

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN 2017

February 2017

This newsletter provides Tasmanian Government schools with important information about the 2017 National Assessment Program–Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN).

NAPLAN 2017 assessments will be paper-based as in previous years.

Contacts and support

For information and support please contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk at Education Performance and Review (EPR) on 61 65 5706.

Supporting documentation on NAPLAN can be found at: <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/naplan.html>

The DoE intranet site has further information, guides and all forms referred to in this flyer (government schools only):

<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/intranet/programs-initiatives/naplan/default.aspx>

or contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk (details over page).

Purpose and background

The results from the national literacy and numeracy tests provide an important measure of how all Australian students at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are performing in literacy and numeracy.

The results also provide valuable information for teachers about student achievement that supports focussed planning for improvement at both class and individual student levels.

The Handbook for Principals

The 2017 *Handbook for Principals* will arrive in schools in mid-March. This document is divided into two parts:

- **Part A:** Relevant sections of *National Protocols for Test Administration* from ACARA, including the Code of Conduct. These protocols cover many aspects of the NAPLAN, including test security, and apply to all schools in Australia
- **Part B:** Operational information and instructions for Tasmanian schools.

Test schedule

In May 2017, testing will take place for all four year groups early in the school day over *three* days:

- Tuesday 9 May – Language Conventions and Writing.

In 2017, the Writing task genre will not be disclosed before the test. There is an equal possibility that the Writing test will require students to write a response in the persuasive or narrative genre.

There will be one Writing prompt for students in Years 3 and 5; and a second different Writing prompt for students in Years 7 and 9. Both prompts will be of the same genre.

- Wednesday 10 May – Reading
- Thursday 11 May – Numeracy.

In 2017, Years 7 and 9 Numeracy tests will be completed in a single session. There will continue to be both calculator allowed and non-calculator questions. Further details to follow.

The national schedule for the testing must be strictly adhered to. The full schedule is published in the *Handbook for Principals*. Catch-up sessions for a test can be held at any time after the scheduled session for that test including afternoons of test days and Friday 12 May.

Exemptions

All Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students should participate in the tests. However, as in previous years, students in the following categories are considered exempt (unless otherwise advised by parent/guardian):

- on the DoE Register of Students with Severe Disabilities on the basis of intellectual disability, autism or multiple disability
- English as an Additional Language (EAL). Students with a language background other than English, who arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year may be exempted. For further information, please contact Sally Duay, Manager EAL sally.duay@education.tas.gov.au or the NAPLAN Helpdesk.

EPR will provide principals with a list of their exempt students for verification in March 2017. Complete guidelines relating to exemptions and other student participation categories are contained in the *Handbook for Principals*.

Parent/Carer (i.e. legal guardian) withdrawals

Students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carers. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing.

It is not acceptable to exert influence on parents to withdraw their children from testing.

A parent/carers withdrawal form must be completed and signed by the parent/carers and returned to EPR by the school no later than **5 May 2017**. Please contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk for further information.

Adjustments for students with disability

All students with disabilities are entitled to participate in NAPLAN. Adjustments may be made for students with disabilities or special needs. Further information on adjustments, including specific rules and procedures for use of a Scribe, can be found in the *Handbook for Principals*.

Leading up to and during testing week

Please refer to the *Handbook for Principals* for important information on the steps and processes that need to be followed leading up to and during the testing period. It is important that the integrity of the tests be maintained at all times. It is also important that the test environment neither advantages nor disadvantages any student.

edI and the NAPLAN Toolkit (Government Schools)

NAPLAN results for each school are available in edI, including information for each student in class groups.

The NAPLAN Toolkit is an online resource that supports teachers in reviewing their current students' previous NAPLAN results and use this data to inform educational planning.

The NAPLAN Toolkit and *NAPLAN Toolkit User Guide* are available at: <https://naplan.education.tas.gov.au/>

Student reports

Individual student reports will be despatched to schools for distribution in August. These reports show national information including how each student has performed:

- in relation to other students in their year group
- against the nationally agreed minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for that year
- compared to the average score for each of the tests.

Test materials

Test materials and the *Test Administration Handbook for Teachers*, which detail test administration processes, will be mailed to schools by Thursday 4 May. All test materials must be stored securely until the morning of the scheduled test.

The Test Administration Handbook for Teachers should be given to teachers prior to the testing period so they can familiarise themselves with the content.

Return of test materials

Test materials must be returned to the Tasmanian NAPLAN contractor as soon as all testing is complete and **no later than Monday 15 May 2016**. Any variation to this date must be approved by Education Performance and Review in advance.

Preparing students

The best preparation schools can provide for students is teaching the curriculum, as the tests reflect core elements of the Australian Curriculum. It is also appropriate to familiarise students with the different types of questions they will be answering. Sample test booklets are available on the NAPLAN website at: <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/>

Omits and Refusals

Omitting questions and student refusal to engage in the assessments impacted upon Tasmania's results in 2016. In 2017, this impact is best mitigated by test administrators actively supervising test sessions and encouraging students to engage in the tests and attempt all questions.

Marking of Writing

In 2017, Tasmanian teachers will have the opportunity to be involved in marking students' NAPLAN Writing test scripts. However, centrally provided relief payments to schools for this purpose will not be available. For further information on the marking of Writing, contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk.

Test Security Period

The principal must ensure that teachers and students not involved in the tests do not have access to the test materials during the test security period (i.e. until COB 26 May).

Key dates:

Date	Activity
Mid-March	<i>Handbook for Principals</i> sent to schools
By 4 May	Test materials arrive in schools
9-11 May	Administer NAPLAN tests
12 May	Catch ups continue
15 May	Last day to return test materials to contractor
26 May COB	End of test security period