



Reporting the results

NMSSA uses a variety of reporting methods to reach a wide audience in education and the community. Some of the tasks used in the study will be made available for general classroom use. Others are reserved for future monitoring, so that trends in performance can be measured and reported.

All published reports and summaries of findings are available on the NMSSA website at:

<http://nmssa.otago.ac.nz>

Learning Areas:		Assessed in	Reported in
• English: writing	• Science	2012	2013
• Mathematics & Statistics	• Health & Phys Ed	2013	2014
• English: reading	• Social Studies	2014	2015
• English: listening & viewing	• The Arts	2015	2016
• Learning Languages	• Technology	2016	2017
• Health & Phys Ed	• Science	2017	2018
• Mathematics & Statistics	• Social Studies	2018	2019

The Educational Assessment Research Unit (EARU) of the University of Otago College of Education, in collaboration with the New Zealand Council for Educational Research (NZCER), have been contracted by the Ministry of Education to run the study.

The study is overseen by a Ministry of Education steering group and study board. It is supported by Māori, Pasifika, Special Education and Technical reference groups and curriculum advisory panels. Wide consultation takes account of professional and community interests.

Nov 2017



NMSSA 2018

Information for schools, parents, whānau and caregivers



National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement, Educational Assessment Research Unit,
University of Otago, Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
email: nmssa@otago.ac.nz • tel: 0800 808 561 • fax: 03 479 7550
web: <http://nmssa.otago.ac.nz>

New Zealand Government

2018 Focus:
• Mathematics & Statistics
• Social Studies



Wānangatia te putanga taurua
National Monitoring Study
of Student Achievement



PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES AND INTENTIONS

The purpose of the National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement (NMSSA) is to get a broad picture of student achievement in New Zealand. It does this by assessing nationally representative samples of New Zealand school students at successive points in time so that:

- trends in educational performance can be identified and reported;
- factors that influence student achievement can be identified and reported;
- good information is available to assist policy makers, curriculum specialists and educators with their planning;
- the public has more information about trends in educational achievement.

Focus on national change over time

The focus is on growth in educational achievement across time at a *national* level. National monitoring does not produce information about individual students, teachers or schools.

Recognises identity, language and culture

The study is designed to recognise and take account of the influence of identity, language and culture, gender and ability. There is a focus on reporting on progress for key population groups of Māori and Pasifika students, and students with special education needs.

Assesses a broad range of achievements

A range of knowledge, skills and understandings, representative of the aims, intentions and objectives of the New Zealand Curriculum are assessed to give a full picture of student achievement.

Understands students' achievement

As well as achievement data, the study collects information about motivation and attitudes, learning experiences and learning environments, from students, teachers and principals. This information helps us to better understand the factors that influence student achievement.

Best practice

The best of existing assessment practice combined with innovative approaches informs the development and design of the assessment tasks to ensure robust information is gathered.

Involves practising teachers

Teachers are involved in the development, trialling and administration of tasks, and in the marking of student responses. This means that national monitoring is grounded in good teaching practice and the professional skills developed during the study are taken back into schools.

Information used for improvement

NMSSA provides trustworthy information to help policy makers and schools plan for greater achievement and success for all learners.

WHO, WHAT, HOW

Which schools and students?

Each year 200 schools are randomly selected from throughout New Zealand to participate in NMSSA. A group of students from each school is then randomly selected to participate in the assessments, a total of about 5,000 students nationally. Consent to participate is sought from the principals of the school and the parents of the selected students. Year 4 and year 8 students are the focus of NMSSA assessment with some year 6 students also involved.

What is assessed?

In 2018, the focus is on mathematics and statistics, and social studies.

How is the information collected?

A range of approaches are used to gather assessment information. For example, computer-based tasks, paper and pencil assessments, performance activities, interviews and questionnaires. The assessment tasks are designed to be appropriate, meaningful and engaging for students and relevant to the learning areas being assessed in the context of NMSSA.

How long do the assessments take?

It takes each student up to 4 hours over 2½ days to complete the tasks.

Who conducts the assessments?

The assessments are conducted by experienced teachers specially trained to support students with the activities.