

Attachment 7: Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority – independent authority responsible for the development of a national curriculum, a national assessment program and a national data collection and reporting program that supports 21st century learning for all Australian school students
ACER	Australian Council for Educational Research
Assessment contractor	The organisation administering a particular national sample assessment. An assessment contractor may be responsible for some or all aspects of the preparation, distribution and collection of student tests, the linking of test results with student background characteristics, the analysis of results or the preparation of reports. (May also be referred to as a ‘testing agent’.)
Bachelor degree and above	Includes Postgraduate Degree, Master’s Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Bachelor Degree (with Honours) and Bachelor Degree
Certificate I to IV (including trade certificate)	Includes Certificate I, Certificate II, Certificate III, Certificate IV, Trade Certificate, Advanced Certificate, Apprenticeship Certificate, Traineeship Certificate
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COAG Reform Council	Council of Australian Governments Reform Council – independent body established to monitor, assess and report to COAG on the performance of governments in achieving performance benchmarks
Country of birth	The country in which the student was born
Datatype	Can be an integer, numeric, alphanumeric, etc. In the 'Country of birth' data element, the data type would be a numeric code from the <i>1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011</i>
Diploma/Advanced diploma	Includes Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree and Diploma
Enrolment form	The form used by schools to collect information from parents when enrolling students
Father/parent2/guardian2	See Parent/guardian
Form of representation	Can be a code or a picture. In all cases in this document, it will be a code.
ICSEA	Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage
ICT	Information and communication technology
IEA	International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement
KPM	Key Performance Measure
Language background indicator	This indicator is derived from the main language other than English spoken at home by the student or the student’s mother or father. It indicates whether a student is of an English language background or other than English language background. A student is defined as being of a language background other than English if either the student, the student’s mother or the student’s father speaks a language other than English at home.
LBOTE	Language background other than English
Main language other than English spoken at home	The main language, other than English, spoken in the student’s home by the student or the student’s mother or father.

MCEECDYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs. MCEECDYA was established on 1 July 2009 following a realignment of the roles and responsibilities of previously existing councils. The Council was replaced by the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC – see below) in March 2012.
MCEETYA	Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs. Replaced by MCEECDYA on 1 July 2009.
Melbourne Declaration	<i>Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians</i> . Released in 2008 and superseding the 1999 <i>Adelaide Declaration on National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century</i> . See www.mceecdya.edu.au .
Mother/parent1/guardian1	See Parent/guardian
NAP	National Assessment Program – the NAP comprises a suite of national and international assessments which provide nationally comparable data on student achievement in literacy, numeracy, science, civics and citizenship and ICT.
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. Annual national full cohort literacy and numeracy assessments in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests were first conducted in 2008, replacing former state and territory based literacy and numeracy tests.
National sample assessment	Three-yearly national assessments involving samples of schools and students, in the areas of science literacy (Year 6), civics and citizenship (Years 6 and 10) and ICT literacy (also Years 6 and 10).
n.e.c.	Not elsewhere classified. See Supplementary codes
n.f.d.	Not further defined. See Supplementary codes
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Parent/guardian	Schools and school systems should select the appropriate wording for 'Mother/parent/guardian' and 'Father/parent/guardian' on their enrolment form, to align with local or state/territory policies. Some possible alternatives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mother and father – parent1 and parent2 – guardian1 and guardian2 – parent/guardian1 and parent/guardian2 – mother/guardian1 and father/guardian2 – mother/parent1/guardian1 and father/parent2/guardian2.
Parental non-school education	The highest qualification attained by a parent/guardian in any area of study other than school education.
Parental occupation group	The occupation group which best reflects the main work undertaken by the parent/guardian. For the purposes of national reporting, a parent/guardian's work is classified into one of four groups.
Parental school education	The highest year of school education a parent/guardian has completed.
Permissible data element values	Listing of all codes represented in the classification relevant to the data element. In the case of 'Country of birth', this would be every code included in the <i>1269.0 - Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011</i> classification and any supplementary codes used.

PIRLS	The IEA's <i>Progress in International Reading Literacy Study</i> , which assesses a sample of Year 4 students every five years.
PISA	The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment, which assesses the reading, mathematical and scientific literacy of a sample of 15-year-old students every three years.
Question module	The exact wording of question and response categories to be included on the enrolment or special data collection form.
SCSEEC	Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood SCSEEC, following an announcement by the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG), replaced the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA). SCSEEC held its inaugural meeting on 20 April 2012. See: www.mceecdya.edu.au .
Sex	'Sex' is the distinction 'male' and 'female', as reported by a person.
Size of data element values	Shows the field length required to store the data. In the case of 'Country of birth', the size would be 4, which is the length of the numeric code.
Socio-economic background – education	The indicator derived from the parental school and parental non-school education for both parents/guardians. The indicator is based on the higher educational attainment of the two parents/guardians.
Socio-economic background – occupation	The indicator derived from the parental occupation group of both parents/guardians. The indicator is based on the higher occupation group of the two parents/guardians.
Student identifier	A numeric or alphanumeric string that is used to identify a given student within a school or school system, for example, a student number.
Supplementary codes	Supplementary codes (often called dump codes) are used to process inadequately described responses Refer to the ABS supplementary code section in the relevant classification for further information. These include 'Inadequately described', 'Not stated' and 'Not further defined' codes. 'Not further defined' codes are used to process incomplete, non-specific or imprecise responses which cannot be coded to the most detailed level of classification but which contain enough information to allow them to be coded to a higher level of the classification structure. 'Inadequately described' codes are used to process responses which do not provide sufficient information to be coded to any level of the structure.
Test administration authority	The relevant state or territory assessment agency or authority responsible for the delivery of the NAPLAN tests at the state or territory level.
Testing agent	The organisation administering literacy and numeracy testing at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 or a particular national sample assessment. (May also be referred to as 'Test administration authority' or 'Assessment contractor'.) A testing agent may be responsible for some or all aspects of the preparation, distribution and collection of student tests, the linking of test results with student background characteristics, the analysis of results or the preparation of reports.
TIMSS	The IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, which assesses a sample of Year 4 and Year 8 students every four years to provide data on trends in mathematics and science achievement.