

# Supporting all schools to succeed

## Reform of the Tomorrow's Schools system

### Information for Parents and Whānau

All schools should be great places to learn. We're resetting the system that governs, manages, administers and supports schools so that all learners have the same chance to succeed.

Thirty years ago, the Tomorrow's Schools reforms changed New Zealand's schooling system, creating a system intended to better engage parents, whānau and communities with their local schools.

While the current system has strengths, it is inadequately serving some of our learners, in particular Māori, Pacific, people with disabilities and/or learning needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Now, New Zealand has the opportunity to reset the education system with a greater level of resource and expertise at the front line where it is needed.

This reset is significant. Changes will require ongoing investment of time and resource, and will need to be managed in a coherent and connected way over the next ten years.

#### Key changes of interest to parents and whanau

**Meeting the needs of Māori** – The reforms emphasise the power of collaboration and partnership; and the value of working closely with iwi and Māori to lift the performance of the education system, so ākonga Māori enjoy and achieve education success as Māori.

The development of a Māori Medium Network Plan for the next decade has been commissioned as well as an Education Workforce Strategy to ensure teacher supply for the Māori medium pathway.

There will be greater engagement by Māori/iwi in school governance. The Ministry of Education will develop advice about how this can be achieved by June 2020.

**Complaints and disputes resolution** – Over the next 2 to 4 years, the Government will enable the establishment of panels to resolve disputes, where they cannot be resolved at the school level. The panels' focus will be to resolve serious disputes in an inclusive, culturally appropriate, and timely manner. Complaints about teachers will continue to be within the jurisdiction of the Teaching Council.

**Taking a network-based approach to enrolment zones** – The role of developing enrolment schemes will be undertaken by the Education Service Agency at a regional level, working closely with the relevant schools to ensure their views and those of their communities are taken into account as part of the design process.

**Refocusing the role of Boards** – The Government will remove the distinction between the existing primary and secondary objectives for Boards in governing schools. Legislation will provide for four objectives that give as much weight to obligations in relation to pastoral care and giving effect to Te Tiriti as to academic achievement.

**A more visible support system for school leadership** – To better support our education leaders, the Government invites the Teaching Council to establish a Leadership Centre to enhance the considerable work they have already undertaken on their Leadership Strategy and Educational Leadership Capability Framework.

The new Education Service Agency (ESA), as part of a redesigned Ministry of Education, will also be given additional functions to build support for, and service to, leaders and principals.

### **What's next?**

The Government acknowledges that this is a significant change to further strengthen the education system. Changes related to governance and management of schools need to work in a complex system that includes early learning and tertiary education. The changes require ongoing investment of both time and resource, and will need to be managed in a coherent and connected way over the next ten years.

A detailed timeline can be found in Appendix 1 of the Government's position document, '*Supporting all schools to succeed: Reform of the Tomorrow's Schools system*'.

Website: <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/>