

**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. EW0859\_13**

**Senator Mason provided in writing.**

**Question**

**NAPLAN withdrawal rates in Victorian schools**

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%,
  - 4 Victorian schools had withdrawal rates of 50-75% and
  - 11 Victorian schools had 25-50% withdrawal rates.
- a) Please provide the following information for each of the schools included in the above statistics (26 schools total) in tabular form:
- 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

**Answer**

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

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.

The article by Mr Trevor Cobbold, available at [www.saveourschools.com.au/league-tables/many-schools-have-high-withdrawal-rates-from-naplan](http://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 claims about numbers of schools in the media article.

ACARA has undertaken an analysis of the 2011 withdrawal data published on *My School* based on participation in the Reading<sup>1</sup> test. Depending on which year level is considered, some schools may be represented more than once within or across the tables below. ACARA's data do not accord with Mr Cobbold's analysis, for which no methodology was available.

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<sup>1</sup> Participation rates across domains (Reading, Numeracy, Writing and Language Conventions) are fairly similar.

**Table 1:  $\geq 75\%$  withdrawn**

Based on data available on *My School* for 2011 Reading for Victorian schools, not including special schools:

School	% Withdrawn	# Withdrawn
<b>1 Ballarat Steiner School</b>		
Year3	100	4
Year5	100	7
<b>2 Castlemaine Steiner School</b>		
Year7	100	17
<b>3 Caulfield Park Community School</b>		
Year7	100	1
<b>4 Christmas Hills Primary School</b>		
Year3	100	1
<b>5 Dandenong Ranges Steiner School</b>		
Year3	94	15
Year5	100	6
<b>6 Ghilgai School</b>		
Year3	100	16
Year5	100	9
<b>7 Learning Cooperative Ltd</b>		
Year3	100	2
Year5	100	1
<b>8 Little Yarra Steiner School</b>		
Year3	100	24
<b>9 Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School</b>		
Year3	100	28
Year5	100	30
<b>10 Spensley Street Primary School</b>		
Year3	83	49
Year5	78	36

**Table 2:  $\geq 50, < 75\%$  withdrawn**

Based on data available on *My School* for 2011 Reading for Victorian schools, not including special schools:

School	% Withdrawn	# Withdrawn
<b>1 East Bentleigh Primary School</b>		
Year3	65	24
<b>2 Mansfield Rudolf Steiner School</b>		
Year3	50	5
<b>3 Sophia Mundi Rudolf Steiner School</b>		
Year7	61	11

**Table 3:  $\geq 25$ ,  $< 50\%$  withdrawn**

Based on 2011 Reading data for Victorian schools, not including special schools

School	% Withdrawn	# Withdrawn
<b>1 Candlebark</b>		
Year5	31	4
<b>2 Castlemaine Primary School</b>		
Year3	25	7
<b>3 Charles La Trobe P-12 College</b>		
Year9	47	21
<b>4 Chum Creek Primary School</b>		
Year3	33	3
<b>5 Eaglehawk Primary School</b>		
Year3	25	4
<b>6 Freshwater Creek Steiner School</b>		
Year5	42	5
<b>7 Jeparit Primary School</b>		
Year5	25	2
<b>8 Leitchville Primary School</b>		
Year5	29	2
<b>9 Mornington Park Primary School</b>		
Year3	35	7
Year5	25	6
<b>10 Preshil - The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School</b>		
Year5	48	11
Year7	32	8
Year9	30	13
<b>11 Sophia Mundi Rudolf Steiner School</b>		
Year9	31	5
<b>12 St Aloysius' School</b>		
Year3	33	10
<b>13 Sydney Road Community School</b>		
Year7	43	3
Year9	27	3
<b>14 Village School Inc</b>		
Year5	40	6
<b>15 Woolum Bellum College a Koorie Pathways School</b>		
Year9	27	3