

1 February 2011

Number: 007/11

Prep – Year 9

Alternative formats for 2011 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests

Purpose

To advise principals of the procedure for requesting alternative formats for the 2011 NAPLAN tests required for students with special needs. The tests are available in Braille, Large print, Black and White, and as an Interactive Portable Document File (PDF).

Background

The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* set out the rights of students with disabilities in relation to education and the obligations of school education providers under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The standards set out a framework for education providers to meet this obligation. This includes, where necessary, an obligation to make reasonable adjustments to ensure the maximum participation of students with disabilities. The framework provides for:

- consultation with the student (or an associate of the student)
- consideration of whether an adjustment is necessary
- if an adjustment is necessary, identification of a reasonable adjustment
- making the reasonable adjustment.

Information

In order to maximise student access to the NAPLAN tests, special provisions may be made. These special provisions should reflect the specific educational adjustments and support normally provided in order for students to learn or to demonstrate what they know and can do.

Braille, Large print and Black and White testbooks and stimulus materials are available as a special provision for students who normally use these educational adjustments for learning and assessment.

As a pilot of a special provision in 2011, an Interactive PDF version of the test is available for students who are unable to access a pencil and paper test through any of the other special provisions that are available. This format will enable students to answer questions on screen by clicking a radio button or typing their answer in a text box and may be appropriate for students who:

- have severe vision problems and require a font size significantly larger than N36, but who are not Braille proficient
- have severe physical disabilities which restrict movement
- due to a disability, regularly access the curriculum in the classroom through assistive technology.

Access will be granted to this pilot provision on the basis that students are not otherwise able to access the test in the standard pencil and paper format.

All schools now have the opportunity to order alternative format materials within the designated timelines.

What you need to do

Before granting any special provisions, the principal is required to consult with a student's parents/carers and the specialist and support staff who have responsibility for the student's educational program. The record of this consultation must be documented and kept at the school, using the *Application for variation to student participation (for school use only)*.

To request test materials in alternative formats — Braille, Large print, Black and White, Interactive PDF — principals must complete the appropriate form for each student requiring textbooks in these formats and submit them to the QSA.

These forms are available for download from the QSA website: <www.qsa.qld.edu.au> select Kindergarten–Year 9 > NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 and 9) > Test administration > Forms.

All requests must be submitted by **Friday 25 February**.

More information

If you would like more information, please email NAPLAN.tests@qsa.qld.edu.au, or phone 3864 0210.

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