

NEW PROFICIENCY STANDARD – FAQs

Why is a new proficiency standard being introduced for NAPLAN?

Education ministers agreed to change the way NAPLAN results are reported to parents and carers, now that all students are taking the tests online, and with the move to an earlier NAPLAN in March. The new proficiency standard will provide earlier, simpler and clearer information to parents and carers about their child's NAPLAN achievement based on new, more rigorous national standards.

Why did they need to change?

The new reporting will give parents and carers a simpler and clearer picture of how their child is performing and whether their child has the core literacy and numeracy skills they should have for their year group. If a child is falling behind, parents will know straight away and can act together with their school to get their child the support they need and ensure they are getting the best out of their schooling.

What is a proficiency standard?

The new proficiency standard includes 4 measures of achievement for each year level to provide clear and simple information on how a child is performing based on their NAPLAN test result. If a student is in the Strong or Exceeding categories, it means they have demonstrated proficiency and are meeting the expected capabilities for their year level. If a child has not yet achieved proficiency, then they will either be in the Developing category or the Needs additional support category.

Will NAPLAN student reports change?

Yes. The new reporting will be reflected in the Individual Student Reports parents and carers receive after this year's NAPLAN test.

Will there be any extra help for students who aren't proficient?

NAPLAN reports have always advised parents to discuss progress with their child's teacher, who will have more insight into each student's progress, and be able to recommend next steps.

Will we be able to compare these results with previous years?

As all schools are now online, and the tests are earlier, reporting on changes over time at the school, state/territory and national level will start again from this year. This means results from 2023 on will not be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022. Individual student reports will continue to show each child's achievement against the national average and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level.

How can I track progress over time?

Changes over time will be reported from next year, with the advantage that the changes will be based on a better, more precise test, without the need for complicated statistical processes to compare results with a paper test designed in 2008.

When will results be available?

Results will be made available to schools in Term 2 and to parents and carers in Term 3.

Has what NAPLAN measures changed?

What NAPLAN measures hasn't changed; the changes relate to how this achievement is shown. Proficiency standards provide parents and carers with simpler and clearer information about what students know and can do and their achievement levels. The online assessment is more precise as it uses tailored testing that adapts to student responses and is better at assessing what each student knows and can do.