

## Can I see how schools improve over time?

Students across Australia take NAPLAN tests in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

With three years of NAPLAN results now available, *My School* enables parents, educators and members of the community to track school performance over time and focus on what schools are doing that have been successful in achieving gains for their students.

The student gain page on the *My School* website shows a graphical display of NAPLAN results for students who sat the tests in the same school in 2008 and 2010.

## How can parents learn more about a school?

The performance of students in national tests is just one source of useful information about a school.

Important to also take into account is the school's mission statement, the curriculum on offer, programs, facilities and extra-curricular activities.

A link to the school website is provided on the school profile page, so you can learn even more about a school and its community.

## On the *My School* website you can:

- search for schools all over Australia
- find local schools in your area
- compare schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds
- view school-level literacy and numeracy testing results.

## New features of *My School* include

- an easy-to-use summary page with key facts and figures
- financial information for each school
- information on how schools are performing, over time

An information page translated into 21 languages is available on the *My School* website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

More information about ACARA is available at [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au) or you can email [info@myschool.edu.au](mailto:info@myschool.edu.au)

# My School

[www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

The *My School* website profiles almost 10,000 Australian schools.

## Information for parents





## About My School

The *My School* website ([www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)) gives parents access to important information about almost 10,000 Australian Schools.

It was developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), which is the independent authority responsible for the national assessment and reporting programs.

For the first time in 2011, information about school finances and the progress of students in national literacy and numeracy tests (NAPLAN) over time is available on *My School*.

*My School* is a unique online tool that promotes transparency in education by providing parents, schools, governments and the wider community with high quality, nationally comparable data on the performance and progress of Australian schools.

Visit the *My School* website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) to search for your local school and schools across the nation.

## What information is available on the *My School* website?

The *My School* website profiles almost 10,000 Australian schools and provides information on the type of school, its enrolments, attendance rates, staff numbers, and information about the student population.

There is also commentary about each school which is provided by the school.

With *My School*, parents and the community can see how well a school has performed, on average, in national literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) tests and compare this performance to statistically similar schools, and schools across the nation.

For the first time in 2011, *My School* enables parents, educators and the community to track the performance of students in NAPLAN tests over time.

School financial information is also available. While there are differences in the way various states and territories report data, the financial information on *My School* has been through a thorough development and checking process, and has been independently certified as comparable. This means that between states, territories and systems it is now possible to make comparisons about the income and expenditure of Australian schools.

## How do I find the information I'm interested in on the *My School* website?

To find information on a specific school, enter the name of the school in the *Search by school name* box. School names that match will appear in a drop-down menu. Select the school you are interested in, then click *Go*.

If you are not sure of the exact name of a school or you wish to search for a school in a particular area, enter the suburb, town or postcode. Area names will appear in a drop-down menu. Select the area you require from the list, then select one or both school sectors, then click *Search*.

For help understanding the information on the site, read

the explanatory notes on each page or view detailed Fact Sheets in the *More Information* section of the website.

## Why is it important to publish detailed information about schools?

Information about NAPLAN performance and school financial data, in a format that is transparent, accessible and fair, is valued by parents and the community.

ACARA's role is to ensure that this information is high quality, valid and reliable—therefore providing a tool to support productive conversations about the performance of Australian schools.

Governments, school leaders, teachers and curriculum writers can use the information provided on *My School* to help make informed decisions to support school improvement.

## What is the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage used on the *My School* website?

Research shows that key factors of students' family backgrounds influence their performance at school. The Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) is a scale that represents this influence or *level of educational advantage*.

ICSEA was created by ACARA specifically to enable fair and meaningful comparisons of Australian schools.

Parents and the community will be able to make fairer comparisons between schools as a result of the revised ICSEA values used on *My School* in 2011.