

Appendix A:

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the Department of Education, and we considered its views when reaching our audit conclusions. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to that agency and asked for its submission and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the agency head.

Responses received

Agency	Page
Department of Education	A-2

Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Education



Department of Education

Secretary

2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone +61 3 9637 2000

COR24136381

Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General
Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Dear Mr Greaves

Proposed report on Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Outcomes for Victorian Students

Thank you for providing the proposed report on *Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Outcomes for Victorian Students*.

The Department of Education is committed to improving literacy and numeracy achievement outcomes for all Victorian government school students and welcomes recommendations that might lead to further improvements.

I'm pleased that the report acknowledges that there are areas where student learning outcomes have clearly improved since 2012. Data published by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) shows that Victorian schools have a consistent record over the past decade of lifting literacy achievement levels. Victoria's performance in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 has demonstrably improved over the decade to 2022 in all NAPLAN literacy domains (reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and punctuation). In 2023, Victorian students achieved the highest NAPLAN scores in the country, with Victoria ranked first or second on 16 of the 20 NAPLAN domains.

The department acknowledges that there is still work needed to lift numeracy achievement, and literacy and numeracy outcomes for disadvantaged and Koorie students. These are challenges being experienced by school systems right across Australia and the department is committed to pursuing evidence-based strategies to drive improvements in these areas.

The department has reviewed the proposed report and has attached an action plan to address the recommendations in the report.

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address



Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Education – continued

Should you wish to discuss department's response, please contact [REDACTED], A/Executive Director, Assurance, Knowledge, and Executive Services on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Jenny Atta
Secretary
25/03/2024

Encl.: The department's action plan

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address



Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Education – *continued*

DE action plan: Literacy and Numeracy Achievement Outcomes for Victorian Students

#	Recommendations: That DE:	Response	#	The Department will:	By:
1	Redefine literacy for reporting purposes so that student achievement in reading and writing is presented.	Accept	1	Re-define its definition of literacy to include Writing in addition to Reading.	June 2025
2	Review its performance measures for Budget Paper 3 so that they align fully with its strategic objectives and the Department of Treasury and Finance's Resource Management Framework.	Accept	2	Review 2024-25 measures to ensure continued alignment with the requirements of the Resource Management Framework. The department completed a full-scale review of the performance statement for 2023-24 which included revising objectives, objective indicators and performance measures to better reflect the Resource Management Framework.	December 2024
3	Make the NAPLAN outcomes for Victorian government school students and student subgroups available to the public in easy to understand and accessible formats. Such reporting should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be available from the department's public website • present, in a simple graphic format, changes over time in students' reading, writing and numeracy NAPLAN proficiency levels so that viewers understand outcomes for all government school students, as well as Aboriginal student and students experiencing disadvantage • to the extent possible, meet disability accessibility requirements for web-based reporting. 	Accept in principle	3	Provide advice to government on publishing government school NAPLAN data pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation with Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority and non-government school sectors to seek agreement on publishing of NAPLAN results by sector • the reporting requirements around NAPLAN arising from the new National School Reform Agreement • development of a methodology to adjust for socioeconomic disadvantage. 	August 2025