

Memo

Dates of the 2018 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests

Purpose

To provide information about the dates of the 2018 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests.

Background

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has responsibility for central management of NAPLAN tests. The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) coordinates the administration, marking and reporting of the tests in Queensland. The tests assess students in the areas of literacy (reading; writing; and spelling, punctuation and grammar) and numeracy (number; measurement, chance and data; space; algebra, function and pattern; and working mathematically).

In 2018, all Queensland schools will be provided with paper-based test materials.

Schools that participated in Online Readiness events and are selected to participate in the 2018 NAPLAN tests through the Online National Assessment Platform will receive advice to this effect.

Information

Dates for paper-based tests

The 2018 NAPLAN paper-based tests will be conducted in Queensland schools from Tuesday 15 May to Thursday 17 May.

Tuesday 15 May	Wednesday 16 May	Thursday 17 May	Friday 18 May
Language conventions	Reading	Numeracy	Catch-up tests (any permitted)
Writing			
Catch-up tests (Language conventions and Writing permitted)	Catch-up tests (Language conventions, Writing and Reading permitted)	Catch-up tests (any permitted)	

Dates for online tests

The 2018 NAPLAN online tests will be conducted in selected Queensland schools from Tuesday 15 May to Friday 25 May. This extended test window of nine days (compared to three days for paper-based NAPLAN tests) allows schools more flexibility in scheduling and assists schools that have fewer devices than students.

Schools may use the extended test window as best suits their needs. However, tests must be scheduled in the following order:

- Writing
- Reading
- Conventions of language
- Numeracy.

Variations

Schools with compelling reasons may request permission from the QCAA to conduct the paper-based tests in the week following the national tests (up to Friday 25 May 2018). The reason must be of a serious nature and outside the control of the school or school system, e.g. a local public holiday gazetted during the scheduled dates of the paper-based tests. School camps and excursions do not constitute valid reasons for exemption.

Catch-up paper-based tests

Individual students who are absent and unable to do their test/s at the nominated time/s may take catch-up tests on the afternoons of the test days or on Friday 18 May. Catch-up tests for individual students cannot be scheduled in the week following the national paper-based tests, as this would be a breach of national protocols.

Administration

In late January, all schools will be advised of the dates for uploading, checking and verifying the data for all students eligible to participate in NAPLAN tests.

The *Handbook for principals* will be distributed in February. This handbook contains relevant sections of ACARA's *National protocols for test administration*, including the code of conduct, and information and instructions for administering the tests from the QCAA.

Participation

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests.

What you need to do

- Ensure that all relevant staff are aware of the NAPLAN test dates.
- Book camps, excursions or sporting events outside the test window.
- Inform parents/carers of the test dates so that family commitments are not planned during the test window.
- Identify students who are likely to require adjustments for disability so arrangements can be made early in 2018 for these students to access the tests.

Finding out more

The latest information on the National Assessment Program (NAP) is available from:

- the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- the NAP Online webpage www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment
- QCAA's NAPLAN webpage www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/naplan.

For further information, please email NAPLAN.tests@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 3864 0442.

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