

NAP Opt-in 2024 assessment in Science Literacy

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.

The NAP Opt-in 2024 assessment in science literacy is provided by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) directly to schools nationally.

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 the NAP Opt-in 2024 assessment in science literacy will be able to:

1. Measure student performance against national standards in science literacy.
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.

Registering for NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy 2024

Registration opens 26 March 2024 and closes 30 April 2024. There is no fee for schools registering to take part in this assessment.

Registration will be open to all schools across Australia for Year 6 and Year 10 students. Principals can register their school at www.assessform.edu.au by clicking on the 'NAP Opt-in' tile on the home page. Each school should only register once, via the principal (preferably using the same email address that was used for NAPLAN 2024 if applicable). The principal can invite more than one NAP coordinator after registration.

Principals can select multiple schools in the registration process if they are overseeing multiple schools. After registration, a separate email invitation is sent for each school they manage. Each invite has a unique username assigned to each school.

A [principal registration quick guide](#) is available on the NAP website.

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, so it will be familiar.

After principal registration is completed, principals should use the platform to nominate a NAP Coordinator and school technical support officer.

Ahead of the testing window, schools will:

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

Schools do not 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.

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

For all enquiries regarding the NAP Opt-in assessment please contact the helpdesk:

Email: NAPScience@acer.org **Phone:** 1800 574 000

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. They will not be publicly available.

? How does the NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy differ to NAP Science Literacy?

Schools are selected to take part in NAP Science Literacy and their participation is mandatory.

NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy is 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 Science Literacy 2023. 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 science literacy in 2024?

The NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy is run by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) directly with schools.

Schools that wish to take part can register via the NAP Opt-in assessment tile on www.assessform.edu.au from 26 March 2024. Registration will be open to all schools across Australia for Year 6 and Year 10 students.

A [principal registration quick guide](#) is available on the NAP website.

? Who can register for the NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy 2024?

Registration will be open to all schools across Australia for Year 6 and Year 10 students.

When the school registration process is complete, the registered principal will have access to the assessment platform to invite other school staff if required.

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

Once school principals have completed registration, they will have access to the NAP Opt-in area on the www.assessform.com.au website to complete the enrolment.

Principals and NAP Coordinators can enrol the students individually or via a bulk upload feature in the platform. The enrolment template will be made available in the platform for school users.

? 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.

When the school's registration is complete and details have been verified, the principal will receive an email invitation to set up an account in the assessment platform. The email will include a link to resources and NAP Opt-in Helpdesk contact details.

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Phone: 1800 574 000

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

? What is the structure of NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy 2024 and how long does it take?

The NAP Opt-in assessment in science literacy consists of:

- A set of untimed introductory practice questions. This will help to familiarise students with the format of the test questions and show them how to navigate the test platform.
- A set of timed test questions. For Year 6 students the test is 60 minutes in duration and for Year 10 students it is 75 minutes.

Assessment elements	Year 6	Year 10
Practice questions	10 mins (approx.)	10 mins (approx.)
Assessment Items	60 mins (max.)	75 mins (max.)

We recommend that schools allow approximately **2 hours** for the entire assessment process.

? 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 shows:

- 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. This will provide better visibility for schools of their relative performance in different content areas of the curriculum.

2. Class report shows:

- 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 shows:

- 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 given 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.