



**Updating the  
Education Act 1989 –  
Education (Update)  
Amendment Act 2017**

# Your guide to the updated Education Act 1989



# Progress and achievement of children and young people at the centre



The Act now gives a clear and visible strategic direction for our education system by:

- Establishing objectives for education.
- A Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities which will allow the Government of the day to set its priorities for education.

# Helping schools and kura to focus on progress and achievement



- Clarified roles and responsibilities for school boards of trustees.
- Improved planning and reporting.
- A more graduated range of interventions to enable faster, more tailored responses when a school or kura is struggling.

# Enhancing collaboration within the schooling network



A voluntary framework for the evolution of Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako has been provided for by:

- A statutory means of formalising agreements among members.
- Enabling members to do work for other educational services or social services that benefits other members or students.

# Enrolment and attendance



There are two main aspects to this change:

- The Act now extends the requirement for regular attendance at school once a child has begun school.
- Schools are now able to implement a cohort entry policy whereby new entrants would start school in groups, at the beginning of each term.

# Framework for online learning



The Act establishes a new framework for online learning and enables students to study online as an alternative to, or alongside, face-to-face education.

The new framework enables new providers to enter the market, as accredited Communities of Online Learning (COOL) from Jan 2020.

Consultation in 2018 on regulations to ensure focus on achievement and wellbeing.

# Refocused careers services



The Act creates a refocused Careers Service within the Tertiary Education Commission.



# Eliminating seclusion and ensuring appropriate physical restraint



The Act prohibits the use of seclusion in schools and early childhood services, and creates a legislative framework for the appropriate use of physical restraint in schools.

This sends a clear signal that there is no situation where it is acceptable for children and young people to be secluded.

# A strengthened Competence Authority



The Act establishes a Competence Authority in the Education Council to speed up the competence complaint resolution process, and to allow the governing Council to focus on its strategic governance function.

# Other provisions of the Act



- Improved management of enrolment schemes.
- An updated and streamlined legislative framework for state-integrated schools.
- An updated Part 12 of the Education Act, including:
  - Clarifying the reasons for decision making on education provision.
  - Streamlining consultation requirements on closing or merging a school.
  - Streamlined process for establishing designated character schools.
  - Clarifying provisions for offsite locations.
  - Creating a power for the Minister to require combined boards in certain circumstances.



# Implementation Timeline

From May 19 2017		From July 2017	2018	2019	January 2020
Objectives for the education system	Enrolment schemes	Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) begins creation of new Careers Advisory Service - from 1 July	Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) new careers service becomes fully operational - from 1 January	New Planning and Reporting framework introduced – from 1 January	Communities of Online Learning (COOL) regulatory framework operational
Prohibiting seclusion and framework for physical restraint	Designated character schools	Cohort Entry – schools and kura can begin consultation to introduce - from 3 July	Cohort entry – first students can start in Term 1, 2018		
Clarifying boards roles and responsibilities	Ministerial discretion on schooling provision	Compulsory attendance for under sixes if they have started before six – from 3 July	National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) issued by Minister (after consultation) – around May		
More graduated interventions	Processes around closing or merging schools after an area strategy		Consultation on regulations for Communities of Online Learning (tbc)		
More collaboration by Communities of Learning	Combine school boards in certain circumstances		Consultation on new Planning and Reporting framework (tbc)		
Off site locations	Updating framework for state integrated schools				
Competence Authority for teachers	Attending a board meeting about suspensions				
Alternative constitution when combining boards	Part 12 re changes to structure and type of schools				



# More Information

- Information on the Education.govt.nz website
- A video outlining the changes
- An email inbox for you to ask questions - [EdAct.Update@education.govt.nz](mailto:EdAct.Update@education.govt.nz).
- Information on the NZSTA website