



Tackling Maths Achievement in Aotearoa New Zealand with a Four-Point Action Plan

Priority 2: Better approach to literacy and numeracy: Implementing evidence-based instruction in early literacy and mathematics

Update 2: August 2024

We want all students in New Zealand to get a world-leading education that sets them up for success – in study, work and life generally. Our goal is to have 80% of Year 8 students at or above the expected curriculum level for their age in reading, writing, and maths by December 2030.

The Curriculum Insights and Progress Study (CIPS) has built a clear picture that we have a more serious issue in maths student achievement than expected.

This robust study, run by the University of Otago and New Zealand Council for Educational Research, measured maths performance against the new curriculum benchmarks in the updated 2023 maths learning area. The data showed that only 22 percent of students at Year 8 are at, or above, the curriculum benchmarks for maths. The reported findings are available on the Ministry of Education website [Curriculum Insights and Progress Study | Education Counts](#)

It is clear from these results we don't have time to waste to tackle this issue and that more needs to be done to support students to be successful in maths.

We know it's going to take a relentless focus to lift New Zealand student achievement in maths.

We have a plan to do this.

The Government announcement can be read on the Beehive: [Latest News from the Beehive | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

Four-Point Action Plan

On Sunday 4 August, the Government announced an Action Plan to tackle maths and pāngarau achievement in response to declining student achievement. The plan includes actions to **strengthen curriculum delivery, improve assessment and acceleration, enhance the workforce and clarify expectations.**

The Action Plan accelerates the mandatory use of the refreshed mathematics and statistics learning area from the New Zealand Curriculum and the pāngarau wāhanga ako from Te Marautanga o Aotearoa for years 0-8. This will now be in use from the start of 2025, not 2026. The refreshed mathematics and statistics learning area builds on the 2023 version and incorporates the Common Practice Model.

While bringing forward the new maths and statistics and pāngarau curriculum is crucial to enabling a sharp focus on maths teaching, we know more change impacts on schools and kura and you'll need support to manage this change – we'll make sure this is available.

To make sure teachers and kaiako have time to focus on maths and pāngarau, the Minister of Education has also agreed that the timeline for the new science and technology curriculum will be pushed out. This will now align with other learning areas – draft curricula will be available for use and open for feedback in Term 3, 2025. Teachers and kaiako in years 7-13 for English and te reo Rangatira and in years 9-13 for maths and pāngarau can still expect to see drafts of this material this year for feedback.

For the latest curriculum timeline update please visit Tāhūrangi [Tāhūrangi-curriculum-timelines](#)

Action One: Curriculum Delivery

Status: Fast-tracked and augmented

What's happening: A knowledge-rich, maths and pāngarau curriculum will be released a year earlier than planned. Year 0-8 content will be compulsory from the **start of 2025**, not 2026.

What to expect:

- Teacher and student workbooks will be provided to every primary school and kura.
- Professional learning and development (PLD) for teachers and kaiako will be delivered in maths and pāngarau starting with maths teacher only days in Term 1 2025.
- Continued support for the dedicated hour-a-day of maths and pāngarau teaching.

Action Two: Assessment and Acceleration

Status: New and fast-tracked

What's happening: Twice yearly assessments for maths and pāngarau in primary schools and kura, from the start of 2025. This will clearly show students' progress and help to direct resources where needed.

What to expect:

- Asking Kāhui Ako to focus on maths and literacy learning for all students.
- PLD and support for teachers and kaiako. This new PLD will be backed by local support provided by the Ministry's regional workforce, targeted supports for accelerated learning in maths, and online guidance for teachers and kaiako to fast-track learning.
- The Ministry of Education will speed up exploration of a foundational skills check for the end of Year 2.

Action Three: Enhancing Workforce

Status: New

What's happening: Progressing higher Initial Teacher Education (ITE) entry requirements in maths and pāngarau.

What to expect:

- The Teaching Council has agreed to deliver changes to primary sector ITE to require fourteen credits in NCEA maths and pāngarau at Level 2.
- With the change in pace for the mathematics and pāngarau curriculum, the Teaching Council will work with ITE providers to build the new mathematics and pāngarau curriculum documents for Years 0-8 into your programmes for 2025.
- Options for a specialist maths and pāngarau workforce will be investigated by the Ministry of Education.

Action Four: Clarifying Expectations

Status: New

What's happening: A clear focus on supporting schools to meet the goal of 80% of Year 8 students being at or above the expected curriculum level for their age in maths and pāngarau.

What to expect:

- The Education Review Office (ERO) will update its reporting to parents to provide clear and useful information – i.e. schools are using the curriculum properly, undertaking assessment well, and progress is accelerated.
- The Ministry of Education will provide additional support to schools and kura to lift achievement where needed.

Timeline for the introduction of the updated curriculum

The fully updated national curriculum, including all the other learning areas, wāhanga ako and subjects, will be available for all schools and kura to use throughout 2026, giving a full year of implementation support before it's officially required from 2027.

The New Zealand Curriculum

Available for
feedback and use

Required

Learning areas	2024	2025	2026	2027
English (Years 0-6)	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required	Required
English (Years 7-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Mathematics and statistics (Years 0-8)	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required	Required
Mathematics and statistics (Years 9-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Science	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Technology	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Health and physical education	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Learning languages	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
The Arts	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Social sciences	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required

Te Marautanga o Aotearoa

Available for
feedback and use

Required

Wāhanga Ako	2024	2025	2026	2027
Te Reo Rangatira (Years 0-6)	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required	Required
Te Reo Rangatira (Years 7-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Pāngarau (Years 0-8)	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required	Required
Pāngarau (Years 9-13)	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Te Ao Māori	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Pūtaiao me te Hangarau	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Toi Ihiihi	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Waiora	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Ngā Reo	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required
Te Reo Pākehā	Available for feedback and use	Available for feedback and use	Required	Required



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government