

# NAPLAN 2018 summary release – FAQs

FAQs for parents (NAP website)

## **How do we know the results of NAPLAN online and NAPLAN on paper are comparable?**

Australian and international measurement advisory experts have confirmed students were tested on the same literacy and numeracy content, and results from both online and paper assessments can be reported on the same NAPLAN assessment scale. Find out more about [the Measurement Advisory Group on our website](#).

NAPLAN assessments provide a snapshot of a child's achievement at a point in time, and NAPLAN results should be considered together with school-based assessments and reports.

## **Has my child gotten a better or a worse result depending on whether they did online or paper assessment?**

The results for both assessments, paper and online, accurately reflect each student's performance and have assessed the same content. While the results for both modes are comparable, individual student experiences for any single test may differ due to a range of factors, including the mode of delivery. As has always been the case, NAPLAN provides a snapshot of a child's assessment at a point in time and results should be considered together with school-based assessments.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's NAPLAN results, you should discuss these with your child's teacher, who will have the best insight into your child's educational progress.

## **Was there any difference between the results for the writing test completed online and the writing test completed on paper?**

This year's results for Year 9 students who completed the writing test online were, on average, higher than the results of students who completed the writing test on paper. The independent experts have confirmed the results are comparable; however, this difference appears to be a result of the test mode. The difference may be due to students at this year level having greater confidence writing online than on paper, as well as students' ability to readily review and edit their work online in a way that is not possible with a paper test. This reinforces the benefit of moving to NAPLAN Online, which will give teachers, students and parents more information about what students know and can do, and where additional support is needed.

## **Why should care be taken in comparing individual student results?**

As always, NAPLAN only gives an indication of a student's performance on the day of testing, and the results should be interpreted with care. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's NAPLAN results, discuss them with your child's teacher, who will have the best insight on your child's educational progress.

### **Are online and paper results reported on the same assessment scale?**

NAPLAN 2018 results for online and paper tests are reported on a common NAPLAN scale. Independent experts have confirmed that both NAPLAN online and NAPLAN paper tests assessed the same content and can be reported on the same scale. Parents, teachers and schools can rely on the information and be confident it is comparable.

### **Was NAPLAN Online in 2018 successful?**

The transition to the online assessment was smooth. The online platform performed well, with 99.8 per cent of students who did NAPLAN online being able to complete the assessment. Feedback from schools at the time of testing was that students found the online assessment engaging.

### **How many students did NAPLAN online?**

In May this year, over one million students took NAPLAN, and of those, almost 20 per cent of students in six states and territories sat NAPLAN in the new online format (with the Northern Territory and Tasmania participating in NAPLAN Online next year for the first time).

### **Why is NAPLAN moving online?**

All Australian education systems are moving to NAPLAN Online from 2020 as online assessment provides more accurate and precise information about what students know and can do.

Because the online version of the test adapts to responses made by students, the test gives a student questions more suited to their ability, providing a more precise and accurate assessment of the student's literacy and numeracy skill levels.

### **Why do kids sit NAPLAN?**

NAPLAN provides a snapshot of a child's achievement in the fundamental skills of literacy and numeracy, at a single point in time. The data provided can be used by families, schools and education systems to support students in their learning. Individual student results should always be considered together with other school-based assessments.

### **What is equating?**

No two tests can have exactly the same level of difficulty, so results are equated each year to adjust the difficulty of different tests and standardise them. This allows NAPLAN tests in different years to be reported on the same assessment scale.

Equating is a well-known statistical method that is widely used in other national and international large-scale educational testing programs.