



## Information sheet for parents and caregivers about the **Essential Secondary Science Assessment**

The Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) is for all students in Year 8 and is held in late November each year. It is a diagnostic test that will provide information about what your child knows and can do in science. Tasks in the test are framed on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the NSW *Science Years 7–10 Syllabus*.

Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas using a variety of strategies.

The test takes approximately 80 minutes. It contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks. It also includes a survey about students' attitudes to the test, science and their learning of science.

The confidentiality of each student'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 a way that ranks or compares the results of particular schools. Additionally, information provided by students about their language base, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background and survey responses are treated confidentially to ensure that all students' right to privacy is maintained.

If your child has a disability that needs special consideration or has been educated in English for less than one year, please contact your child's school to discuss special provisions or possible exemption from the test. Special provisions will be provided for students with documented learning support. For example, large print and Braille versions of the test are available for students who are registered as visually impaired.

Results of the test will be available near the end of Term 1 in the year following the test. A personal report prepared for each student will describe the scientific knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test. There will also be information about how the student's results compare with overall performance of all students in the test.

The principal of your child's school will be able to provide you with more information concerning ESSA should you require any additional information. If you need an interpreter to assist you to make an appointment, call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and they will phone the school for you. The school may arrange to have an on-site interpreter present at the meeting, if available. These services will be free of charge to you.