices, have the latest version of the NAP locked-down browser installed and have been checked to ensure installation was successful prior to NAPLAN testing.

Assessment Platform

Schools access the NAPLAN assessment platform environments via www.assessform.edu.au. There are two environments available in 2026:

- **Training and Practice environment** — available now with practice tests. You can find login details in fileShare in the QCAA Portal.
- **NAPLAN 2026 environment** — available with the release of the principal's registration email. Principals should complete their registration when they receive the email from notifications@assessform.edu.au. Grid cards will be mailed to schools and unique PINs can be accessed in fileShare in the QCAA Portal. Student data will not be uploaded into the Online National Assessment Platform until **2 March 2026**.

Handbooks

The NAPLAN handbooks, which can be accessed online on the QCAA website, include the:

- National protocols for test administration
- NAPLAN Operations handbook.
- NAPLAN Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 — Test administration handbook for teachers
- Test administration handbook for practice tests (for use with practice test/s only).

Finding out more

For all NAPLAN enquiries, please email naplan@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 1300 214 452.

For all NAPLAN AARA enquiries, please email aara@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 1300 381 575.

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