In 2018, 1285 schools across Australia moved from paper NAPLAN tests to NAPLAN Online. In NSW, 544 schools successfully transitioned to NAPLAN Online. The success of this first year demonstrates the commitment and preparation of all participating schools.

The same preparation approach that led to a successful transition for schools in 2018 is being adopted for schools transitioning to NAPLAN Online in 2019.

Schools that have been identified as ready to move online in 2019 will be supported to do so. NESA will provide more information about preparation activities to all schools.

Transition timeline

A NAPLAN Online transition timeline has been published to the transition approach webpage. Principals are encouraged to view this as it includes key dates for both online and paper NAPLAN schools. The timeline outlines key NAPLAN activities and timeframes for schools that are moving to NAPLAN Online in 2019 and those that are getting ready to move in 2020.

The timeline can be found on the transition approach webpage:


Information and communication technology skills quick reference guide

This guide provides teachers with practical examples of how ICT skills can be incorporated into curriculum learning activities. The quick reference guide is available on the NAPLAN Online website:


Paper based NAPLAN schools

Schools that are not moving to NAPLAN Online in 2019 will sit the paper-based NAPLAN test between 14 to 16 May. The administrative processes for delivering NAPLAN will be the same as in previous years, with NESA providing schools with information and support.

2019 Readiness test

A national school readiness test will take place late August to early September 2019 (dates to be advised). The school readiness test is designed to check a school’s readiness and to help schools prepare for the transition to NAPLAN Online in 2020. NESA will provide more information to schools, including the school readiness test dates for 2020.

NAPLAN Online 2019 schools

The 2019 NAPLAN Online test window will take place between 14 to 24 May.

Welcome pack and Handbook for principals

NESA are the Test Administration Authority for NSW and responsible for overseeing paper-based and online NAPLAN tests. Schools will receive a NAPLAN Online welcome pack from NESA before the end of February. This will include the Handbook for principals, containing detailed information and instructions to prepare your school.

NAPLAN Online training

Training will be available from 19 February to 22 March and 29 April to 10 May 2019 to support the transition to NAPLAN Online. This will include eLearning modules, and Adobe Connect and face-to-face training sessions delivered by NAPLAN Online training facilitators.

Due to the close proximity of the practice test, it is important that schools consider training options for NAPLAN coordinators and test administrators now.
NAPLAN coordinators and test administrators who have attended face-to-face training do not need to attend face-to-face training in 2019. Instead, they are encouraged to register for refresher training either via an Adobe Connect session or eLearning modules to familiarise themselves with small changes that have been made to the online platform and test processes.

NAPLAN coordinators and test administrators who have not attended face-to-face training will need to register for face-to-face training now. The 2019 training locations and dates are limited. Please refer to the training schedules on the NAPLAN Online website and register to ensure participation in your school's area. More training information can be found on the training webpage:


2019 Practice test

All schools participating in NAPLAN Online in 2019 will take part in a practice test between 25 March and 5 April 2019.

This will require the participation of the entire cohort of NAPLAN year students from your school and will involve a 45-minute omnibus test that includes reading, conventions of language and numeracy. Writing will not be included in the omnibus test.

The practice test will provide students with a further opportunity to become familiar with the types of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online.

Further support in delivering the practice test will be provided, similar to that during the school readiness tests in 2017 and 2018.

ACARA public demonstration site

The ACARA public demonstration tests are available to students, teachers and parents on the ACARA website. The demonstration tests give students the opportunity to become more familiar with the NAPLAN Online platform, and can be accessed at home or at school:

www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site

Automated essay scoring

The automated essay scoring system will not be used to mark NAPLAN Online writing tests. Instead, trained markers will be employed to mark student writing, as is currently the case with paper-based NAPLAN tests.

Technical requirements

Schools participating in NAPLAN Online in 2019 should ensure that all devices to be used meet the technical requirements. These can be found on the ACARA website:

www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/technical-requirements

Schools will need to install the latest version of the locked down browser on all devices in preparation for the practice test. Instructions on how to install the lock down browser can be found on the NAP website:


For department schools using ET4L devices, the lock down browser instructions are also available on the getting ready webpage:


Students with disability

The accessibility adjustments provided in NAPLAN Online for students with disability will be equivalent to what is currently provided for paper NAPLAN tests in most instances.

ACARA has provided new adjustments for NAPLAN Online, such as alternative items for students with visual, hearing or motor disabilities. Students requiring braille, or print larger than what the NAPLAN Online platform or assistive technology can provide, will sit paper tests.

Teachers and schools are in the best position to determine the needs of individual students, in consultation with students and their parents or carers.

Information about accessibility adjustments will be provided in the Handbook for principals. For more information, schools should contact the NESA helpdesk.

Information for parents and carers

A new NAPLAN Online parent and carer fact sheet is now available and schools are encouraged to share with their school community.

An updated privacy notice has been published that outlines the collection and use of students’ and parents’ data. It can be downloaded from the Parent and carers information webpage:

The following message for parents and carers can be tailored for use in school newsletters or other communication formats to advise of your school’s transition to NAPLAN Online.

Our school will be transitioning to NAPLAN Online this year. This means our students in years 3/7 and 5/9 will complete the NAPLAN assessments online this year rather than pencil and paper.

The Year 3 writing test will continue to be paper-based, but all other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online.

Our school has participated in a series of activities to prepare for the transition to NAPLAN Online. These preparation activities confirmed that our school is ready to transition to NAPLAN Online in 2019.

Our teachers and students will be involved in preparation and practice activities in the lead up to NAPLAN this year. This will include participation in a practice test during March, where students will have a further opportunity to become familiar with the online platform and the type of questions they will be asked in NAPLAN Online.

More information about NAPLAN Online, including the latest fact sheet for parents and carers, can be found on the NSW Department of Education’s NAPLAN Online website:

Support
For more information about delivering NAPLAN Online, please contact –
NESA NAPLAN team
Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 119 556

If your school has questions specific to your IT infrastructure and network, please contact –
EDConnect: 1300 32 32 32.

For further advice about your school’s transition to NAPLAN Online or if you have any other questions, please contact –
NAPLAN Online transition team
Email: NAPLANOnline@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 790 844.