



## Basic Skills Test

Information sheet for parents and caregivers

The Basic Skills Test is for all students in Years 3 and 5 and is held in August each year. It consists of a literacy and numeracy component. The literacy component covers reading, language use and identifying correct punctuation and spelling. The numeracy component covers number, measurement and space.

Year 3 tests take approximately 100 minutes and Year 5 tests take approximately 120 minutes. There are rest periods between sections. Large print and Braille versions of the test are available for students who are registered as visually impaired.

If your child has been educated in English for less than one year or has a disability which needs special consideration, you should discuss whether your child should do the test with your child's teacher.

The information gathered from the test will be used for assessing and reporting student achievement in literacy and numeracy. Any personal information provided by a student may be corrected at any time by contacting the School Assessment and Reporting Directorate on: (02) 9707 6215.

The results of the test provide information about what each student can do and indicate where any student may need help.

At the beginning of term 4 each child's parent or caregiver receives their child's personal report. This report describes the overall skill level achieved in literacy and numeracy and shows how this compares with the overall performance of students in New South Wales. It also describes in detail the particular skills in reading, language and numeracy demonstrated by the child.

The information you receive as a result of your child's participation in the Basic Skills Tests is valuable in helping you assess your child's progress in English literacy and numeracy.

The confidentiality of your child's results is safeguarded by New South Wales legislation which prohibits the publication of results of particular individuals. The legislation also prevents the results of schools being publicly revealed in any way that ranks or otherwise compares the results of particular schools.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the test or the report with your child's teacher, telephone the school to make an appointment for a meeting. If you need an interpreter to assist you to make the appointment, telephone the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and they will phone the school for you. The school will arrange to have an on-site interpreter present at the meeting, if requested. These services will be free of charge to you.