



NZEI TE RIUROA

13 August 2024

Open letter to parents and whānau

As teachers and school leaders, we go to work every day to support your children to succeed.

Students in our country are among the best in the world for creative thinking, achieve in the top dozen countries in reading and science and score above the average of other OECD countries in maths.¹

New Zealand teachers are sought after globally because of our skills and expertise. What we know from our own experience and the research is that every child is unique. The work of a teacher is to use a whole toolbox of skills and expertise to personalise the learning that will best meet each child's needs.

The Luxon Government is fast-tracking a new math curriculum into schools next year. However, a standardised, narrower approach to teaching and learning is not consistent with expert advice about how we improve math teaching – and could make it harder for us to meet the diverse needs of students.

The real crisis we are facing in our schools is not teaching and learning, but a crisis of funding and resourcing. A major barrier to us meeting the needs of every child currently is the lack of resourcing for learning support. This, combined with a persistent equity gap resulting from poverty, the housing crisis and transience, has a significant impact on student achievement.

At least three in 10 students who need learning support – whether that's a teacher aide or specialist support – are currently not getting it.²

We pledge to do our best to support the learning of your child and their classmates, but we ask that you support our call for funding increases in education so that there is a teacher aide in every classroom and more specialist staff to support our tamariki.

If you'd like to know more about these issues, or ways you can support your child's learning, please talk to their teacher. You know your child best, and as partners we can work together to ensure your child experiences success.

Ngā mihi

¹ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/520056/nz-teens-score-highly-for-creative-thinking>
https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2022-results-volume-i-and-ii-country-notes_ed6fbcc5-en/new-zealand_33941739-en.html#:~:text=The%20Programme%20for%20International%20Student,in%20mathematics%2C%20reading%20and%20science

² <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/Issue-Specific-release/Highest-Needs-Review-Cover-Sheet-CAB-Pack-Annex.pdf>