

What is new in *My School* version 2

My School has undergone a number of changes since its first release at the end of January 2010. These changes reflect decisions by ministers for education and feedback from stakeholder and consumer groups. In particular, advice was provided by the *My School* Working Party, comprising teacher, principal, and parent representatives, plus others with relevant expertise.

My School version 2 provides significantly more information about Australia's almost 10,000 schools. This information can be searched on the website using the school's location, sector or name.

The key changes are summarised below.

School Profile

The school profile page includes an expanded commentary on the school context. It also provides information about the school including school type, enrolments, attendance rates, staff numbers, and information about the student population such as the number of girls and boys and the percentage of students from a language background other than English. Additional and more nationally-consistent information on senior secondary outcomes is also presented.

NAPLAN results have been moved to separate pages to make room for this extra information while a set of icons at

the bottom of the screen provide easy access to the rest of the site.

School Finances

ACARA has worked closely with the Australian Government, state and territory jurisdictions, systems and sectors to collect school financial data to be displayed on the *My School* website. The 2009 recurrent income and capital expenditure are displayed for each school, broken down by source of funding.

This is the first time that such information has been available within Australia.

NAPLAN Results

With three years of NAPLAN data now available, 2010 provides an opportunity to focus on trends in school performance over time. Performance in each test domain (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, and Numeracy) is presented using graphical displays that enable comparisons with schools serving students from similar backgrounds and with all schools. These displays also make clear both the magnitude of differences and the margins of error around estimates.

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Student Progress

2010 offers the first opportunity to track the progress of students who undertook NAPLAN in both 2010 and two years earlier. In version 2, the progress made by students in each school is displayed by averaging the 2008 and 2010 results for the following cohorts:

- Year 5 students who also sat NAPLAN in the same school in Year 3
- Year 7 students who also sat NAPLAN in the same school in Year 5
- Year 9 students who also sat NAPLAN in the same school in Year 7

For each cohort, one can compare the school's performance with that of other schools serving students from similar backgrounds.

Schools with Students from Statistically Similar Backgrounds

In version 2 of the *My School* website, the current alphabetical listing of schools is replaced with a graphical display to compare the performance of the selected school with schools serving students from similar backgrounds. Colours are used to indicate the magnitude of differences and there are tools for quickly navigating to other schools of interest.

ICSEA

At the request of education ministers, ACARA has developed a method of calculating each school's Index of Community Socio Educational Advantage (ICSEA) that makes use of direct student-level information, where this is available, rather than indirect Australian Bureau of Statistics census collection district data.

The new ICSEA formula has been strengthened by the inclusion of a factor reflecting the proportion of students at a school from a language background other than English. Other factors included in the previous ICSEA formula, such as the remoteness of the school and proportion of Indigenous students, have been retained.

Enhanced Security Features

Users accessing version 2 of the website are required to enter into a 'click-wrap' agreement whereby they accept certain terms and conditions of use. This is to protect the integrity of the website and guard against misuse of the information.

An additional measure is implemented to deter automated robots from monopolising use of the site and causing access problems for individuals wishing to view the website.