LIFTING ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

National is working hard to ensure our education system is working for all New Zealand children.

Despite tough financial times National has invested more in education than ever before.

We have focused on providing parents with information, like National Standards data, so parents can see how well their child is doing. The data also allows us to see where we need to direct resources to help children who need support.

We’ve focused on achievement by setting a target of 85 per cent of 18-year-olds having achieved at least NCEA Level 2 in 2017.

Our plan is working. Last year almost 79 per cent of 18-year-olds achieved at least NCEA Level 2. There were also stand-out improvements in Maori and Pasifika achievement.

We know the single most important thing we can do to lift student achievement is improve teaching quality and leadership. That’s why our next step is to implement a $359 million initiative to keep the best teachers teaching, encourage schools to work together and strengthen school leadership.

We are committed to every New Zealand child getting the best possible education so they can be successful here at home and around the world.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

→ Implement our $359 million initiative to improve the quality of teaching and leadership in schools.

→ Support children with special needs by providing up to 800,000 more teacher aide hours a year over four years.

→ Support deaf and hearing-impaired children, their families and their schools by providing more sign language resources.

→ Grow Asian languages in our schools through a new $10 million contestable fund.
**NATIONAL IS...**

**INCREASING FUNDING IN DIFFICULT FINANCIAL TIMES**
- Investing $10.1 billion in education – the highest amount ever.
- Increasing schools’ operational grants in line with inflation.
- Strengthening the teaching profession by investing $37.5 million in the quality teaching agenda.

**HELPING PARENTS BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILD’S LEARNING**
- Introduced National Standards and ensured reports are in plain language so parents can see how their child is doing.
- Made more data available so parents and communities can see how their school is doing and how their region is performing.
- Increased funding to support Boards of Trustees so parents have a stronger voice in school governance.
- Establishing Partnership Schools to give parents more options for their child’s learning.

**PROVIDING CLEAR INFORMATION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**
- Required schools to publish annual plans, provisional targets, and achievements by 28 February each year.
- Provided a template for clearer school reports as part of school annual plans.
- Proactively engaging with schools that are struggling.

**SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS**
- Increased funding for special education by 26 per cent to $530 million, since 2008.
- Developed a new Intensive Wrap Around Service which supports young people to live successfully in their home community.
- Created joint boards to govern special schools for the deaf and hearing impaired, and for residential special schools to provide a national approach.
- Ensuring special needs support is spread equitably throughout the country through the Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour by creating 40 clusters across New Zealand.

**SUPPORTING SAFER SCHOOLS, BETTER ATTENDANCE & ENGAGEMENT**
- Invested $145 million in Positive Behaviour for Learning programmes in schools – to support parents, teachers and schools to address problem behaviour, improve children’s wellbeing and increase educational achievement.
- Introduced a new $9.6 million Integrated Attendance Service to help target children at serious risk of disengagement in education.
- Supporting young people through the Prime Minister’s Youth Mental Health Project which helps schools identify and deal with students who have mental health problems.
- Worked with schools to develop guidelines to manage bullying, and search, surrender and retention of unsafe items.
SUPPORTING VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- Making it easier for local schools, tertiary education providers, and local businesses to work together and set up trades or service academies.
- Opened eight new Service Academies.
- Expanded Trades Academies places to 4,500.
- Expanded the Youth Guarantee to 10,000 places.
- Established six vocational pathways to help students make more informed choices about how their learning choices relate to future employment possibilities.

DEVELOPING MORE OPTIONS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

- Established teen parent units in centres of high need and ensured there are links between schools and accessible early childhood education.
- Providing education plans in youth courts, and education provision in youth justice facilities.

STRENGTHENING AND CELEBRATING THE TEACHING PROFESSION

- Established the Ministerial Cross Sector Forum on raising achievement - the first ever coalition of leaders - involving all professional associations, unions, practitioners, academics, Iwi and Pasifika.
- Introduced legislation to establish an independent 21st century professional body - the Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand (EDUCANZ).
- Introduced post-graduate qualifications to raise the bar for entry into teaching.
- Held the first ever education festivals in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch to profile school best practice to the public.
- Launched the inaugural Prime Minister’s Education Excellence Awards.
OUR RESULTS SO FAR

KIDS ARE DOING BETTER, AND MORE ARE LEAVING SCHOOL WITH AT LEAST NCEA LEVEL 2

Almost 79 per cent of 18-year-olds are achieving at least NCEA Level 2.

Maori achievement at NCEA Level 2 has improved from 44 per cent in 2008 to 63 per cent in 2013, and Pasifika from 51 per cent to 71 per cent - the biggest lifts ever.

Since 2006 there has been an almost 40 per cent increase in the number of students sitting New Zealand Scholarship examinations in at least one subject.

National Standards reporting has allowed us to better target support to schools and pupils who need it.

18-YEAR-OLDS ACHIEVING NCEA LEVEL 2*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maori</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasifika</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Figures for NCEA Level 2, prior to 2011, are based on estimates from MoE data

KIDS ARE MORE ENGAGED IN LEARNING

Stand-down, suspension, exclusion and expulsion rates are now at their lowest in 13 years.

Eighty one per cent of students remained at school to their 17th birthday.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT

1. FURTHER LIFT ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

→ Implement our $359 million initiative to raise teaching quality and school leadership

This is the next step in National's plan to raise achievement across our whole education system.

It will lift achievement by:
→ Keeping the best teachers teaching;
→ Strengthening school leadership;
→ Raising the quality of teaching and leadership across all schools by establishing new teaching and leadership roles;
→ Improving engagement with parents and communities; and
→ Fostering new and effective teaching practices which can be shared throughout schools.

“A mountain of evidence shows that the quality of teaching is the biggest influence on kids’ achievement.”
2. IMPROVE SPECIAL EDUCATION

→ Provide more in-class support to special-needs students

National recognises that there are students who need assistance at school but do not meet the criteria for higher levels of special education support.

Their learning conditions might include, but are not limited to, ADHD, ASD, Asperger syndrome and Dyslexia. These are the kids that currently struggle to cope in the classroom due to learning disorders and need more individual time than classroom teachers may have to give.

We will:

→ Support children with special needs by providing up to 800,000 more teacher aide hours each year, at a cost of up to $18 million per year, over four years.

→ Focus on supporting those whose needs have been identified locally by their school.

→ Ensure all students benefit by having a teacher aide in the classroom to support the teacher.

3. SUPPORT DEAF AND HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDREN

→ Provide $11 million to support deaf and hearing-impaired children and their families to help them achieve the same levels of educational success as their hearing peers.

We will continue to fund:

→ Sign Language Facilitators to work with families of newly identified deaf children aged 0-5.

→ Access to “in-class” sign language support, including interpreters.

→ Sign language learning resources in schools, including online resources. This is likely to include online access to information, advice and learning resources, and interactive learning spaces, for families and whanau, and for students.

4. SUPPORT MORE SCHOOLS TO OFFER ASIAN LANGUAGES

→ Grow Asian languages in schools through a new $10 million contestable fund.

National believes that learning a second language is a valuable skill for our young people and for New Zealand.

In addition to this, National is focusing on equipping our young people with the skills they need to be successful at home and abroad.

That’s why we are promoting the learning of Asian languages in our schools to reflect New Zealand’s ongoing relationships in that region of the world.

We will:

→ Create a $10 million fund for schools to establish or enhance Asian language programmes, especially focussing on Mandarin.

→ Prioritise Mandarin, as the trading relationship between New Zealand and China has grown exponentially in recent years, with trade quadrupling since 2008 and China now our second largest export market.

→ Invest in programmes where primary and secondary schools work together so that kids can continue to learn languages throughout their school life. This might include sharing teachers and resources, or even sharing classes online.

$10 MILLION ASIAN LANGUAGE FUND

SCHOOLS CAN APPLY TO ESTABLISH OR ENHANCE ASIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES ESPECIALLY FOCUSING ON MANDARIN

Working for New Zealand

Authorised by G Hamilton, 41 Pipitea Street, Wellington
5. IMPROVE INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING, & MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

→ Work with the sector to assess what is required for 21st Century teaching and learning, and consider what the best investments will be for teaching at entry level, mid-career, as well as senior leadership.

Raising the quality of teaching and leadership across the education system relies not only on investing in those already in the profession, but it also relies on those whom we are able to attract.

National wants the best and the brightest to consider entering the profession, whether to become teachers, or to specialise over time in education leadership.

There are a wide range of courses and providers offering training, qualifications, and professional development.

DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour would:

❌ Go back to the same old policies they had when they were last in government six years ago. Those policies failed one in five Kiwi kids.

❌ Cancel National Standards which is helping more Kiwi kids learn and succeed. They have no plan to monitor progress and lift achievement.

❌ Take away the option of parents choosing partnership schools for their child.

❌ Fail to deliver on its expensive promises.