

Schools demonstrating substantially above average gain

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for Australia's national reporting program, including the *My School* website. The *My School* website is updated annually with the previous year's NAPLAN results.

For several years, ACARA has released information on schools demonstrating substantially above average gain in student reading and/or numeracy achievement, as measured by NAPLAN, as students progress from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 7 to Year 9. Gains of this magnitude are significant and worthy of acknowledgement.

School leaders in schools with above average gain can talk about how they have achieved these gains to help other schools learn from them. For example, an improvement in reading or numeracy may be a direct consequence of a new school-based literacy or numeracy initiative.

Identifying substantially above average gain

My School presents gain in student achievement in three ways:

- I. overall gain compared to previous years; and
- II. gain compared to schools with similar students, based on the index of community socio-educational advantage (ICSEA) level; and
- III. gain compared to other students at the same average NAPLAN starting score.

Identified high gain schools have demonstrated substantial improvement in reading and/or numeracy as follows:

1. an overall gain that exceeds the national average by more than one standard deviation; and
2. an overall gain higher than schools with similar ICSEA levels, by more than one standard deviation; and
3. an overall gain higher than that shown by students with the same NAPLAN starting score, also by more than one standard deviation.

In addition, to ensure diverse representation of schools within each state and territory and across ICSEA levels, a few schools that have not met all three criteria, but nonetheless have shown gains that are significantly above average in reading and numeracy, were also identified.

To ensure reliable identification, all identified schools had to have matched NAPLAN results for at least 15 students. For more information, [contact ACARA](#).