About My School

The My School website provides profiles of almost 10,000 Australian schools that can be searched by school location, sector or name. The website provides statistical and contextual information about each school, as well as results from the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) that can be compared with results from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia. Information about the National Assessment Program can be found on the NAPLAN website (see www.naplan.edu.au).

My School is administered by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA is the Australian Government statutory authority responsible for collecting and reporting data on Australian schools, administering national assessments in literacy and numeracy and developing a national curriculum.

The My School website provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about Australian schools, and for Australian schools to learn more from each other. It contains a set of quality data that teachers, schools, parents and the wider community can use, along with other information, to help ensure that every child in every classroom receives a high quality education.

Specifically, visitors to My School can expect to find information about each school's student population, the average achievement of students in NAPLAN, an indication of student gain over time, as well as school financial data, comparable across all Australian schools.

The website uses an index of student and school characteristics, known as the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) to identify schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds. Information on parental occupation and education along with school enrolment data are used to calculate an ICSEA value for each school. This value represents the average educational advantage level of students at the school.

ICSEA enables student results on national tests to be understood and compared in a fair and meaningful way, and enables schools seeking to improve their performance to learn from other schools with statistically similar populations.

Schools, teachers, parents and the community can use the information on My School to:

• access information about a school, using nationally consistent indicators
• compare the achievement of students in a school with the average achievement of schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds and all schools in Australia
• identify and learn about high performing schools, including schools in which significant student progress is demonstrated
• gain a broader understanding of the performance of schools in a local community.

Visitors to My School can navigate the website via four menu items:

• School profile
• School finances
• NAPLAN
• Local schools
School profile

Each school has a profile page which includes:

• a short description of the school
• school facts that include information about school sector, type and total enrolments
• numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff
• summary of school financial information
• a link to the school’s website and, where applicable, a link to the website of the school sector or system to which the school belongs
• school-level data about students’ backgrounds
• a school’s value on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)—the index used to identify schools with statistically similar student cohorts
• student enrolments and attendance
• senior secondary school outcomes.

School finances

Financial data are displayed for each school. These data include recurrent income—the amount of income available to support the operation of the school—as well as capital expenditure for the 2009 calendar year.

Detailed explanations of financial reporting are available on the website’s More Information section.

NAPLAN results

NAPLAN assesses students using common national tests in five domains. These are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in government and non-government schools across Australia sit NAPLAN tests.

The website provides NAPLAN data for each test domain, for each year level. These data are available for each of the three years of NAPLAN testing to date (2008, 2009 and 2010).

NAPLAN results are provided for the selected school, schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds, and all Australian schools. An analysis of student progress is also provided for students who sat NAPLAN tests in both 2008 and 2010, within the same school.

Local schools

A list can be viewed showing up to 20 schools that are located within 80 kilometres of the selected school. Links to the profile pages of the schools shown are provided to facilitate visitors’ use of the site.