

Make It Write – Fact sheet

Writing data

The Curriculum Insights and Progress Study (Curriculum Insights) was established to monitor Year 3, 6 and 8 student progress against the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum.

Run by University of Otago and the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, the study looks at how students are progressing with their reading, writing and maths skills and across the eight learning areas of The New Zealand Curriculum. It replaces the previous National Monitoring Study of Student Achievement.

The 2024 writing results show we need to support more students to develop the fundamental skills and core knowledge they need as they move through primary school.

2024 Curriculum Insights results for writing

	Year 3	Year 6	Year 8
At or above curriculum	41%	33%	24%
Less than one year behind	20%	16%	15%
More than one year behind	39%	51%	61%

For Year 8 students 2024 – Government targeting 80% at curriculum by 2030

For Year 8 students	All students	Māori students	Pacific students	High equity students
At or above curriculum level	24%	14%	25%	21%
Less than one year behind	15%	12%	15%	11%
More than one year behind	61%	74%	60%	69%

NB1: Percentages are rounded to whole numbers.

NB2: This data is drawn from nationally representative samples of students attending English-medium state and state-integrated schools.

Make It Write

The Government is launching Make It Write – a writing action plan focused on four key areas to turn around our writing achievement.

1). Curriculum Delivery

A knowledge-rich, well-resourced English learning area for Years 0-10, including a wide range of supporting resources to improve and support writing achievement

- Refreshed English curriculum for Years 0-10 (Term 1, 2026)
- New “Handwriting Teacher Guide” for Years 0-8 (now available)
- New Structured Literacy Approaches (SLA) Teacher Guides and supporting resources for Years 0-8 (Term 1, 2026)

2). Enhanced supports for students

A new tool and increased staffing to deliver enhanced student support through targeted Structured Literacy Approaches (SLA) writing interventions.

- New digital writing tool to support approximately 120,000 Years 6-8 students to accelerate their writing progress (Term 1, 2026)
- Expanded SLA intervention teachers providing targeted and individual literacy support, including writing, in over 1000 schools for Years 0-6 (Term 1, 2026)
- ENRICH programme delivery to support oral language and early literacy (ages 18 months-5 years) in 525 early learning services over four years (from Term 1, 2026)
- New guidance on Parent Portal to enable families to support their child's writing at home (from Term 1, 2026)

3). Focused professional development for teachers

Professional development for early learning settings, primary, intermediate and secondary schools

- New targeted SLA professional learning and development (PLD) for specialist literacy teachers for all secondary and intermediate schools to support students to accelerate their literacy, including evidence-based writing instruction (Term 1, 2026)
- New Tranche 1 PLD for teachers using the new SMART assessment tool for Years 3-8 students (from Term 4, 2025)
- Continued SLA PLD for primary and intermediate teachers of Years 0-8 students (Term 1, 2026)
- Targeted PLD for SLA intervention teachers in Years 0-2 (now available), expanded to Years 0-6 (from Term 1, 2026)
- PLD to support the delivery of the ENRICH programme in participating early learning settings (from Term 1, 2026)

4.) Focused monitoring of student progress and achievement

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 writing.

- Phonics Checks planned to become a requirement after 20 and 40 weeks at school (Term 1, 2026)
- New reporting descriptors and guidance for primary and intermediate school reports (from Term 4, 2025)
- Student Monitoring Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART) for Years 3-10 to support twice-yearly progression monitoring, including writing (Term 1, 2026)
- New PAT writing assessment developed by New Zealand Council of Educational Research (NZCER) (now available)