

Interpreting NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN results are reported for:

- **individual students** – parents or carers receive a report on their child's results in September
- **schools** – schools receive their data in September and school NAPLAN data is published on the *My School* website
- **jurisdictions and for the nation as a whole** – the NAPLAN Summary Report is published in September and the full National Report in December.

Common scale

There is a common national scale for each of the five NAPLAN assessment domains of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy, covering Year 3 to Year 9. Each scale has an average score of 500. Around 68 per cent of students in schools have average scores within the range of 400 to 600.

The common scale for each domain is divided into ten achievement bands with six bands reported for each year level. For Year 3, the proportions of students in each of bands 1–6 are reported. For Year 5 students, bands 3–8 are reported. For Year 7, bands 4–9; and for Year 9, bands 5–10.

Interpreting results

NAPLAN scores provide an indication of students' achievements, but they provide only one snapshot of selected aspects of what students know and can do. In interpreting a school's results, there are three important considerations:

1. In comparing the performance of schools, it is important to take into account differences in their student intakes. The *My School* website uses Australian Bureau of Statistics data to compare the performance of each school with other schools that are statistically similar in terms of student backgrounds. Comparisons of schools that are not statistically similar can lead to misleading conclusions about their performance.
2. NAPLAN tests sample only a part of what students learn during the year. For this reason, it is important to find out more about the whole curriculum of the school and the school's performance across a range of areas. Start by visiting the school's website or contact school leaders and teachers.
3. No test is able to perfectly measure a student's level of achievement and all tests are subject to a certain amount of measurement error. This means that there will always be a margin of error surrounding a school's average score. In general, the smaller the number of students tested, the larger the margin of error. More information about margins of error related to numbers of students tested will be available on the *My School* website.