

Our plans are working - Literacy levels at an all time high

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The new statewide test results released today show NSW student literacy levels are at a new record high.

Literacy standards for NSW students in Years 7 and 8 remain amongst the highest in the world.

This year, Years 7 and 8 boys and girls have recorded their best ever results in literacy.

The OECD recently found NSW students have the second highest levels of literacy in the world, behind only Finland and ahead of the major developed nations.

These record results demonstrate the worth of our *State Literacy Plan 2006-2008* and the success of the traditional and rigorous NSW curriculum.

More than 148,000 students sat the compulsory Year 7 English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) tests and the voluntary Year 8 re-test.

Other highlights of the 2007 ELLA results include:

- Average scores for Writing Year 7 (89.0) and Year 8 (90.8) are the highest ever achieved;
- Average scores for Reading Year 7 (89.0) and Year 8 (91.4) are the highest ever achieved;
- Average scores for Language Year 7 (89.1) and Year 8 (90.9) are the highest ever achieved;
- The percentages of Year 7 students in the High achievement level for Overall Literacy (35.0) and Language (38.6) are the highest ever achieved;
- The percentages of Year 8 students in the High achievement level for Overall Literacy (45.6), Writing (44.7) and Language (46.5) are the highest ever achieved;
- The percentages of students in the Low achievement level for Reading in both Year 7 (3.6) and Year 8 (2.0) are the lowest ever recorded; and
- The percentages of students in the Low achievement level for Overall Literacy in both Year 7 (3.7) and Year 8 (2.3) are the lowest ever recorded.