

NAPLAN Online newsletter

February 2018

Welcome to the first NAPLAN Online newsletter for 2018.

This year sees the first cohort of NSW schools transitioning from pencil and paper tests to NAPLAN Online. From this year, teachers will start to get a more detailed assessment of individual student ability through tailored testing, and the faster turnaround of NAPLAN results will allow them to adapt their lessons to the needs of the classroom far earlier in the school year.

We acknowledge that schools have put a lot of effort in to getting us to this point. Thank you for the time and resources that your school has invested into NAPLAN Online so far. The readiness activities that you participated in provided us with important data and feedback about what works and how we can best support schools through the transition.

As you are aware, the transition approach determined by the NSW Minister for Education allows for around 500 NSW schools from all education sectors to move to NAPLAN Online this year, with all schools to follow by 2020. Education Ministers agreed to extend the transition window by one year and confirmed that automated essay scoring will not be used for the marking of NAPLAN writing scripts.

We appreciate that there are some schools that feel ready to move to NAPLAN Online now but are not participating this year, and understand that this can be frustrating. The amount of schools that expressed interest in moving was much larger than what the transition approach allows for in 2018, and we will endeavor to support the transition of all schools to NAPLAN Online over the next two years.

We wish you a great start to 2018 and a successful preparation for your school's NAPLAN tests.

Regards,

NAPLAN Online transition team

Pencil and paper NAPLAN schools

Schools that are not moving to NAPLAN Online this year will sit the paper-based NAPLAN test between 15–17 May. The administrative processes for delivering NAPLAN will be the same as in previous years, with NESA providing schools with information and support.

Transition timeline

A transition timeline has been published to the NAPLAN Online website. Principals are encouraged to view this as it includes key dates for pencil and paper NAPLAN schools. The timeline can be downloaded from: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/nsw-transition-approach>

Readiness test

A national readiness test will take place 22 August–1 September to prepare for the transition approach in 2019. Some pencil and paper schools will be expected to participate. Details about what schools will be in scope are still being determined. Training and support will be provided to all schools that take part in the 2018 readiness test.

ICT skills quick reference guide

This guide provides teachers with examples of how to improve student ICT skills in the classroom, and is a helpful resource for those schools preparing to move to online testing over the next two years. The quick reference guide is available on the NAPLAN Online website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/media/documents/Information-and-communication-technology-skills-quick-reference-guide.pdf>

NAPLAN Online schools

The extended NAPLAN Online test window will be take place between 15–25 May.

Training

By now, staff at your school with a NAPLAN Online role should have registered for either face-to-face training or Abode Connect refresher training. ELearning modules are also available to all staff with a NAPLAN Online role.

Face-to-face training has already begun and is available at 40 locations across NSW. Due to the close proximity of the practice test, schools should have already registered staff for face-to-face training if needed, as sessions are limited in all areas.

Please refer to the [training page](#) on the NAPLAN Online website for schedules and instructions on how to register for sessions.

Practice test

All transitioning schools are expected to take part in the practice test between 20-22 March. This will require the participation of the entire cohort of NAPLAN year students from your school.

Please remember that schools are encouraged to schedule testing for 10.30am 22 March in order to replicate the expected maximum load on the online platform.

Schools are responsible for ensuring that students are familiar with the device they will be using to complete the test, including BYODs.

Support for schools in delivering the practice test will be provided by NESA. Schools should contact the NESA helpdesk if they have any questions about what is required to administer the test.

Technical requirements

In preparation for the practice test, schools should ensure that all devices to be used meet the technical requirements. These can be found on the ACARA website: <http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/technical-requirements>

Schools will need to install the latest version of the locked down browser on all devices. Instructions on how to install the locked down browser can be found on the NAP website: <https://www.assessform.edu.au/Layouts/Technology/LockedDownBrowser.aspx>

For schools using eT4L devices, the locked down browser instructions are available on the NAPLAN Online website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/getting-ready/technology-requirements>

Mini-tests

The mini-tests on the ACARA public demonstration site are a helpful resource that gives students the opportunity to become more familiar with the online platform. We advise schools to take the time to explore the mini-tests and how they can benefit your students: <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Students with disability

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

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 is provided in the Handbook for principals. For further information, schools should contact the NESA helpdesk.

Privacy notice

An updated privacy notice has been published that outlines the collection and use of students' and parents' data as part of NAPLAN Online and readiness test activities. It can be downloaded from the Parent and carers webpage: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/getting-ready/parent-information>

Support

For information about delivering NAPLAN Online, please contact the NESA helpdesk:

naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au

Ph: 1300 119 556

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

Ph: 1300 32 32 32

For further questions about the NSW transition approach or your school's transition to NAPLAN Online, please contact the NAPLAN Online transition team:

NAPLANonline@det.nsw.edu.au

Ph: 1300 790 844.