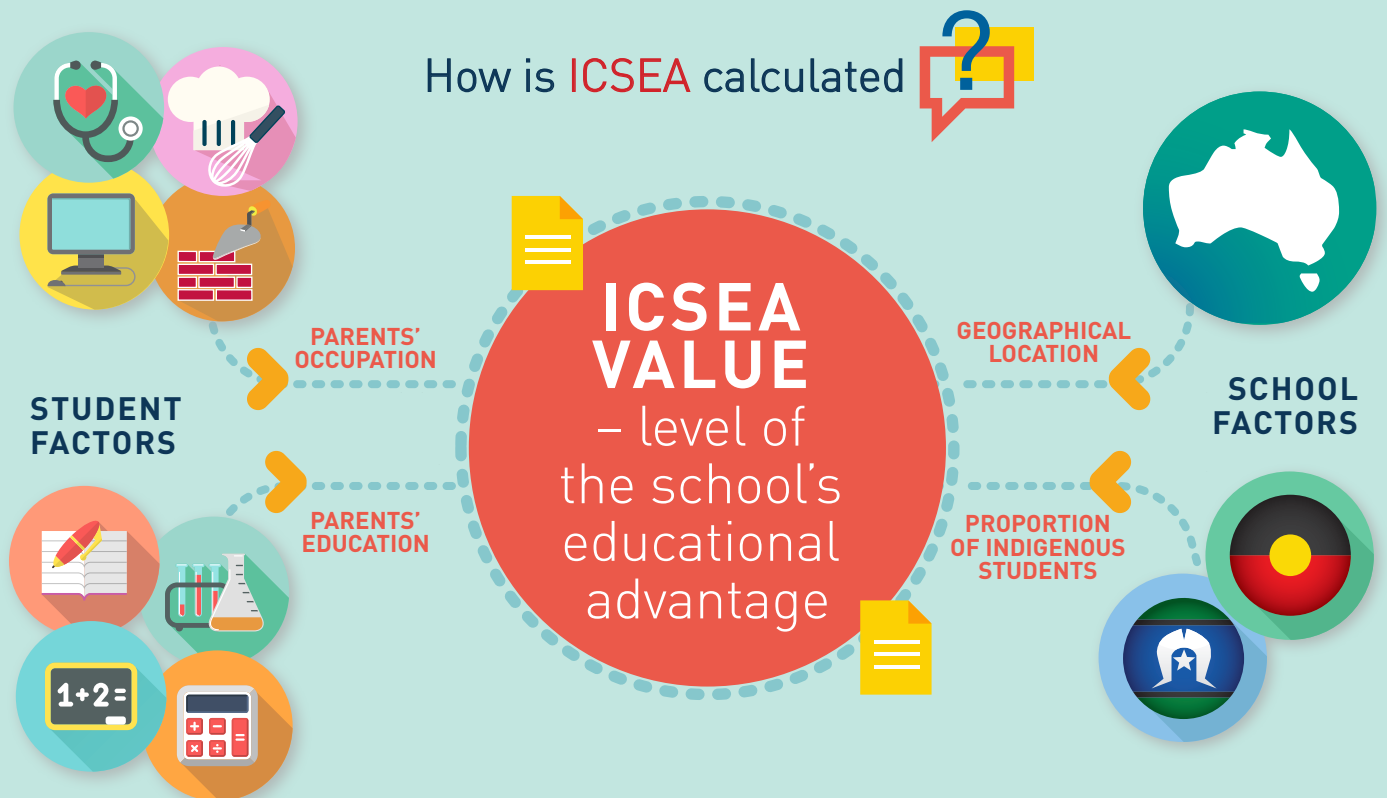


WHAT DOES THE **ICSEA** VALUE MEAN?

ICSEA is a scale which allows for fair and reasonable comparisons among schools with similar students. ICSEA stands for the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage.

ICSEA provides an indication of the socio-educational backgrounds of students; it has nothing to do with the staff, school facilities or teaching programs at the school. ICSEA isn't a school rating.

How is **ICSEA** calculated



What does the **ICSEA** value mean for you

The lower the ICSEA value, the lower the level of educational advantage of students who go to this school.

ICSEA is set at an average of 1000. You can use this value as an ICSEA benchmark.

The higher the ICSEA value, the higher the level of educational advantage of students who go to this school.

800

1000

1200

For more information, see our comprehensive guide to understanding ICSEA on our website www.myschool.edu.au.

About ICSEA

What is ICSEA?

The Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) was created by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) specifically to enable fair comparisons of National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test achievement by students in schools across Australia.

A value on the index corresponds to the average level of educational advantage of the school's student population relative to those of other schools.

Research shows that key factors in students' family backgrounds (parents' occupation, their school education and non-school education) have an influence on students' educational outcomes at school. Research has also shown that school-level factors (a school's geographical location and the proportion of Indigenous students a school caters for) need to be considered when summarising educational advantage or disadvantage at the school level.

ICSEA provides a numeric scale that represents the magnitude of this influence, or level of educational advantage, and takes into account both student and school level factors. *My School* visitors can use the ICSEA value to understand the levels of advantage or disadvantage that students bring to their schooling based on these factors.

It is important to note that an ICSEA value is not a rating of a school, nor does it measure or rate its staff performance, quality of teaching programs or nature of facilities. ICSEA is not a measure of student academic performance and does not measure school wealth.

Why was ICSEA developed?

ICSEA was developed to enable fair comparisons of NAPLAN results between schools on the *My School* website. By comparing performance in schools working with students with similar socio-educational advantage, it is possible to identify the difference schools are making to the students attending a particular school. The index also enables schools seeking to improve their students' performance to learn from other schools with similar students.

Use of ICSEA on *My School*

A school's ICSEA value is used to select a group of up to 60 schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds. Schools with students who have similar levels of educational advantage will have similar ICSEA values, even though schools in their group can be located in various parts of Australia and may have different facilities and resources.

An average NAPLAN result is calculated for the 60 schools to enable a comparison with the selected school's own NAPLAN results. This comparison can be found in all presentations of NAPLAN results on *My School*.

On the 'School profile' page, a table presented alongside the school ICSEA value shows the distribution of students in a school across four 'Socio-Educational Advantage' (SEA) quarters representing a scale of relative disadvantage ('bottom quarter') through to relative advantage ('top quarter'). These quarters are calculated using only the student-level factors of educational advantage. SEA quarters give contextual information about the socio-educational composition of the students in the school.

For example:

Student background 2015				
Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)				
School ICSEA value	1166			
Average ICSEA value	1000			
Data source	Parent information			
Distribution of students ²				
	Bottom quarter	Middle quarters		Top quarter
School Distribution	1%	5%	19%	75%
Australian Distribution	25%	25%	25%	25%
<i>Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100</i>				

More technical details are available in [The guide to understanding ICSEA values](#).