



Allocating Learning Support Coordinator roles

As part of the Learning Support Action Plan, the Government is introducing a new Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) role in schools and kura to strengthen in-school support for children and young people with learning support needs. The first tranche of 623 LSC roles was announced by the Hon Tracey Martin, Associate Minister of Education on 2 August 2019 and takes effect at the start of the 2020 school year.

We want to make sure that LSC have the capacity to work in their schools, can help implement the Learning Support Delivery Model (LSDM), and develop strong effective relationships with other LSCs, Ministry staff, RTLB, and other providers in their community.

In this first tranche it is also important that we get a comprehensive view of how the role works in different settings such as urban or rural, different sizes and types of schools, the number and type of students, location and distance.

When allocating the Learning Support Coordinator a range of factors have been considered.

Selecting where LSC are allocated

The LSDM brings local clusters of early learning services, kōhanga reo, schools and kura together to identify and respond to the learning support needs of all ākonga (learners) and their whānau. LSCs will play a key role in implementing the LSDM.

The first tranche of LSCs have been allocated to learning support communities that are further ahead in implementing the LSDM. Progress in implementing the LSDM is gauged across five stages. To make sure LSCs get the support they need to be effective, we have prioritised allocation to learning communities in the three most advanced stages.

We also want to ensure broad coverage and that LSC are allocated to a variety of types of schools and kura and settings to get a full picture of how the role will work before it is rolled out more widely. As well as progress in implementing the delivery model, we have also looked at a cluster's specific characteristics, including:

- StatsNZ urban classification with a focus on the proportion of rural schools in a cluster
- proportion of Māori and Pacific students
- the number of Māori medium in a cluster
- the number of students in a cluster.

Calculating how many LSC are allocated

There are up to 623 LSC Full-time Teaching Equivalents (FTTE) available in tranche 1.

A ratio of one LSC to 500 students across a cluster is the guiding allocation (based on the total school roll, March 2019). The cluster's allocation is either rounded up (if at or above 0.50) or down (if at or below 0.49) to the nearest whole number.

Allocations are rounded to a full FTTE to provide a full time, dedicated LSC. For example, a cluster with 2,800 students would generate 5.6 full-time LSC, rounded up to 6 FTTE across the cluster. A cluster with less than 500 students still gets one LSC as a minimum, so that a whole position is available.

In some instances, the distance between schools or the number of small schools in a cluster means adjustments are needed to distribute LSC roles more equitably. To do this, other factors are taken into account that include:

- schools' geographic distance from each other
- the number of schools in the cluster
- the number of LSC that would be allocated.

This provides additional LSC to clusters that have high travel times, and where the LSC to school ratio is greater than 1 to 5.