



Improving planning and reporting

Planning and reporting is the key way for Communities of Learning: Kāhui Ako and schools to implement the Act's objectives for education and the Government's strategic direction for the education system. However, the current planning and reporting system for schools is complex and detailed, rather than focused on what really matters. The amount of useful information provided to parents, family and whānau as a result of previous requirements is limited.

Improvements are being made to the planning and reporting framework for state and state integrated schools. The framework will be less complex and detailed, and more focused on what really matters for lifting achievement.

Parents, family and whānau will also receive more specific information about what their school aims to achieve for their children and young people, and the progress it's making in achieving these aims.

When will the new planning and reporting framework take effect?

The new framework will come into effect on 1 January 2019. This will give sufficient time for a new set of regulations to be developed that will outline the process, content, form and timelines for planning and reporting. These will be developed in consultation with the sector.

Existing planning and reporting requirements will continue until the new framework comes into effect.

Will there be consultation on the new framework?

Yes. The Ministry intends to consult on the regulations in early 2018.

Why is planning and reporting important?

Planning and reporting are the key processes through which the objectives for education and the Government's priorities in the statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) flow through to what happens in schools and classrooms.

What improvements are being made to the planning process?

A **four-year strategic plan** and an **annual implementation plan** will replace school charters. The two documents will have different purposes and processes, but will together provide a base against which the board's performance can later be assessed.

Strategic plans will reflect how the school intends to achieve the objectives for the education system and the Government's priorities contained in its statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP), and incorporate any outcomes agreed to by any Community of Learning that the school belongs to.

Schools will need to develop a new strategic plan every four years in consultation with the school community, including families and whānau, staff, students (as appropriate) and any other person, group or organisation they consider ought to be consulted. The strategic plan will be assessed by the Ministry for quality rather than process requirements.

Annual implementation plans will contain more detail about the school's individual actions and targets for the following year. The implementation plan does not have to be provided to the Ministry, thus streamlining the process for schools.



What improvements are being made to the reporting process?

Schools will still be required to produce annual reports. Some changes have already been made to the annual report process and content to reduce board concerns and make it more relevant to parents. For example, annual reports must now be available to the public through an internet site.

Further changes to the reporting process will be made through regulations as the new framework is developed, which will be developed in consultation with the sector, over the course of 2018.

Will schools lose their individual identity as a result of the changes to the planning documents?

No. Schools will have the freedom to set their own goals and priorities. In doing so, they will need to be consistent with their primary objective of ensuring that every student is able to attain his or her highest standard in educational achievement, and have particular regard to the NELP.

Schools will be expected to consult with their community when developing their strategic plan. The aspirations, vision and values that emerge from this could be incorporated into their strategic planning.

State integrated and designated character schools will be required to ensure their strategic plan reflects their special character.

Will planning and reporting documents be available to parents, families and whānau?

Schools will be required to publish all planning and reporting documents on their school's website so parents and the community have easier access to the information.

When do the changes take effect?

These provisions take effect from 1 January 2017 after consultation with the sector and public.

National Performance Measures

All systems need a set of performance measures to assess their progress in meeting their objectives. The Minister of Education can now set a small number of national performance measures that schools will report on in their annual reports. This is being introduced to address the varying performance information that schools produce in their annual reports, as well as the differing amounts of this information they make available to parents, families and whānau and other schools.

These measures could, for example, build on our current Better Public Service targets. In future, measures could be explored that would reflect student progress and student well-being, for example.

When do the changes take effect?

These provisions take effect from 1 January 2019