

Planning and reporting operationalises strategic direction, underpinning a dynamic self-improving system

A new legislative framework

Currently planning and reporting requirements are detailed in the Act and in the National Administration Guidelines (NAGs).

What consultation told us

Support was expressed for moving the detail of planning and reporting requirements into regulation.

There are three levels of regulation with varying degrees of difficulty to change, e.g. primary (Acts), secondary (regulations) and third tier (rules, gazette notices, mandatory guidelines) legislation. Most of the detail for planning and reporting is in the Act. This proposal intends to move much of the detail into secondary legislation to make changes easier and allow flexibility in an evolving environment while maintaining consistency.

Schools currently plan and report annually through their charter and annual report.

Question 1

What aspects of the proposed planning (strategic plan and annual plan) and reporting (annual report) could be put into regulation?

For example, aspects could include detail relating content, timing and form.

Increased school accountability to parents

Parental involvement can be a strong driver of school improvement. However, the amount of information provided to parents, whānau, and communities about the school's overall performance is often limited.

What consultation told us

Support was expressed for increased transparency and clarity. Some submitters also commented on the value that parents, family and whānau can provide to planning and goal setting.

Question 2

What do you think about publishing planning documents (strategic plan and annual plan) and the annual report online?

Question 3

Parents, family and whānau could contribute positively to strategic plans. What should the consultation requirements be on strategic plans? For example, what type of consultation works in your school or kura. As a parent, how do you prefer to be consulted?

Streamlining the planning process

Changing the form

We could separate the parts of the charter to create two new documents, a strategic plan and an annual plan. This would allow us to treat the two new documents differently, allowing more flexibility.

Reducing the frequency of providing planning documents to the Ministry

The separation of the strategic and annual plans could allow only requiring the strategic plans to be provided to the Ministry. All documents could be required to be published online for parents, communities, and government agencies to access when required. Annual reporting on National Standards would continue, with a move to student-level data.

Strengthening the Secretary's power to assess the quality of strategic plans

Currently the Secretary's power to approve charters is limited to an assessment of whether they contain certain types of information, rather than on the quality of the information. This power could be strengthened.

Question 4

What thoughts do you have on these proposals?

Introducing a strategic planning cycle

If only the strategic plan is required to be provided to the Ministry, then we could have a four-year strategic planning cycle to align with government processes.

What consultation told us

There were a range of views expressed on the length of the planning cycle, with 3 years being the most commonly suggested time frame.

Question 5

What do you think about a four-year strategic planning cycle?

Focusing boards on the most important things

Planning documents could link the new goals and statement of national priorities through to individual school actions and targets.

The achievement challenges from CoL could form part of an individual school's planning.

What consultation told us

Submitters commented that strategic planning should be aligned with the other proposed changes to the Act e.g. the introduction of goals.

Question 6

What do you think the required strategic plans contents should be? For example, CoL achievement challenges, goals for education and national priorities, other changes to the Act.

Enabling Performance Measures

The introduction of a set of national education measures has been proposed. Further work is required on which measures could be used, the creation of new measurement tools, and the best way to collect accurate data.

What consultation told us

Suggested measures included student progress and wellbeing. Many submitters commented that indicators should not be restricted to narrow academic data.

Many submitters suggesting that indicators should be chosen by individual schools.

Question 7

What measures and measurement tools could we use?