



TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

ABN: 28 261 465 779

Office: 15 Rowitta Road Lindisfarne phone: 03 6243 7718
PO Box 183 Lindisfarne TAS 7015 email: info@tasso.org.au

NAPLAN

(National Assessment Program - Literacy & Numeracy)

TASSO believes NAPLAN is merely a snap-shot of a child's achievement at a point in time. Years 3, 5, 7 or 9 students are measured at the time of sitting the test as to how they are performing in the areas of reading, writing, conventions of language (which consists of spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Remember not everyone performs at their best in a test or examination setting that has time limits.

NAPLAN does not provide an assessment on other aspects of a student's education nor does it consider other factors which may influence the result. NAPLAN is not about passing or failing but rather about measuring progress and alerting teachers and schools to the subjects that may require more work on either an individual, class, whole school and or state level.

TASSO stands firmly by its policy that NAPLAN results should never be used to create league tables which compare school against school and states and territories against one another. Like other organisations and our counterparts in other States and Territories we too see the need for a review of NAPLAN.

2019 will see Tasmanian schools do **NAPLAN Online** (Year 3 Writing will be completed on paper). Unlike previous years when NAPLAN testing was done over a period of 3 days with a catch-up day for students who may have been absent, it will be conducted between the 14th and 24th of May 2019. This extended period will allow for greater flexibility within schools to ensure there is an adequate number of fully charged suitable devices and negate an overload on internet access. The Tasmanian Department of Education completed "readiness testing" in 2018 to identify concerns and allow enough time to address issues that may have arisen.

NAPLAN being Online allows for a tailored test design that automatically adapts to a student's performance and asks questions according to the student's achievement level at the time of sitting the test. Tailored testing allows students to demonstrate what they know and encourages them to stay engaged with the test. Tailored testing also provides teachers and schools access to more targeted and detailed information about a students' performance.

TASSO suggests that parents and carers talk with their children about NAPLAN. Discover together:

- if the child/ren have any concerns,
- if the child/ren have expectations,
- if the school has any expectations.

For more information have a discussion with your child's class teacher, grade leader or Principal. Research shows families engaged in their child's learning can be rewarding, not only for your child but for families and the school.

If you have concerns regarding your school's opinions and actions regarding NAPLAN, then please do not hesitate in contacting TASSO at info@tasso.org.au or calling 6243 7718 Monday to Friday between 8.30 and 4.30

Further information from the Tasmanian Department of Education around the protection of personal information and NAPLAN Online can be found at:

<https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/NAPLAN-online-privacy-notice.pdf>

The links below provide further information from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and includes information about participation, students with disabilities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw53W3KV3KE#action=share>

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support/>

<https://www.nap.edu.au/information/faqs/naplan--participation>

<https://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/FAQs>

Remember that no one student's life is or should be defined by the results of a NAPLAN test, the results of NAPLAN should be used to strengthen a student's future learning.