

# 2023 National Assessment Program Science Literacy Field Trial

Information for parents and carers



In 2022, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in a national online field trial in science literacy.

## What is the NAP – Science Literacy field trial?

The NAP – Science Literacy sample assessment is an online test that informs schools, education ministers and the community about the levels of achievement in science literacy among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia.

In an increasingly technological environment, it is important that students understand natural phenomena and know how to apply scientific method to make sense of what they experience.

When students interpret information on scientific issues, ask questions, conduct investigations, make decisions and communicate their findings, they develop important problem-solving skills.

## Who will be assessed and when?

Around 3,200 Year 6 and Year 10 students from approximately 128 Government, Catholic and independent schools in metropolitan, rural and remote locations will participate in the NAP – Science Literacy field trial.

A random sample of schools will be drawn from across each state and territory in Australia. A sample of students

There are two stages to the project:

- field trial and
- main study.

The 2023 NAP – Science Literacy field trial will evaluate potential questions for use in the main study, to ensure that the assessment is effective.

The 2023 NAP – Science Literacy main study will be used to improve teaching and learning in science literacy. This enables teachers to use information about student science literacy to inform their teaching and also assist teachers, education leaders, parents, the community, researchers and policy makers to use evidence of student proficiency in science literacy to assess student achievement against recognised goals and standards and drive improvements in student outcomes.

within each of these schools will be selected to complete the field trial.

The field trial will be held in October and November 2022 (Term Four) and will be conducted by a trained school staff member. There will be quality monitor visits from external test invigilators to ensure test are conducted as per the National Assessment standards.

## What does participation mean for your child?

If your child is selected for the sample, they will participate in a world-class online assessment designed by education experts in science literacy. Taking part will provide your child with an excellent learning opportunity because the tests are designed in an engaging way to bring out the best in students.

The online assessment is intended to test your child's level of science knowledge, understanding and skills. Your child is not expected to study for this assessment and no preparation is necessary. There are separate tests for Year 6 and Year 10 students.

## Why is this assessment being undertaken?

The purpose of the field trial is to evaluate potential questions for use in the 2023 NAP – Science Literacy main study. The field trial is about testing the questions, not about testing your child, or their ability.

Your child's results are not reported. Schools taking part in the field trial will be excluded from the main study, which is scheduled to take place in May 2023 (Term Two).

## What does the assessment comprise?

Activity	Description
Practice questions	Students complete a small set of questions to familiarise themselves with the types of questions they can expect.
Objective test	Students complete a series of questions that include multiple choice, "drag and drop" and short answer questions.
Inquiry task	Students engage in a task that reflects the key stages of a scientific investigation and answer a series of questions on it.
Student survey	Students complete a short survey regarding their perceptions of, and attitudes towards, science and their experiences of science learning at their school.

Year 6 students will have 60 minutes to complete the test. Year 10 students will have 75 minutes to complete the test.

## Further information

If you have any questions about the NAP – Science Literacy online sample assessment, please talk to your child's teacher or school principal, or visit [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).