

About *My School*

The *My School* website provides profiles of each of Australia's approximately 9,500 schools. These can be searched by school location, sector or name.

The website provides statistical and contextual information about each school, as well as results from the National Assessment Program – literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN). This information can be compared with results from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia. Information about the National Assessment Program can be found on the [NAP website: www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

My School is administered by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA is an independent statutory authority responsible for collecting and reporting data on Australian schools, administering national assessments in literacy and numeracy, and developing a national curriculum.

The *My School* website provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about Australian schools, and for Australian schools to learn more from each other. It contains a set of quality data that teachers, schools, parents and the wider community can use, along with other information, to help ensure that every child in every classroom receives a high-quality education.

Using the *My School* website

Visitors to *My School* can expect to find information about each school's student population, the average achievement of students in NAPLAN, an indication of student progress over time, as well as school financial data comparable across all Australian schools. Other useful data, such as attendance rates and staff numbers at each school, are also available.

The website uses an index of student and school characteristics, known as the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA), to identify schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds. Information on occupation and education of parents, along with school enrolment data, is used to calculate an ICSEA value for each school. This value represents the average educational advantage level of students at the school.

ICSEA enables student results on national tests to be understood and compared in a fair and meaningful way. It enables schools seeking to improve their performance to learn from other schools with statistically similar populations.

Schools, teachers, parents and the community can use information on *My School* to:

- access information about a school, using nationally consistent indicators

- compare the achievement of students in a school with the average achievement of schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds and with all schools in Australia
- identify and learn about high-performing schools, including schools in which significant student progress is demonstrated
- gain a broader understanding of the performance of schools in a local community.

Visitors to *My School* can navigate the website via six menu items:

- School profile
- School finances
- NAPLAN
- VET in schools
- Senior secondary
- Local schools
- Student attendance

School profiles

Each school has a profile page that includes:

- a short description of the school
- school facts that include information about school sector, type and total enrolments
- numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff
- a link to the school's website and, where applicable, a link to the website of the school sector or system to which the school belongs
- school-level data about students' backgrounds
- the school's value on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)
- student enrolments and attendance (including student attendance by Indigenous status)

School finances

Financial data are displayed for each school. These data include recurrent income – the amount of income available to support the operation of the school – as well as capital expenditure for each reported calendar year.

Detailed explanations of financial reporting are available in PDF format in the 'Resources' section of the website.

NAPLAN results

NAPLAN assesses students using common national tests in five domains. These are:

- reading
- writing
- spelling
- grammar and punctuation
- numeracy.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in government and non-government schools across Australia participate in NAPLAN tests.

The website provides NAPLAN data for each test domain, for each year level. These data are available for every year of NAPLAN testing.

NAPLAN results are provided for the selected school, schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds and all Australian schools. An analysis of student progress is also provided for students who participated in NAPLAN tests on two occasions at the same school and have results at two year levels.

VET in schools

For schools with students undertaking VET courses, the website displays the number of course enrolments and qualifications completed for students, sorted by qualification level and (if available) industry area.

Senior secondary

The Senior secondary page displays data on senior secondary outcomes and post school destinations.

Senior secondary outcomes reflect the following key areas of student achievement:

- awarding of senior secondary certificate of education
- completion of senior secondary school.

Data on senior secondary outcomes are provided to ACARA by state and territory curriculum, assessment and certification authorities.

Post school destinations is a measure of the main activity of students who finished school. Post-school destinations include graduating year students who gained university placements, enrolled in TAFE/vocational study or commenced employment. Only senior secondary schools from Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia (government schools only) and ACT (government schools only) report this measure. This measure has a large degree of variation between states and territories, since data are derived from separate surveys conducted by some of the states and territories, and as such, the data should not be compared outside the state or territory in which the data are collected. The proportion of students that answered 'Other' are not reported under Post-school destinations. As a result, percentages may not add up to 100 percent. Please note that Western Australia did not participate in this survey for 2014.

Local schools

A list can be viewed showing up to 20 schools that are located within 80 kilometres of the selected school. Links to the profile pages of the schools shown are provided to facilitate visitors' use of the site. A mapping function enables a user to view the location of a school along with other schools in the same area.

Student attendance

The average student attendance rates for all students, Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students can be viewed for the selected school. From 2015, users can also view the proportion of students attending school more than 90 per cent of the time. Student attendance data are reported twice a year for Semester 1 and Term 3.