

# National Assessment Program Science Literacy 2026 – Field Trial

## Information for parents and carers



In 2025, as part of the National Assessment Program, a sample of Year 6 and Year 10 students from across Australia will take part in an online sample assessment in science literacy.

### What is the NAP–Science Literacy sample assessment?

The NAP–Science Literacy (NAP–SL) sample assessment is a test in science literacy given to a sample group of Year 6 and Year 10 students. The assessment monitors and reports on the overall progress being made towards achieving high standards of science literacy in Australia. Before the NAP–SL main assessment in 2026, we need to run a field trial to make sure the test questions are suitable.

### Why is NAP–SL literacy undertaken?

The purpose of the assessment is to:

- inform schools, education ministers and the community about levels of achievement in science education among Year 6 and Year 10 students across Australia
- support improvement in teaching and learning programs.

The study also assesses student achievement against recognised goals and standards, and helps drive improvements in student outcomes.

### 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 sample assessment field trial.

A random class of students will be selected from each participating year level at each sampled school to complete the field trial.

The field trial will be held from **Wednesday 15 October 2025 to Wednesday 29 October 2025** and will be conducted by a trained school staff member.

There will be quality monitor visits from external test administrators to ensure tests are conducted consistently across all participating schools.

### What does participation mean for your child?

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

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. The field trial is about testing the questions, not about testing your child or their ability. Your child's results are not reported.

Each test session will run for 60 minutes (Year 6) or 75 minutes (Year 10).

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 questionnaire	Students complete a short survey regarding their perceptions of and attitudes towards science, and their experiences of science learning at their school.

### Further information

If you have any questions about the NAP–SL assessment, please talk to your child's teacher or school principal, or visit [NAP – Science Literacy](#).