

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Department of Education Question No. ED0613_15

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2014 , Hansard page 29

Question

ACARA - standards of states and territories

Mr Randall: You are talking about New South Wales department schools. We would be having a conversation with the New South Wales department about their transition strategy and about whether they were going to move all of their schools in one year or whether they were going to do a three-year transition. Then we might have the question of whether they have a live connection or whether we are caching it. If I go back to your Copacabana example, on what we currently know about it, for their numeracy and their reading results, they would get that information. They would have some information as soon as the kids have completed the assessment. I do not mean individual kids; we would wait for all of them. The writing assessment was the point that Dr Rabinowitz talked about. We are looking to have that marked online. Depending on the connection, that may have to be something that is uploaded, then marked, and then returned. That is the caveat, Senator, to a complete answer.

Senator O'NEILL: If you could give me in writing who is going to get the pen and paper tests.

Mr Randall: I would not be able to give you that. I can give you the standards that we are talking about.

Answer

ACARA has provided the following response.

The following requirements have been identified as minimum technical standards for states and territories to meet regarding NAPLAN online:

- minimum screen size of 25.4cm (9.5 inches)
- minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels
- a physical keyboard for tablets (on-screen keyboards reduce the screen real-estate available for the display of test items)
- headphones or earphones
- appropriate networking for the applicable classroom (wired Ethernet or WiFi)
- operating system version that is current at the time of new purchase and that the vendor will continue to support
- web browser that is current at the time of purchase (IE, Firefox, Chrome, Safari) with JavaScript enabled.

Older devices may be supported if they meet the minimum devices specification when it is developed. However, the minimum screen size, resolution and need for a physical keyboard and headphone would also apply to those devices.

This information is publically available at www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/technical-requirements.html.