




9 October 2020



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *The number of relocatable buildings in use at schools in 2017, 2018, and 2019.*
2. *The number of schools currently over capacity.*
3. *The number of schools over capacity in 2017, 2018, and 2019.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and I will answer each of your questions in turn.

1. The number of relocatable buildings in use at schools in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Table one details the total number of relocatable buildings for 2017-2019.

Relocatable classrooms are no different to any other teaching space in that they provide long-term accommodation solutions for schools and come in many styles and configurations. They do not have a predetermined lifespan and with adequate maintenance and capital replacement work can have a long life like any other building. The only difference is that relocatables are usually constructed off-site and designed to be transported. Many buildings recorded as relocatable on our asset management system form part of schools' permanent facilities.

We provide relocatable teaching spaces in a range of scenarios. For example, we may do so where a relocatable option enables us to deliver more quickly, or where site requirements dictate they are the most appropriate solution. In other cases we provide relocatables as decanting space while existing buildings are upgraded, or as temporary accommodation while permanent roll growth classrooms are constructed. In some cases, we provide modular classrooms as permanent roll growth solutions.

More information about the Ministry's modular classroom programme, including design and quality standards, is available at www.education.govt.nz/school/property-and-transport/school-facilities/modular-buildings/.

Table one: Number of total relocatable buildings in use at schools from 2017-2019.

Year	Total
July 2017	5224
July 2018	5185
July 2019	5107

2. The number of schools currently over capacity

This information has not yet been collated for the current year. I am therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry currently although it is expected to be available over the coming months.

3. The number of schools over capacity in 2017, 2018, and 2019

As communities change, so too do the schooling needs of their children and young people. The Ministry looks to manage school infrastructure by planning for growth and population shifts both in the short and long-term to ensure there is an effective and sustainable school network across New Zealand. To do this, we consider population projections, local council information, enrolment data and how well school properties are utilised.

The Ministry uses a measure called the utilisation rate to measure schools' use of classroom space.

There are a number of reasons why a school's utilisation rate should not be used as a proxy to determine which schools are over-capacity. Our roll capacity data does not include non-Ministry owned buildings as we do not collate this data for buildings we do not own. For example, some schools lease property or have satellite sites that are not recorded in our system (this typically affects a number of Māori immersion kura). In the case of schools with satellite sites, the roll is from the number of students at all sites, but capacity is calculated from the base school site only.

Roll capacity also does not account for teaching spaces that are smaller than 40 square metres, which means that a school's capacity may be under-estimated. Roll capacity also does not include teaching spaces that are being used as temporary relocatable buildings, if for example development work is being done at a school. Finally, we note that there can also be a delay in updating our information systems, and in some cases the recorded capacity may not include recently added capacity. For these reasons, the use of the raw numbers would give the wrong impression about schools' capacity, and are not a measure of overcrowding.

The Ministry monitors school rolls and the network; and works closely with schools with high utilisation rates to identify options to manage their rolls and capacity pressures. Options include:

- implementing an enrolment scheme. Enrolment schemes help schools manage their rolls and avoid the risk of overcrowding. An enrolment scheme ensures that space is available for local students and any student within the enrolment scheme home zone is entitled to attend the school. When considering a new enrolment scheme, or changes to an existing one, we must balance the community's expectations of access to any particular school with the impact that the zone may have on neighbouring schools and the education network as a whole.
- if an enrolment scheme is already in place, working with the school to reduce or eliminate out-of-zone enrolments and/or change the boundaries of the current enrolment scheme;
- expanding capacity by providing additional roll growth teaching spaces;
- changing the year levels the school caters for;
- if a school is marked for redevelopment providing additional capacity as part of that process; and
- expanding the schooling network by building a new school(s).

Work is being done to update capacity and utilisation data and information across the 2400 state and state integrated schools and, where necessary, plans and responses to mitigate capacity pressures. This work is part of the Ministry's ongoing work to monitor school rolls and the network and to work with schools with high utilisation rates to manage their rolls and capacity pressures.

For schools having one or several students over capacity is not significant. In all cases we will work closely with the school to forecast roll, determine if a higher roll is likely to be sustained, and if extra capacity is a worthwhile investment. Schools can also apply for roll growth classrooms at their discretion. Generally, this will be when the roll is approaching existing capacity and they are in an area of population growth. If the school has high numbers of out-of-zone students they may not qualify for property funding. In the first instance we always work with the school to reduce the numbers of out-of-zone students. Some of these schools also currently have building projects underway that will increase their capacity. For other schools, the roll may track downward in the future through population shifts or the effects of an enrolment scheme.

We fund state-integrated schools to 100 percent of their maximum roll only. Where a state-integrated school exceeds its maximum roll we work closely with the proprietor to ensure that there is a plan for reducing the actual roll to be at or less than the maximum, or apply for a maximum roll increase.

Similarly, while some schools may have rolls close to their capacity, this does not mean that the roll will ever exceed their capacity. Instead, the roll may be stable at this high level, it may be high from a temporary local population increase or it may be forecasted to decrease in the future. In schools where we expect the roll to grow we work with the school to manage its roll and property needs accordingly.

Some schools can also have comparatively higher numbers of out of zone students than others. After enrolling in zone students schools can offer any spare places to out of zone students through the yearly ballot process. This means that schools can maximise their rolls while also staying within their capacity. The Ministry does not fund property for out-of-zone students.

All schools' roll levels will fluctuate over time, and a school's roll may reduce through population decline, or from the effects of an enrolment scheme. In some cases, inadvertent over-enrolment of students may create a temporary situation where the roll is greater than the roll capacity but is amended within a short period. In these cases where the issue is short-term, a long-term property solution is not a wise investment decision.

Further information about how we manage schooling networks, as well as details of area strategies for particular regions, can be found on our website at:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/new-zealands-network-of-schools/>

General Notes on capacity and utilisation

- “Over capacity schools” are not the same as “schools at risk of overcrowding”. Capacity is a measure we use to understand how school property is used, and a school can be over-capacity without being overcrowded.
- “Roll capacity” does not include a number of teaching spaces within temporary relocatable buildings, often used when development work is being done at schools.
- A number of schools have work underway to add capacity to the school, or now have additional buildings in place to cater for the students.

- Roll capacity excludes non-Ministry owned buildings, which add additional capacity not taken into account here.
- Some schools lease property on satellite sites that are not in our electronic system (this typically affects a number of Kura Kaupapa Māori schools).
- Some schools may be in the process of adjusting their zoning to manage rolls, or introducing a new enrolment zone.
- Some schools are in areas with a declining population, or have rolls that are about to fall, so the implied shortage of capacity is expected to be short-term only.
- A significant factor in determining a school's roll capacity is its number of "teaching spaces". A "teaching space" is defined as a classroom with an area of more than 40 square metres. However, a significant number of classrooms of less than 40 square metres are used for teaching, and these classrooms are not counted in a school's roll capacity.
- Some schools on the list have made an application for more space, or are going through the approval process. Additionally, a school site may have had more capacity added, which has not yet been surveyed and are not counted within our system so will not be reflected.

Detailed below in **table two** is the number of schools with a utilisation rate of 100 percent or greater in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Table two: Number of schools with a utilisation rate of 100 percent or greater in 2017, 2018, and 2019

Year	# of schools
2017	413
2018	508
2019	504

Information and analysis on the schools with a utilisation rate of 100 percent or greater in 2019.

- Utilisation rates for schools are updated annually. Figures for 2019 are based on the July 2018 roll returns.
- The 504 schools with a utilisation rate of 100 percent or greater in 2019 includes both state and state-integrated schools. The state-integrated schools have a maximum roll, which we have used as their capacity. Please note that the Ministry does not provide property to state-integrated schools. This is the responsibility of the proprietor.
- Of the 504 schools, 486 are state schools where the Ministry has responsibility for school property.
- 152 (31%) of the 486 state schools have a utilisation rate between 100 to 105%; and the roll capacity is able to accommodate the student roll without any interventions needed to address levels of utilisation.
- The remaining 334 state schools have a utilisation rate over 105% and the Ministry is taking steps to address their rolls and levels of utilisation.

- At 105% and over we are generally providing additional property provision to address schools' rolls and levels of utilisation. However, responses can include managing down the schools' out of zone enrolments and introducing enrolment schemes or amendments in response to high levels of utilisation at schools.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes responses under the Act on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Casey', with a long, sweeping underline.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement & Support