March 2013

About NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses students using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN tests broadly reflect aspects of literacy and numeracy common to curricula in all states and territories. The types of test formats and questions are chosen so that they are familiar to teachers and students across Australia.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in government and non-government schools across Australia sit NAPLAN tests. Some students are eligible for exemption from NAPLAN tests. These include students from a non English-speaking background who have been in Australia for less than one year and students with severe intellectual or functional disabilities.

NAPLAN tests are conducted in May each year. All students in the same year level across Australia are assessed using the same tests.

Test development

NAPLAN tests are developed collaboratively by state and territory governments, the Australian Government and non-government school sector education authorities. Experts in assessment and educational measurement provide technical advice in the development of the tests.

Test administration

A test administration authority in each state and territory is responsible for the administration and delivery of NAPLAN tests, support for schools and delivery of reports. National protocols for test administration ensure consistency in administering the tests by all test administration authorities and schools across Australia.

Reporting student achievement

Individual student reports provided to parents and carers show student results on NAPLAN tests against the national average and the middle 60 per cent of students nationally. These reports contain a description of what was assessed in each of the tests and provide information about what students at each level of proficiency can typically do.

Student outcomes are reported against achievement bands for each of the five NAPLAN assessment domains of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. The band range—from band 1 to band 10—reflects the increasing complexity of skills and understandings demonstrated by a student and assessed by NAPLAN testing as the student progresses from Year 3 to Year 9. For any one year level, the full range of student performance is reported using six of the ten bands. For example, student performance at Year 3 is reported within the range of bands 1 to 6, whereas Year 9 student performance is reported within the range of bands 5 to 10.

acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY

© Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority 2013

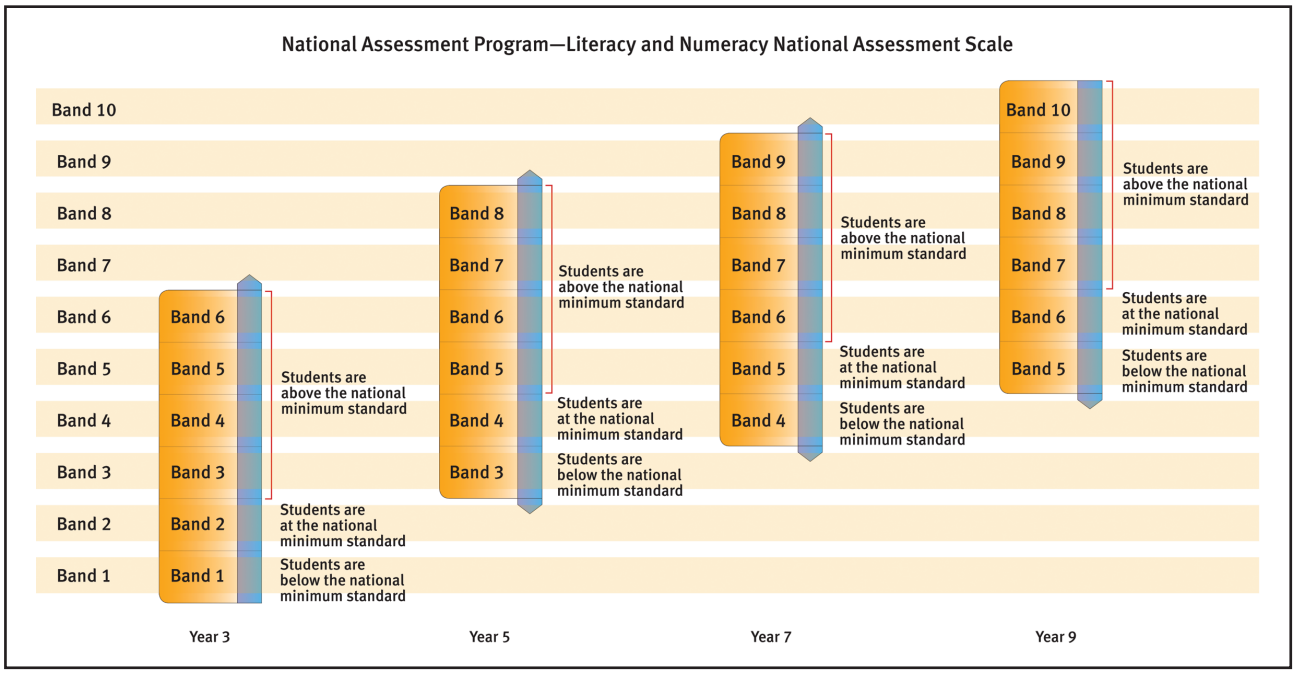
The top four bands in each group of six represent students performing at a level above the national minimum standard. The bottom two bands in each group of six represent students who are performing at or below the national minimum standard.

The use of common assessment scales and reporting bands that span Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 enables the growth in a student's individual performance to be monitored. This is reflected in individual student reports. Similarly, the common scales enable the monitoring of the progress of groups of students over time.

National results

NAPLAN results are reported nationally through a summary report published in September each year, followed by a full national report. The 2010 national report included, for the first time, information on student gain in achievement. NAPLAN results are also published on the National Assessment Program website at www.nap.edu.au.

NAPLAN results are made available for use by education systems, schools and the community. These results, in conjunction with other information, can be used by teachers and schools to determine how well their students are performing and to identify any areas of need for which students require assistance.



acara AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY
© Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority 2013