

Schools demonstrating substantially above average gain

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for Australia's national reporting program, including *My School*. The *My School* website is updated annually with the previous year's NAPLAN results and other enhancements.

For the past few years, ACARA has released information on schools demonstrating substantially above average gain in their NAPLAN results as students progress from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 7 to Year 9. Gains of this magnitude are significant and worthy of acknowledgement.

School leaders in schools with above average gain can talk about how they achieved these gains to enable other schools to learn from them. For example, a new school-based literacy or numeracy initiative may have led to better NAPLAN results.

Identifying substantially above average gain

My School reports three type of gains in student achievement:

- i. overall gain compared to previous years; and
- ii. gain compared to schools with similar students based on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) level; and
- iii. gain compared to other students at the same average NAPLAN starting score.

Schools identified with above average gain have demonstrated substantial improvement in reading, numeracy, or both, as follows:

1. an overall gain that exceeds the national average by more than one standard deviation unit; and
2. an overall gain higher than the average shown by schools with similar students based on ICSEA, by more than one standard deviation unit; and
3. an overall gain higher than that shown by students with the same starting score, also by more than one standard deviation unit.

In addition, to ensure diverse representation of schools within each state and territory and ICSEA levels, some schools that do not meet each of these strict criteria, but nonetheless show gains that are above average in reading and numeracy were also identified.

All identified schools had to have matched NAPLAN results for at least 15 students and the overall percentages of matched students had to be higher than 70 per cent. For more information, [contact ACARA](#).