

NAPLAN test reporting

Using the results

Using test results for individual students

The results for individual students can be used to identify patterns in student performance within the overall performance of the cohort. However, principals and teachers should take care when making comparisons between small groups of students, as any differences may not be reliable, particularly if the differences are small.

The following five steps detail an approach to using individual students' test results for planning individual student, class and school programs.

Step 1: Examine reports and study results

Consider the patterns of student performance. For example, are there:

- any anomalies or results that stand out from the norm?
- patterns in the results that indicate individuals or groups of students who need extra support?

Confirm information from the tests with other information about student achievement. Do the NAPLAN results fit with information gathered from other sources, such as teacher observation and student folios?

Step 2: Consider factors that could influence the results

Factors may include the:

- timing of the test program and alignment of the concepts tested with current curriculum and school programs
- diversity of students, including language backgrounds
- attendance rates.

Step 3: Reflect on links to the school program

Examine the item descriptions and error patterns, and identify links to the school's teaching and learning programs where current practice is producing encouraging results or specific teaching and learning is needed.

Step 4: Plan and act

Reflect on your findings then, if desired, develop and implement an action plan.

Step 5: Consider wider implications

Discuss implications for:

- evaluating class and school programs in literacy and numeracy
- school planning and development
- professional development for staff
- strategies to provide additional support
- allocating resources.

More information

If you would like more information, please visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for 'NAPLAN'. Alternatively, phone 1300 214 452 or email the NAPLAN Unit at naplan@qcaa.qld.edu.au.



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