

AUSTRALIA

MY SCHOOL

PARENT DATA GUIDE

AIRBOTIX FAMILY GUIDES

# How to read Australian school rankings

## My School, ICSEA and NAPLAN parent guide

Don't copy a school list first. See what the My School data can answer first, then put district, support, commute and school confirmation back into the same parent comparison table.

Verified July 2026 edition

K-12 parents comparing Australian schools to new immigrant families



# 01

## Quick answer: Ranking search can be the entrance, but it cannot be the conclusion.

It is normal for parents to search for "Sydney public school rankings" and "Melbourne primary school rankings", but a general ranking from high to low cannot answer these key questions for you:

- Whether your address falls within the school's intake area, catchment or zone;
- Whether the school must accept local students and how to handle non-local applications;
- How to arrange the EAL/D, learning support, extension or wellbeing support that the child needs;
- Is the OSHC location available and is daily door-to-door commuting sustainable;
- Which year does the school's public data come from, how many students are there, and whether there are large statistical errors;
- After the home visit, whether the child can study and live stably in this environment.

The correct sequence is: **Confirm admission qualifications first, then read public data, then verify child support and family implementation costs, and finally confirm with the school what is still unknown.**

My School is a national school information portal provided by ACARA. It is suitable for checking basic school information, student and staff information, NAPLAN, financial and school public documents; it is not an enrollment offer, nor does it determine state-level school districts.

Official entry point: [My School](#) ↗ · [My School FAQs](#) ↗

# 02

## Which parts of the My School page should I look at first?

When opening a school profile for the first time, don't jump straight to a single NAPLAN number. Save evidence in the following order:

- **School profile:** school type, year levels, sector, address, student size and basic background;
- **Student background:** SEA quarters and student group background, used to understand cohort, not used to label children or families;
- **NAPLAN:** Outcomes and progress in reading, writing, language norms and numeracy, noting year, grade, number of participants and comparison group;
- **Attendance:** Check the public definition and applicable year, do not directly interpret a single ratio as teaching quality;
- **Finance:** To understand the public information on income and expenses, read the official financial data explanation first;
- **School links/documents:** Continue to open the school official website, annual report, policies, curriculum, support and enrollment pages.

When saving, record: school name, page URL, query date, data year, fields you see and questions that still require explanation from the school. The screenshots don't have a query date, so it's hard to tell if they're still valid months later.

# 03

## ICSEA is a background index, not a school quality score

The full name of ICSEA is **Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage**. It describes the socio-educational advantage background that a school's student body brings to the learning environment. The calculation takes into account factors such as parent education and occupation, school location, and Indigenous student proportion.

Four boundaries must be remembered:

- ICSEA is **not** a rating of schools, teachers, programs or facilities;
- ICSEA is **not** a student's academic performance, nor is it a school's wealth;
- A higher value indicates a higher average socio-educational advantage for the student group, which does not mean the school is "better";
- It mainly helps My School establish statistically similar background comparisons to make NAPLAN interpretation fairer.

My School FAQ Description ICSEA has a national mean benchmark of 1000 and a standard deviation of 100. Parents don't need to rank schools from high to low on ICSEA themselves; what is really useful is understanding why the "similar student" comparison exists and whether school results show stable trends over multiple years.

Official explanation: [Technical and statistical information](#) ↗

# 04

## What NAPLAN can and cannot explain

NAPLAN tests reading, writing, conventions of language and numeracy. Officials make it clear: NAPLAN is only part of school evaluation and reporting and cannot replace ongoing teacher evaluation, and the results do not measure the overall quality of the school.

### What can it be used for?

- Discuss with teachers the child's strengths and areas in need of support in literacy/numeracy;
- View the school's public performance in different areas and years;
- Read school results combined with similar background, participation ratio and confidence interval;
- Look at multiple years and multiple fields instead of just taking a screenshot of the highest number.

### What can't be launched directly?

- It cannot prove that a certain teacher or a certain teaching program is necessarily better;
- Cannot cover arts, sports, scientific inquiry, wellbeing, creativity, collaboration and school culture;
- Your child's future performance cannot be predicted based on the average score in a single year;
- cohort size, participation ratio and measurement error cannot be ignored;
- Data from 2008–2022 and after 2023 cannot be directly connected into the same trend line. Time series have been reset with new proficiency standards starting in 2023.

Official entry point: [NAPLAN](#) ↗ · [Results, reports and performance FAQs](#) ↗

# 05

## Five-column school comparison table

Fill out the same form for each candidate school. Blank spaces are “needs to verify”, do not fill them in with group chat impressions.

Comparison column	What to record	Official starting point	What cannot be replaced	Next steps for parents
Admission eligibility/school zone evidence	Full address, year of inquiry, local/zoned school, application status	State education department School Finder / zone tool	Property ads, postcode, old screenshots	Save results and confirm with school
Public data	My School year, ICSEA/SEA, NAPLAN, size, public documents	My School / ACARA	Self-made rankings, admission predictions	Record trends, errors and unknown items
Child support	EAL/D, learning support, extension, wellness, transition	Official state department and school pages	“I heard the school is very demanding/very loose”	Send a structured list of questions to the school
Household execution cost	Door-to-door time, pick-up, OSHC, fees, alternate routes	Transportation, provider, school	Map ideal time	Measured once by worst working day
School confirmation still required	enrollment, orientation, support, communication, vacancy	School enrollment/contact	My School data	Record contacts, responses and dates

When comparing, do not collapse the five columns into a total score. The most critical condition for one family may be local enrollment certainty, for another it may be EAL support, accessibility support or afternoon pick-up.

# 06

## Actual inquiry process for parents

### **Step 1: Start with your address and year of enrollment**

Open your state's official school district tool, select the correct school year and level, and enter your complete address. Save query results and date. My School is not responsible for determining whether this address belongs to the school.

### **Step 2: Create a public data card in My School**

Only copy the same fields for each candidate school to avoid looking for the advantages of a school you like and only looking at the disadvantages of an unfamiliar school. Record at least profile, cohort, NAPLAN year, similar background view and school official website link.

### **Step 3: Open the school's own information**

Check enrollment, annual report, curriculum, student support, EAL/D, wellbeing, OSHC, transition/orientation and contact. If you can't find it, it means you need to ask a question. It doesn't mean the school doesn't have it.

### **Step 4: Actual family day test**

Measure morning and evening door-to-door routes on a real working day, adding parking, walking, public transport delays, OSHC opening hours and a second pick-up person. No matter how good the school data is, it is not a sustainable option for families to be unable to implement it in the long term.

### **Step 5: Contact the school with questions**

- Which enrollment path should we take for our address and target year?
- How does the school identify and support EAL/D, learning difficulty, disability or high-potential needs?
- How to arrange Foundation/Kindergarten/Prep/Reception transition?

# 07

## What entrance should be changed in the four cities?

The national definition is the same, but the state-level systems must be separated:

- **Brisbane / Queensland:** EdMap, School Enrolment Management Plan, Prep and Queensland enrollment;
- **Sydney / NSW:** School Finder, intake area, local/non-local enrollment, Kindergarten, EAL/D;
- **Melbourne / Victoria:** Find My School, placement policy, Foundation, EAL and transition;
- **Adelaide / South Australia:** school zone/catchment, Reception, School Card, EALD and mid-year intake.

Do not copy query results or terms from one state to another. The city version also adds real commutes, OSHC providers, local school contacts and query dates.

# 08

## Common Mistakes and Save List

- Not treating ICSEA as a school quality or wealth score
- Does not consider single-year NAPLAN average scores as full school performance
- No direct comparison of NAPLAN time series from 2022 to 2023 onward
- Viewed number of participants, year, similar background and confidence information
- School districts identified using state tools, not property ads
- Child support, transition and communication verified with school
- OSHC, fees and commuting have been verified as independent criteria
- Record query date for every screenshot, reply and decision

When you see the third-party "Top 100", first ask: which year, which year level, which domain the data comes from, whether small samples are excluded, whether ICSEA is used as a ranking, and whether the school district and child support are stated. If you can't answer it, don't let it decide whether to move or enroll in school.

# 09

## Source, update time and disclaimer

This guide was verified on **2026-07-11 (AEST)** following the official entrance:

- [My School](#) ↗
- [My School FAQs](#) ↗
- [My School technical and statistical information](#) ↗
- [NAPLAN](#) ↗
- [NAPLAN results, reports and performance FAQs](#) ↗
- [NAPLAN proficiency level descriptions](#) ↗

School data, admissions rules, districts, support programs and OSHC change. Before applying, signing a contract or moving, you must return to the official page of the corresponding state education department and school to re-verify. This material provides general information only and does not constitute educational, legal, immigration, financial, real estate or admissions advice.

# 10

## About Airbotix Family Guides

Airbotix Family Guides organize parent questions into verifiable inquiry paths and action lists. We do not publish school rankings, nor do we promise that our courses will affect school admissions.

After choosing a school, if you want to compare extracurricular activities, you can continue to use the same method: what the child actually does, what work can be shown, whether the weekly time is sustainable, and how the teacher provides feedback. Airbotix's Story Blocks, Creative Code Studio and Kids OpenCode course information is subject to the current page of the official website.

## NEXT STEP

# The data returns to the official entrance and the decision is returned to your family

For definitions of My School and NAPLAN, return to the official ACARA page; for state-level enrollment and school districts, check the corresponding city guide; for inquiries about courses and activities, please contact Rain.

[hello@airbotix.ai](mailto:hello@airbotix.ai)

### WEBSITE

#### Airbotix Resources

View more Family Guides organized by city and family stage.



[airbotix.ai/resources](https://airbotix.ai/resources) ↗

### SALES

#### Contact Rain

Scan the QR code to add Airbotix Sales WeChat to inquire about courses, activities and cooperation; Rain does not provide school rankings or admission judgments.



[Rain - Sales WeChat](#) ↗

### SOURCE

#### My School official entrance

Check public school profiles, background information, NAPLAN and financial data.



[myschool.edu.au](https://myschool.edu.au) ↗