

NAP Opt-in assessment

Information for schools

From 2024, Australian schools can enrol Year 6 and Year 10 students to take part in NAP Opt-in assessments in key curriculum areas.

These new assessments are part of the [National Assessment Program](#) and completely optional for schools. These new assessments will be phased in over 3 years, starting with science literacy in 2024. Civics and citizenship will be added in 2025, followed by ICT (information and communication technology) literacy in 2026.

From 2026, NAP Opt-in assessments in all 3 domains will be available each year.

In 2024, the first year of these optional assessments, we will work closely with schools and get their feedback on this initiative to improve future opt-in assessments.

The value to schools

Schools taking part in NAP Opt-in assessment will be able to:

1. Measure student performance against national standards in key curriculum areas beyond literacy and numeracy.
2. Use the results (available only to the participating school and no one else) to review, plan and adapt teaching and learning programs, and share with the school community if they wish.
3. Run the assessments using a self-service platform at a time that suits them in the testing window.

Express your interest in NAP Opt-in assessment for 2024

Schools are encouraged to express their interest by completing a short EOI form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/L6LDZK5 by 8 December 2023. This will help ACARA plan and deliver the first assessment in 2024.

Key dates

Tuesday 26 March 2024 – Tuesday 30 April 2024
School registration and enrolment window

Monday 6 May – Friday 31 May 2024
Test window

July 2024 – August 2024
Results window

Registering for NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy 2024

Registration opens March 2024 and closes April 2024. There is no fee for schools registering to take part in this assessment.

School principals must register their school at www.assessform.edu.au. ACARA will verify the school's registration details and send confirmation to the email address provided.

Preparing for NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy 2024

Schools self-administer the NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy via the platform www.assessform.edu.au. This is the same platform schools use already for NAPLAN assessments and so it will be familiar.

Principals use the platform to nominate their school technical support officer, NAP coordinator and test administrator.

Ahead of the testing window, schools will:

- access training manual and guides on NAP website
- carry out technical preparation including device checks
- select their preferred assessment dates
- enrol students.

Schools don't have to enrol all students in Years 6 and 10. Schools can enrol both years, or one year, or individual classes of students within either year. When schools enrol full-year cohorts, they benefit from more data for school-wide planning.

Receiving results

ACARA will:

- mark the assessments and analyse the assessment data
- provide principals with school-level reports.

NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy 2024 helpdesk

Email: opt-inhelpline@acara.edu.au

Frequently asked questions

? What are the NAP Opt-in assessments and why are they available?

The NAP Opt-in assessments are an important improvement to the National Assessment Program as agreed to by all education ministers.

These new optional assessments will be in the same domains tested through the [NAP Sample assessments](#) for Year 6 and Year 10 students – science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy – and will be available to any school that chooses to participate.

For schools that take up the opportunity, NAP Opt-in assessments will provide information on their Year 6 and Year 10 students' performance in relation to national standards in these domains. Results can be used to assist with school-level planning and inform teaching and learning programs, and will not be publicly available.

? How does the NAP Opt-in assessment program differ to NAP Sample?

Schools are selected to take part in the NAP Sample program and their participation is mandatory.

NAP Opt-in assessments are completely optional, and it is entirely up to schools to choose if they wish to take part. This optional assessment makes use of the resources from NAP Sample, and schools will be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN.

? Do entire classes have to be signed up?

Schools do not have to enrol all students in the relevant year group (Year 6 and Year 10). However, there are benefits in doing so as full cohorts will provide more data to inform school-wide planning.

? How do schools register to take part in the NAP Opt-in assessment in 2024?

The NAP Opt-in assessments are run by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) directly with schools.

Schools who wish to take part can register via the NAP Opt-in assessment tile on www.assessform.edu.au from March 2024. Registration will be open to all schools across Australia for Year 6 and Year 10 students.

In the meantime, schools are encouraged to express their interest by completing a short EOI form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/L6LDZK5 by 8 December 2023. This will help ACARA plan and deliver the first assessment in 2024.

? Will schools be able to choose a single assessment, or will they have to do all 3 – science literacy, civics and citizenship, and ICT literacy?

Schools can choose any or all the available domains in the NAP Opt-in assessments, once they have all been phased in. The NAP Opt-in assessments will be phased in over 3 years, starting with science literacy in 2024. Civics and citizenship will be added in 2025, followed by ICT literacy in 2026. From 2026, NAP Opt-in assessments in all 3 domains will be available each year.

Schools can choose to participate in as many or as few of the assessments as they like and for as many years as they wish to. For example, a school may choose to undertake only the NAP Opt-in assessment in ICT literacy in Year 6 every 2 years for a 6-year period, while another school may do the NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy in Year 10 for 5 years in a row.

? What will be the process for schools to enrol students?

Once schools have registered their interest, they will have access to the NAP Opt-in assessment area on the www.assessform.com.au website to complete the enrolment. Schools will already be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN.

Schools that undertake NAP Opt-in assessments are not expected to enrol all students in the relevant year group (Year 6 and Year 10) for the assessment. However, there are benefits in doing so as full cohorts will provide more data to inform school-wide planning.

? How do schools manage and administer the assessment?

After the successful enrolment of students, schools self-administer the assessment, following the NAP sample assessment procedures.

Schools will already be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN.

Schools will be provided with online support and training materials, and access to a national helpdesk staffed by ACARA contractors to support them as they undertake test readiness and administration.

? How do schools get ready for the assessment?

Schools will be provided with online support and training materials, and access to a national helpdesk staffed by ACARA contractors.

Schools will already be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN. However, there will be a toll-free 1800 telephone number and email helpdesk for schools that require support with queries and issues.

? Have these assessments been used before?

2024 will be the first year of these optional assessments, and so we will work closely with schools and get their feedback on this initiative to improve future opt-in assessments.

Schools will already be familiar with the platform and processes used as they are similar to NAPLAN.

? What results and reports will be available?

There will be 3 types of report that will be provided to participating schools only:

1. Items report:

- Items categorised based on the strand of curriculum for each year level. This will help the school to gauge their students' performance in different strands.
- Relative Item performance in schools compared to national performance for each year level, which will provide better visibility for schools of their relative performance in different content area of the curriculum.

2. Student performance report:

- Students grouped by different variables including class group and gender for each year level; this will provide better understanding of the performance of students and class groups.
- Students' performance in scale against the proficiency level and other national statistics from NAP sample assessment for each year level.

3. School summary report:

- Overall performance of students in the school compared to different national statistics obtained from NAP sample assessment for each year level.

Results will not be published or reported in any other way.

? What information will parents and carers be provided with if their child takes part?

Participating schools will be provided with reports looking at school and student performance, which can be used to inform teaching and learning.

While these reports are for the school's use only, we would encourage schools to consider how this information is shared with their school community, including parents/carers – for example through parent-teacher meetings.