

Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Supports replacement

Information on the future of the programme and its reprioritised funding

The Government is committed to changing the way children learn to read, to improve achievement and set students up for success.

To enable that change, the Minister of Education announced on 2 May 2024 that all state and state-integrated schools will teach reading using structured literacy approaches from next year.

New government funding has been confirmed to help teachers use evidence-based, structured approaches to teaching, which will also extend to additional learning supports and resources.

Surveys indicate that approximately 85% of English-medium primary schools have already engaged in some structured literacy professional development and will be able to build on this foundation.

What is happening to the Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Supports programme?

Funding and delivery of Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Support (RR&ELS) will continue until the end of the 2024 school year.

From the beginning of 2025, that funding will be reprioritised to targeted supports that align with structured approaches to teaching.

This will support teachers to use consistent practices for teaching literacy.

How can schools provide additional supports for students' early literacy learning?

Staffing for additional early literacy learning supports will be provided through the annual staffing allocations.

To apply for 2025 Staffing resource for structured literacy support in years 0-2, please visit Tāhūrangi.

The Ministry of Education is also working on the design of other targeted and tailored supports for structured literacy, and we will engage with the sector throughout their development.

What should schools do for the rest of 2024?

If schools are currently using RR&ELS, we are asking that they continue to deliver the programme using their trained RR&ELS teacher and the support of their RR&ELS tutor.

How do providers manage the change?

Contracts with providers for training and support (including tutor service delivery) will finish at the end of their term in early 2025, as agreed in the statements of work.

Providers will be responsible for the redeployment of staff associated with these contracts (e.g., Reading Recovery tutors), in accordance with their employment agreements.

Those staff are encouraged to undertake professional learning in structured literacy if they wish to do so.

What opportunities do RR&ELS staff have for further professional learning?

Alongside other staff, teachers currently allocated to RR&ELS can undertake Ministry-funded professional learning for structured approaches to literacy.

The new structured literacy PLD will initially be available to Year 0-3 teachers, starting with those who have not yet had any training in structured teaching approaches. It will extend to Year 4-6 teachers once the Year 0-3 teacher cohort is covered.

Please note that RR&ELS training and structured literacy approach (SLA) training follow different approaches. Teachers who have previously trained in RR&ELS are able to take part in Ministry funded SLA PLD.

More information on how to access this PLD will be provided on our PLD website.

For other queries, contact RRandELS.mailbox@education.govt.nz

How will schools manage the change?

RR&ELS teachers are currently employed by their school boards, subject to the school being granted RR&ELS funding in the annual application process. Schools will determine how they use RR&ELS resourcing for the remainder of 2024.

Where school boards and principals will need to manage the transition of their RR&ELS staff, they may want to contact NZ School Boards Association.