Can I see how schools improve over time?

Students across Australia take NAPLAN tests in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

With five years of NAPLAN results now available, My School enables parents, educators and members of the community to track school performance over time and focus on what schools are doing that have been successful in achieving gains for their students.

The Student gain page on the My School website shows a graphical display of NAPLAN results for students who sat the tests in the same school in 2008 and 2010, or 2009 and 2011, or 2010 and 2012.

How can parents learn more about a school?

The performance of students in national tests is just one source of useful information about a school.

It is also important to take into account the school’s mission statement, the curriculum on offer, programs, facilities and extra-curricular activities.

Where available a link to the school website is provided on the School profile page, so you can learn even more about a school and its community.

On the My School website you can:

- search for schools all over Australia
- find local schools in your area
- locate key facts and figures on an easy-to-use summary page
- view financial information for each school
- select school-level literacy and numeracy testing results
- compare schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds.

New features in this release of My School include:

- an additional year of information for each school, with five years of performance data now available
- enhanced information about Vocational Education and Training in Schools with a display of qualification by industry area.
- The addition of Total Capital Expenditure from 2009 to 2011 in School Finances information

An information page translated into 21 languages is available on the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au

More information about ACARA is available at www.acara.edu.au
About My School

The My School website gives parents and the community access to important information about around 9,500 Australian Schools.

The website was developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), which is the independent authority responsible for the national assessment and reporting programs.

Facts and figures about each school, information about school finances and the progress of students in national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN) over time is available on My School.

A commentary about each school is provided by the school.

The My School website allows parents and the community to see how well a school has performed, on average, in national literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) tests and compare this performance with statistically similar schools, and schools across the nation.

With five years of test results now available, My School allows parents, educators and the community to track the performance of students in NAPLAN tests over time.

School financial information is also available. While there are differences in the way various states and territories report data, the financial information on My School has been through a thorough development and checking process, and has been independently certified as comparable. This means that between states and territories and between school systems it is possible to make comparisons about the income and expenditure of Australian schools.

How do I find the information I’m interested in on the My School website?

To find information on a specific school, enter the name of the school in a search box. School names that match will appear in a drop-down menu. Select the school you are interested in and click “Go”.

If you are not sure of the exact name of a school or you wish to search for a school in a particular area, enter the suburb, town or postcode. Area names will appear in a drop-down menu. Select the area you require from the list, then select one or both school sectors, then click “Search”.

For help understanding the information on the site, read the explanatory notes on each page or view detailed Fact Sheets on the More information page of the website.

Why is it important to publish detailed information about schools?

Information about NAPLAN performance and school financial data, in a format that is transparent, accessible and fair, is valued by parents and the community.

ACARA’s role is to ensure that this information is high quality, valid and reliable, thus providing a tool to support productive conversations about the performance of Australian schools.

Governments, school leaders, teachers and curriculum writers can use the information provided on My School to help make informed decisions to support school improvement.

What is the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage used on the My School website?

Research shows that key factors of students’ family backgrounds influence their performance at school. The Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) is a scale that represents this influence or level of educational advantage.

ICSEA was created by ACARA specifically to enable fair and meaningful comparisons of Australian schools.

Parents and the community will be able to make fair comparisons between schools on My School using updated ICSEA values each year.