



SA students have recorded their worst results in the NAPLAN tests since 2008.

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

NAPLAN tests the skills that are necessary for children to progress through school and life.

Certainly, SA's 2011 preliminary results are disappointing.

Preliminary NAPLAN 2011 data was released late last week, revealing that fewer SA students reached benchmarks than most other states.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is comprised of tests in the four domains of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Numeracy
- and Language Conventions.

How Does SA Score?

In 19 of the 20 categories, the percentage of SA students at or above the national minimum standard is below the national average.

In 14 of the 20 categories, SA students performed worse this year than they did last year.

Reading

91.9% of Year 3 students are at or above the national minimum standard.

This is not only below the national average of 93.9%, but the second lowest result in the country.

Writing

2011 saw the introduction of Persuasive Writing. ACARA warns that as the test has changed, results should not be compared to past scores.

Numeracy

In Year 3 Numeracy we are the only state to show a significant decline since 2008.

Language Conventions

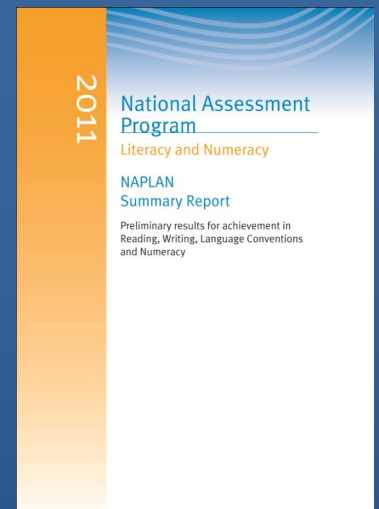
In 2008:

- 90.1% of SA's Year 5 students were at or above the national minimum standard in Spelling.

In 2011:

- This has dropped to 89.6%, falling behind NSW, Victoria and the ACT.

The full 2011 NAPLAN National Report will be published at a later date. Access the preliminary report at www.saasso.asn.au



Since 2008, SAASSO has been voicing parent concerns about SA's declining literacy and numeracy standards; marking it a priority in both our Federal and State 2010 Election Submissions.

In the Term 1, 2011 edition of *School Post*, we reported on the PISA results - the international literacy & numeracy tests; which also revealed SA's disappointing performance, compared with the rest of Australia.

