How parents can utilise ACARA information to engage in their child’s education

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GM, Assessment and Reporting
Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council
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About ACARA

• The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent statutory authority that reports to the COAG Education Council.

• ACARA aims to improve the learning of all young Australians through world-class school curriculum, assessment and reporting.

• ACARA supports parent engagement with reports designed to assist:
  – Selection of schools
  – Tracking student progress
  – Direct involvement in student’s learning
The Australian Curriculum

Sets high, shared expectations for what all students should learn:

• wherever they live in this country
• whatever school they attend
• as they progress through schooling
• to be well prepared to learn, live and work in the 21st century
• www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/
Recent work to improve the Australian Curriculum

Education Council asked ACARA to make improvements to the Australian Curriculum with a focus on four themes:

• Un-crowding the primary curriculum
• Rebalancing the curriculum
• Accessibility of the curriculum for students with disabilities
• Increasing parent engagement with the curriculum
ACARA work in progress

• Prepare information for parents about the Australian Curriculum and what their children will be learning (by end of 2015)

• Prepare information to assist teachers to use the Australian Curriculum so it is inclusive for all students, especially students with significant intellectual disabilities (by mid 2016)
Parent information for Australian Curriculum website will include:

• 7 brochures about the Australian Curriculum addressing first year of school, Years 1–2, 3–4, 4–6, 7–8, 9–10
• Frequently asked questions and answers
• Links to help parents navigate to specific information on the website
Parent brochures

THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The Australian Curriculum is designed to develop successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens who are ready to take their place in society. It sets the goal for what all students should learn wherever they live in Australia, whatever school they attend, as they progress through their school life.

The Australian Curriculum with its eight learning areas provides a rich curriculum for every student in Australia. Embedded in the content of learning areas are general capabilities intended to help prepare young Australians to learn, live and work in the 21st century. Particular content of significance to Australia’s future is also prioritised.

The Australian Curriculum comes alive in the hands of teachers who have the flexibility to use the curriculum to meet the needs of their students and adjust it for any local context.

THE FIRST YEAR OF SCHOOL

In their first year of school, students learn through teaching, interactions with others, exploration, practice, and play.

Priority is given to literacy and numeracy development in the first year of school - the foundations upon which further learning is built.

English

In the first year of school, students listen to and enjoy texts that entertain and inform. They begin to learn to read and create texts.

Typically, students will:

- communicate with others in familiar situations
- read stories with one or more meanings, pictures and familiar vocabulary
- recognise rhyming words, syllables and sounds
- recognise letters and the most common sounds the letters make
- listen to, read and view picture books, stories, poetry, information books, times and performances
- write some words
- recognise some words and develop skills in spelling out words
- create their own texts that may include pictures

Mathematics

In the first year of school, students develop a sense of number, order, sequence, pattern and position in relation to familiar settings.

Typically, students will:

- connect numbers, their names and quantities up to 20
- count numbers in sequences up to 20, continue patterns and compare lengths of objects
- use materials to model problems, sort objects and discuss answers
- group and sort shapes and objects
Assessment

National Assessment Program:
• Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
• Sample (NAP sample)
Welcome to the website for the National Assessment Program (NAP). NAP provides the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes.

The National Assessment Program is run at the direction of the Education Council. It includes:

- the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
- three-yearly NAP sample assessments in science literacy, civics and citizenship, and information and communication technology (ICT) literacy
- international sample assessments.

On this website you will find more information about NAPLAN and NAP sample assessments. There is also information on the future delivery of NAPLAN online.

This information is useful for parents and carers, schools, state and territory authorities and the wider community.

**What’s New**

NAPLAN online will support laptops, computers and tablet devices from 2017

12 October 2016

Students will be able to use a wide range of devices, such as laptops, notebooks, computers and portable tablet devices, on the Windows, Mac and Chrome platforms, when NAPLAN goes online from 2017.

Read more.
Individual student report (ISR)

ISR achievement scale options

Current

Preferred option

Year 5

Note that the choice of wording for and location of proficiency standards is illustrative only.

Year 5 students with results in Band 4 are at the national minimum standard.
Proposed Student and School Summary Report (SSSR)
Student graph by domain
Student graph by sub-domain
## Student table

### Student022: results for Numeracy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>Testlet</th>
<th>Scale score</th>
<th>Proficiency Band</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
<th>Subdomain</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Adds/subtracts fractions with related denominators</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Interprets a column graph to calculate total</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Chooses appropriate capacity unit (mL)</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Converts between units of days, weeks and months</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Adds two two-digit numbers</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Selects a survey question which is easy to graph</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Solves a problem by +, −, × whole numbers mentally</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Measures and calculates perimeter in mm</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiplies a two-digit number by a single digit number</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Calculates a fraction of a quantity mentally</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Measures and calculates length using scale drawing</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Uses calculator to solve a division problem with remainder</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiplies and divides decimals by powers of 10</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Recognises a simple decimal to the ten-thousandth</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My School enables you to search detailed profiles of Australian schools simply by entering a school’s name, suburb or postcode.

On this site, you can quickly find statistical information about schools of interest to you and then compare their resources and performance with similar schools across the country.

A note from ACARA

My School was developed to provide readily accessible information about the almost 10,000 schools across Australia. One of the features of My School is its focus on enabling fair comparisons to be made between schools with the intention of celebrating success or identifying areas for improvement. The website is also an additional information source for parents to make informed decisions about their children’s education.

ACARA has been updating data on My School since 2005; we now provide seven years of valuable data in one location. This allows for comparisons of results from schools with students from similar socio-educational backgrounds, using the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA). It is ICSEA that enables fair comparisons to be made between schools with statistically similar groups of students.

We believe that publication of data that enables fair comparisons is important. This facilitates open conversations and allows for sharing of lessons and learning between educators about school achievements, and ultimately supports and drives improvement across the nation.

We know that the information on the site about student schooling is valued, and that parents appreciate having a range of information about schools available in the central online location, in a format that is relatively easy to navigate and understand.

ACARA continues to improve the My School website with each year’s release. Planned improvements to My School, agreed to by the Education Council in September 2015, include a:

- new measure of student attendance to be added to the My School website by the end of 2015
- new My School landing page with concise and accessible information
- review of standard text on all pages, to ensure it is easy to understand by a range of audiences for the My School 2016 update.

Robert Randall
CEO
ACARA

What’s new?

New features in this release of My School include:

- the latest (2014) profile and population data on each school
- outcomes from the 2014 round of NAPLAN testing
- seven years of performance data for comparison
- student attendance data based on Indigenous status
- a refreshed look and feel
- the latest financial figures on each school, including capital expenditure and sources of funding
- a new infographic which explains ICSEA
- a video which explains ICSEA

Are you wondering …

- who provides the My School website?
- If you can look up schools outside your own area?
- whether individuals can be identified from published results?

For answers to questions like these, click on the More Information tab above. You will find a list of supporting resources including a My School fact sheet and a Frequently Asked Questions document.
Improvements to My School

• 2016 Improvements:
  – More concise and accessible landing page
  – Reduce jargon on all pages

• New Indicators:
  – Senior secondary outcomes
  – Teacher quality
  – Students with disability
My School Future Directions

• Facility to compare a small number of user-selected schools
• ’Real time’ updates of information
• Simplify the website (dashboard style)
• Develop parent’s guide to My School
• Mobile-friendly version of the My School site
• Time series view of gains
• Parent / student / staff satisfaction measures
NAPLAN Online

• Better targeting to students' achievement levels
• More accessible to student populations including those with disability
• More precise measurement
• Faster turn-around of results
• Jurisdiction/school opt-in from 2017 - 2019
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