

TARGET

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More students at expected curriculum levels

80% of Year 8 students at or above the expected curriculum level for their age in reading, writing and maths by December 2030.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education

LEAD AGENCY

Ministry of Education, Secretary for Education, Ellen MacGregor-Reid

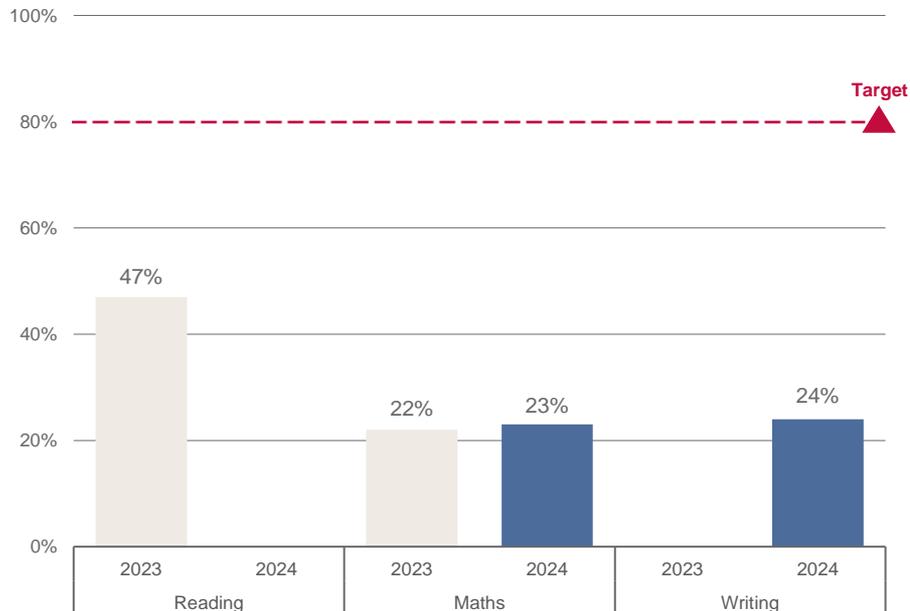
TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 2025

| Target | Baseline | Current | Status |
|--------|--|--|--|
| 80% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22% Maths (Term 4, 2023) 47% Reading (Term 4, 2023) 24% Writing (Term 4, 2024) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% Maths (Term 4, 2024) 47% Reading (Term 4, 2023) 24% Writing (Term 4, 2024) |  At Risk |

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Percentage of students at or above the expected curriculum level, by subject*

* Curriculum Insights and Progress Study: Maths is benchmarked against the 2023 draft curriculum; Writing is benchmarked against April 2025 draft curriculum. Results reflect the redesign to a more specified and rigorous curriculum.



TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is committed to students receiving a world-leading education, with six priorities focused on lifting progress and achievement for all students. Curriculum Insights data for 2024 includes the first sample of writing and the second sample of maths achievement against the refreshed learning areas. Alongside 2023 reading data, it offers a baseline snapshot of achievement prior to the introduction of the refreshed learning areas and rollout of structured literacy approaches (SLA) and maths PLD, supporting resources, and interventions.

The Government is focused on:

- Clearer curriculum.** The updated learning areas for Maths and English Years 0-10 were released, available from 20 October ahead of being required for use in Term 1 of 2026. ‘Make it Write’ targeted action plan launched to strengthen the teaching of Writing.
- Better approach to literacy and numeracy.** Making education achievement the paramount objective for school Boards is included in the Education and Training Amendment Bill (No 2) which passed its third reading in Parliament, October 2025.
- Smarter assessment and reporting.** Results for phonics checks, available to schools since Term 1 2025, show significant increases in student achievement. The percentage of students exceeding expectations at the first 20 weeks into the students’ first year of school more than doubled across the first three terms of this year.
- Developing workforce of the future.** Teacher training in SLA is ahead of expectations. As of September 2025 (including Better Start Literacy Approach programme statistics), 100% of teachers in Years 1-3, 77% of teachers at Years 4-6, and 24% of teachers at Years 7-8 are trained or in training for SLA or Rangaranga reo ā-Tā. Stronger oversight and clearer policy to support the quality of teacher education and the governance of the National Teachers Council in New Zealand is also underway.
- Stronger and earlier learning support.** Planning commenced for Term 1, 2026, when 461 schools and 101,000 students will have access to new Learning Support Coordinator staff through the Government’s \$192 million Budget 2025 investment.
- Greater use of data.** Progressing planning for Tīrewa Mātai, the national monitoring tool for ākongā/student learning through Te Reo Māori.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Curriculum Insights and Progress Study results will be published on:

- Ministry’s Education Counts website: educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/curriculum-insights-and-progress-study
- For information on the Government Targets go to www.dpmc.govt.nz