

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority

DEEWR Question No. EW0860_13

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

NAPLAN withdrawal rates Australia-wide

An article, "Stressed kids miss tests: NAPLAN boycotts" by Jessica Marszalek, appeared on page 10 of the Herald Sun on Saturday 24 November 2012. Citing research and analysis by economist Trevor Cobbold, the article indicated that, in relation to 2012 NAPLAN testing, 11 schools in Victoria had student withdrawal rates over 75%, four Victorian schools had withdrawal rates of 50-75% and 11 Victorian schools had 25-50% withdrawal rates.

a) How many schools Australia-wide had over 50% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2012?

Could the following information please be provided in table form for each school (excluding Victorian schools):

- i. Name of school
- ii. Number of students who withdrew from testing
- iii. Percentage of students who withdrew from testing
- iv. Any reasons provided by the school for withdrawals

b) How many schools Australia-wide had 25-50% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2012?

i. Could this please be broken down in a table by State, showing State Schools and non-State Schools?

c) The article above indicated 80 Victorian schools had 10-25% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2012. How many schools Australia-wide had 10-25% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2012?

Could this please be broken down in a table by State, showing State Schools and non-State Schools?

Answer

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority has provided the following response.

Student withdrawals are initiated at the parent/carer's request, and there is no requirement for a reason to be provided. Test Administration Authorities in states and territories each have their own process for managing withdrawals. ACARA does not request or receive qualitative information on this process or reasons for withdrawal. Reasons can include, but are not limited to, philosophical or religious objections to testing.

The article by Mr Trevor Cobbold, available at www.saveourschools.com.au/league-tables/many-schools-have-high-withdrawal-rates-from-naplan, which draws on 2011 data from the *My School* website, is understood to be the basis for the claims about numbers of schools in the media article and consequently the comparison information provided below is 2011 data.

ACARA has undertaken an analysis of the 2011 withdrawal data published on *My School* based on participation in the Reading test.¹ Participation data, including percentages withdrawn, are determined on a year level basis, not a school basis. Consequently, depending on which year level is considered, some schools may be represented more than once within or across the tables below. Withdrawal data are presented below by year level, as on the *My School* website for 2011.

a) How many schools Australia-wide had over 50% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2011²?

- 46 including Victoria
- 33 not including Victoria

Could the following information please be provided in table form for each school (excluding Victorian schools):

- i. **Name of school**
- ii. **Number of students who withdrew from testing**
- iii. **Percentage of students who withdrew from testing**
- iv. **Any reasons provided by the school for withdrawals**

Jurisdiction, School, Year level	% Withdrawn	# Withdrawn
ACT		
Orana Steiner School Year3	89	50
NSW		
Aetaomah School Year3	100	12
Blue Mountains Steiner School Year3	100	6
Central Coast Rudolf Steiner School Year7	58	11
Currumbena School Year3	100	12
Currumbena School Year5	100	7
Forestville Montessori School Year3	55	12
Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School Year7	68	23
Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School Year3	100	30

¹ Participation data for the Reading test are broadly similar to participation data for the Numeracy, Language Conventions and Writing tests.

² Given the basis of the question relates to 2011 NAPLAN results, comparisons provided here are also based on 2011 NAPLAN results.

Jurisdiction, School, Year level	% Withdrawn	# Withdrawn
Kindlehill School		
Year3	100	8
Lorien Novalis School for Rudolf Steiner Education		
Year5	67	18
Year7	50	12
Sutherland Shire Montessori School		
Year7	100	4
The Newcastle Rudolf Steiner School		
Year3	100	12
Year5	100	13
Year7	100	12
Year9	100	8
NT		
Milkwood Steiner School		
Year3	100	8
The Alice Springs Steiner School		
Year3	100	16
QLD		
Kulpi State School		
Year5	100	1
Australian Christian College - Moreton		
Year5	51	54
Brisbane Independent School		
Year3	100	2
Candlenut Steiner School		
Year3	100	22
Jubilee Christian College		
Year3	72	50
Year5	71	50
Year7	62	36
Year9	55	35
Kimberley College		
Year9	68	102
Maridahdi Early Childhood Community School		
Year3	100	13
Year5	100	7
Noosa Pengari Steiner School		
Year3	81	21
Pine Community School		
Year3	100	3
SA		
Kirinari Community School Inc		
Year3	100	5
Year5	100	4
Year7	86	6

Jurisdiction, School, Year level	% Withdrawn	# Withdrawn
Mount Barker Waldorf School		
Year3	100	23
Year7	70	21
Willunga Waldorf School		
Year7	50	10
Year9	59	16
TAS		
Cape Barren Island School		
Year3	100	1
WA		
Child Side School		
Year5	100	2
Golden Hill Steiner School		
Year5	100	5
Kids Open Learning School		
Year3	75	3
Perth Waldorf School		
Year3	100	28
The Silver Tree Steiner School		
Year3	100	8
Yallingup Steiner School		
Year3	100	7
Year5	100	10

b) How many schools Australia-wide had 25-50% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2011?

- 70 schools including Victorian schools
- 55 schools not including Victorian schools

Could this please be broken down in a table by State, showing State Schools and non-State Schools?

- The following table is based on schools that had ≥ 25 , $< 50\%$ of students withdrawn in 2011 in one or more NAPLAN year levels, not for the school overall, as presented on *My School*.

State	Non-Government	Government	Total
ACT	1	1	2
NSW	11	3	14
QLD	7	13	20
SA	2	14	16
VIC	6	9	15
WA	2	1	3
Total	29	41	70

c) The article above indicated 80 Victorian schools had 10-25% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2011. How many schools Australia-wide had 10-25% of students withdraw from NAPLAN in 2011?

- 382 schools including Victorian schools
- 256 schools not including Victorian schools

Could this please be broken down in a table by State, showing State Schools and non-State Schools?

- The following table is based on schools that had ≥ 10 , $< 25\%$ of students withdrawn in 2011 in one or more NAPLAN year levels, not for the school overall, as presented on *My School*.

State	Non-government	Government	Total
ACT	3	12	15
NSW	13	44	57
NT	2	2	4
QLD	16	55	71
SA	7	66	73
TAS	6	5	11
VIC	33	93	126
WA	8	17	25
Total	88	294	382