



## MEMORANDUM

DOC2008/02189  
2007/1531

**TO:** PRINCIPALS  
**FROM:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**DATE:** 14 APRIL 2008  
**RE:** NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY  
SUPPLEMENTARY TESTING

---

As you are aware the *National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) is being implemented for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in Australia for the first time in May 2008. The objective of the testing is to provide nationally consistent data about student achievement.

Unfortunately, the single test at each year level may not provide sufficient diagnostic information for students at the extremes of the achievement range.

In addition to the main 'age for grade' level test, the chief executives of all states and territories have approved a supplementary trial in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Tasmania to determine the success of implementing targeted/off-level testing. That is, as part of a supplementary testing process, students will be allocated a test that will be targeted to their achievement level. For example, a Year 7 student may be given a Year 3, Year 5 or Year 9 NAPLAN test depending on whether they have been identified as a low or high-achieving student.

### **What is the objective of the supplementary test?**

The main aim of the supplementary off-level testing is to provide diagnostic information for students at the extremes of the proficiency scales in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

It is anticipated that tailoring the difficulty of the tests to more closely match student proficiency by identifying a year level test that matches student achievement, will provide more valid student achievement results, improve engagement and lessen guessing in the case of the least proficient students.

Data from off-level testing will provide the most complete data set for use by schools to meet the requirements of the Accountability and Performance Improvement Framework. This data set will assist teachers to personalise learning programs and enable schools and the system to better monitor growth in student learning for the students identified to participate in the supplementary test.

In addition, the off-level testing trial will inform the item development and test construction for the national literacy and numeracy tests in 2009 and beyond.

### **Who will participate?**

Low and high achieving students will be identified to participate in this supplementary national assessment.

- High achieving Year 3 students.
- High and low achieving Year 5 and Year 7 students.
- Low achieving Year 9 students. High achieving Year 9 students will not be included as the Year 9 test should be sufficient to assess these students.
- Lower achieving students in Year 3 will not be included as there is no pre-Year 3 test paper.

Results from the 2006 MAP test will be used as the starting point for identifying students to participate in this trial. Students achieving below benchmark or significantly above the year level cohort in 2006 have been identified and the list of names and current schools is being generated. The total number of students is approximately 3 400.

Schools will shortly be provided with the proposed list of identified students for verification. Based on current teacher assessment, students may be added to or removed from these lists.

As participation in the test will greatly assist both teacher and school with additional data on each student **all** students on the final lists are **required** to participate in the supplementary off-level testing. This trial will also significantly inform future national testing policies and processes. Your assistance is appreciated.

**What will be assessed?**

Reading and Numeracy will be the only test components included in the trial. The Writing test has been constructed as an open-ended task allowing for the full range of students to participate. The marking rubric has been constructed to ensure that this diversity of student achievement can be marked. The Language Conventions test will not be included.

**When will this test take place?**


It is anticipated that tests will be undertaken at your convenience in the week beginning 26 May 2008. The timing of these tests is being coordinated with the main NAPLAN marking and data analysis operations and will enable the construction of 'blended' data sets. Tests, administration materials, and information for teachers and parents will be provided.

**What will be reported?**

Reporting of the data from the main and supplementary 'off-level' tests is outlined below.

	<b>Main test</b>	<b>Supplementary 'off-level' test</b>
<b>Systemic data</b> e.g. National Report on Schooling, all Media.	Sole Source of this level of reporting	To inform 2009 test only – no other use of this data at the systemic level.
<b>School-level data</b> <b>Class-level data</b> <b>Student-level data to school/ teacher</b>	Summary level reports as per Business Intelligence Centre (BIC)	Blended (main and off-level test) data set for additional reports.
<b>Individual student reports to parents</b>	Standardised Student National report	NT version generated and provided to school to include in overall reporting process.

Further detailed information will be provided to you over the next few weeks via the Principals Weekly Update. Any queries can be directed to Ms Ellen Herden, Manager Assessment and Reporting on 8999 3784 or at [ellen.herden@nt.gov.au](mailto:ellen.herden@nt.gov.au).

  
MARGARET BANKS 14.4.08