



Australian Education Union - Federal Office

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AEU to Decide on NAPLAN Action

The Federal Executive of the AEU will meet today in Melbourne to decide on the action teachers will take over the Federal Government's failure to protect students from league tables.

The decision comes as new independent polling shows a majority of public school parents believe action by teachers to disrupt or even stop the NAPLAN tests in May would be justified given the concerns of teachers about the damaging impact of league tables on students and school communities.

AEU Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos said the national poll of 1,000 people shows:

- 54 per cent of parents with children in public schools say action by teachers which would disrupt or even stop the national NAPLAN tests would be justified. (51 per cent of all respondents)
- 85 per cent of public school parents say the Education Minister, Julia Gillard should meet with the union to try and avoid the threatened action. (87 per cent of all respondents). (**See poll questions attached**)

"We have been trying for months to get the Federal Government to act to protect students from the damaging impact of league tables and the misuse of student data," Mr Gavrielatos said.

"Not only has the Government failed to act on the concerns of teachers, parents and principals, but the minister has refused to meet with the union since January.

"We have put forward a detailed proposal to the Federal Government that would stop league tables and ensure more accurate and comprehensive information is provided for parents on the My School site but that has been ignored.

"The choice for the AEU Federal Executive will be whether to sit back and allow schools and students to be inappropriately labelled as failures in league tables or to take action to protect students."

MEDIA ADVISORY

A media conference to announce the decision of the AEU Federal Executive will be held today at 1pm at 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank in Melbourne.

More information:

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A national poll of 1,000 people was conducted online by communication and research company Interconsult in the last week in March.

Question

Many public school teachers are so concerned about league tables being created using average test scores on the My School website that they are considering taking action in May. This action would disrupt and may even stop the next round of national testing. Do you think teachers would be justified in taking this action because of their concerns about schools being ranked in the media?

	Yes, action by teachers would be justified	No, action by teachers would not be justified
Total	51 per cent	49 per cent
Public school parents	54 per cent	46 per cent

Question

The Education Minister Julia Gillard has since January refused to meet with the Australian Education Union to discuss teachers concerns about the creation of league tables and look for ways to avoid threatened action. Do you think Ms Gillard should meet with the Australian Education Union?

	Yes	No
Total	87 per cent	13 per cent
Public school parents	85 per cent	15 per cent

