

2022 phonics screening check summary

The phonics screening check is administered to all year 1 students in South Australian public schools.

It is a short, simple assessment of 40 words. It helps teachers measure how well students are learning to decode and blend letters into sounds. Words at the beginning of the check are the simplest and then become increasingly complex.

Key findings

The 2022 data shows consistent performance for all student cohorts when compared with 2021 results.

- 68% of year 1 students scored at or above the expected achievement score (decoding 28 words or more out of 40). This is an improvement of 1 percentage point from 2021.
- 69% of females scored at or above the expected achievement score compared to 67% of males.
- 40% of Aboriginal students scored at or above the expected achievement score. This is an improvement of 2 percentage points from 2021.
- 41% of students with a verified disability scored at or above the expected achievement score. This is an improvement of 4 percentage points from 2021.
- 71% of students identified as speaking English as an additional language or dialect scored at or above the expected achievement score. This is consistent with 2021.
- 70% of students from metropolitan schools scored at or above the expected achievement compared to 62% from non-metropolitan schools. This is a reduction of 1 percentage point for students from metropolitan schools and an improvement of 4 percentage points for students from non-metropolitan schools.
- In schools serving the most disadvantaged communities, 41% of students scored at or above the expected achievement compared to 74% of students in schools serving the least disadvantaged communities. Encouragingly, the achievement gap between schools in the most and least disadvantaged schools reduced by 6 percentage points.

Participation

The 2022 the phonics screening check was implemented between 8 August and 2 September.

- 421 schools administered the check.
- 12,774 year 1 students actively took part (from 13,222 student records).



Teacher professional learning

Over 1400 teachers and school leaders attended online professional learning for the phonics screening check.

Teachers were provided with resources to ensure they can respond to the results of the check and design learning for students. The resources are built on and enhanced each year.

Support provided to schools

Schools were provided with temporary relief teacher days for each year 1 teacher. The release time allows teachers to:

- attend professional learning
- implement the check with students
- respond to the results.

Responding to the results

The department uses the results to:

- identify students who are struggling in learning to read
- support schools to teach and assess phonics in schools
- improve reading and literacy for students throughout their schooling
- ensure that parents and the wider community are confident about the teaching of reading in schools.

Expected achievement score

In 2018 expert advice was engaged to map words in the phonics screening check to the Australian Curriculum. It was advised it is reasonable to expect year 1 students to decode 28 out of 40 words in the check.

Historical comparative findings

- There has been a cumulative improvement of 25 percentage points from 2018 when only 43% of students were able to correctly decode 28 words or more.
- Students unable to decode any of the words correctly remains steady at 2% (275 students).

See the department's [phonics screening check webpage](#) for more information.