

# Budget 2025: investing in students' maths and pāngarau achievement

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

**Priority 3:** Smarter assessment and reporting: implementing consistent modes of monitoring student progress and achievement.

**Priority 5:** Targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs

12 May, 2025

**As part of Budget 2025, the Government is investing nearly \$100 million in a system-wide effort to accelerate student progress in maths and pāngarau through early intervention, targeted support, and accelerated learning for students in Years 0 to 8.**

The investment will focus on three key initiatives designed to strengthen maths and pāngarau learning from students' initial years at school, through to their transition into secondary education.

This package builds on the work the Ministry is already doing to support the teaching and learning of maths within The New Zealand Curriculum and pāngarau within Te Mātauranga o Aotearoa, so all students have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

The three initiatives explained here will build on the success of the Make It Count maths action plan, which has already provided thousands of schools and kura with resources, professional learning, and accelerated learning supports for students.

## Early maths check for Year 2

From 2026, we are introducing the first nationally available tool to check and monitor student progress in maths at Year 2. This check will provide teachers with a comparable resource to the Phonics Checks.

The maths check will be available for both The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. It will provide teachers with information on how students are progressing and help to identify students who would benefit from additional support. This information will be critical in ensuring schools can provide timely, targeted support to those students that need extra help as early as possible.

Teachers will receive professional development to use the maths check effectively.

## Targeted intervention teachers for maths to support students in Years 0 to 6

This new investment provides funding for up to 143 full-time equivalent maths teachers to support students in Years 0 to 6. These teachers will work with schools and kura to support students that need additional support using evidence-based strategies to accelerate their learning.

This provides the same kind of additional staffing support for maths as has been provided for structured literacy approaches.

The staffing for maths will help classroom teachers by:

- providing a programme that supports targeted small group teaching to accelerate maths learning with students that need additional support
- developing targeted learning plans for individual students
- building consistent use of accelerative maths practices within schools.

This funding will help schools respond to their students' learning needs early and effectively, so every learner can achieve and progress. By building strong foundations in their maths learning, students will be more confident and capable in their maths learning from the start of school.

PLD and resources will be provided to support the implementation targeted intervention teachers in schools.

## **Maths support for Years 7 and 8**

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Beginning in Term 1 of 2026, we will deliver small group teaching supported by a digital learning platform to up to 34,000 Year 7 and 8 students annually, over the next four years. All schools with Year 7 and 8 students will be able to identify the students who need additional support and will have access to this intervention. This programme has been designed to help those students meet curriculum expectations before they transition to secondary school.

The programme will be based on the findings of the pilot currently being carried out with 3000 Year 7 and 8 students, nationally. It will include access to an online tool that offers maths lessons, exercises, quizzes, and instant feedback to accelerate student learning. Schools and kura will also receive professional learning and development opportunities to help them support and implement the programme.

## **Investing in what we know works**

The trial has already received incredibly positive feedback from teachers and students alike. Students are “really stoked to be there,” “loving it,” and “don’t want to leave at the end of the session.” Importantly, they are finding themselves feeling more confident, less anxious and making progress with their maths learning.

Teachers are also sharing remarkable improvements they are seeing in students' attitudes towards maths after only a few tutoring sessions and providing positive feedback about the teaching materials that come with it.

## **What's next?**

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These initiatives continue our support for you. We will be working with you to develop these initiatives further. We'll continue to share information and resources as we develop this package of maths supports in 2025.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email the team at [Foundational.ProgressAndAchievement@education.govt.nz](mailto:Foundational.ProgressAndAchievement@education.govt.nz)