

About My School

The *My School* website provides profiles of more than 9,500 Australian schools. These 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). This information 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.nap.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.

Using the *My School* site

Specifically, visitors to *My School* can expect to find information about each school's student population, the average achievement of students in NAPLAN, indication of student progress over time, as well as school financial data, comparable across all Australian schools. Other useful data, such as attendance rates and staff numbers at each school, are also available.

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 occupation and education of parents, along with school enrolment data, is 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. It 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 with 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 five menu items:

- School profile
- School finances
- NAPLAN
- VET in schools
- Local schools

School profiles

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
- a 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
- the school's value on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)
- student enrolments and attendance
- senior secondary school outcomes
- a summary of student enrolment numbers in vocational education and training (VET) courses and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

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 each reported calendar year.

Detailed explanations of financial reporting are available in PDF format in the resources list on the website's 'More information' page.

NAPLAN results

NAPLAN assesses students using common national tests in five domains. These are:

- reading
- writing
- spelling
- grammar and punctuation
- 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 every year of NAPLAN testing.

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 on two occasions at the same school and have results at two year levels.

VET in schools

For schools with students undertaking VET courses, the website displays the number of course enrolments and qualifications completed for students, sorted by qualification level and (if available) industry area.

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. A mapping function enables the user to view the location of a school along with other schools in the same area.