

Curriculum, assessment and reporting for 2026: Years 0-8

The New Zealand Curriculum



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

There are changes for Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics as set out below.

Schools will need to make a start by developing, and then implementing, a plan that achieves full implementation as soon as practicable over the course of 2026. We understand schools have different contexts and that some schools may not be ready for full implementation of new or

updated regulatory requirements and expected practice from day one. We are here to support you with implementing these changes. Please note, there are no changes in 2026 to the curriculum, assessment, and reporting requirements for the other pre-existing learning areas, or for Years 11-13.

Years 0-8: Regulatory requirements for curriculum and assessment in 2026

Curriculum Statements

Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics (including assessment requirements)

Teach:

In full to all Years 0-8 students.

Keep meeting Years 0-8 Reading, Writing and Maths teaching time requirements.

Assess:

Have systems and strategies in place to closely monitor student progress and achievement. You need to actively assess student progress in relation to the year-by-year teaching sequences, using effective assessment practices.

The following specified assessments must occur:

- The Ministry of Education's **Phonics Checks** at 20 weeks and 40 weeks
- **Twice-yearly assessments for each student in Years 3-8** to monitor their progress in Reading, Writing and Maths using one of the following tools. Choose between:
 - SMART (Student, Monitoring, Assessment and Report Tool), provided by the Ministry of Education; or
 - PATs (Progressive Achievement Tests), provided by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research; or
 - e-asTTle (during 2026 only), provided by the Ministry of Education.

The specified assessments must be used in conjunction with other formative assessment approaches that are part of the school's systems and strategies for monitoring student progress and achievement.

To ensure consistency in how teachers make and communicate informed decisions about their assessment of each student's progress across the curriculum:

- The **common progress descriptors**, Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient, and Exceeding must be used.
- Make an informed decision on the **progress descriptor for each knowledge strand**.
- Use the strand level information to make an informed decision, as part of assessment, on the **overall progress descriptor for each learning area**.

Years 0-8: Regulatory requirements for reporting in 2026

Reporting Regulations

Schools must start reporting against the new Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics curriculum statements. There is no change to the reporting regulations at this time.

Reports must:

- be written in **plain language**
- include the student's progress and achievement **across curriculum statements** and in **literacy and mathematics**
- be provided at least **twice per year**.

Years 0-8: Expected practice in 2026 (this is not part of regulatory requirements)

Assess:

Begin to use the **Progress Markers for Reading, Writing and Maths** to support consistency in informed decisions about literacy and mathematics progress across the teaching sequences in the curriculum statements. Progress Markers are available on [Tāhūrangi](#).

Report:

To achieve clear and consistent reporting across the country, it is expected that all school reports to parents and whānau for Reading and Writing (literacy) and Mathematics will begin to include:

- common progress descriptors based on informed decisions - Overall and for each element of Reading, overall and for each element of Writing, and overall and for each strand of Mathematics & Statistics
- a visual representation of progress over time
- a narrative about why the progress descriptor was selected, and how parents and whānau can support their child's next learning steps at home
- assessment results from the Phonics Check or twice-yearly assessments (as appropriate), or let parents know where they are available.

Reports are also expected to include an attendance record.

See the new [reporting exemplars, guidance](#) and [PLD](#) available on Tāhūrangi.

[Gazette notice 2025-sl7165](#) issued the curriculum statements under section 90 of the Education and Training Act 2020:

- [The New Zealand Curriculum - English Years 0-10](#)
- [The New Zealand Curriculum - Mathematics and Statistics Years 0-10](#)

Reporting Regulations: [Duty to report on progress and achievement of students](#)

Curriculum, assessment and reporting for 2026: Years 9-10

The New Zealand Curriculum



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New Zealand Government

There are changes for Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics as set out below.

Schools will need to make a start by developing, and then implementing, a plan that achieves full implementation as soon as practicable over the course of 2026. We understand schools have different contexts and that some schools may not be ready for full implementation of new or

updated regulatory requirements and expected practice from day one. We are here to support you with implementing these changes. Please note, there are no changes in 2026 to the curriculum, assessment, and reporting requirements for the other pre-existing learning areas, or for Years 11-13.

Years 9-10: Regulatory requirements for curriculum and assessment in 2026

Curriculum Statements

Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics (including assessment requirements)

Teach:

In full to all Years 9-10 students.

Assess:

There are no specified assessments that must occur in Years 9-10.

However, you must have systems and strategies in place to closely monitor student progress and achievement. You need to actively assess student progress in relation to the year-by-year teaching sequences, using effective assessment practices.

To ensure consistency in how teachers make and communicate informed decisions about their assessment of each student's progress across the curriculum:

- The **common progress descriptors**, Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient, and Exceeding must be used.
- Make an informed decision on the **progress descriptor for each knowledge strand**.
- Use the strand level information to make an informed decision, as part of assessment, on the **overall progress descriptor for each learning area**.

Years 9-10: Regulatory requirements for reporting in 2026

Reporting Regulations

Schools must start reporting against the new Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics curriculum statements. There is no change to the reporting regulations at this time.

Reports must:

- be written in **plain language**
- include the student's progress and achievement **across curriculum statements** and in **literacy and mathematics**
- be provided at least **twice per year**.

Years 9-10: Expected practice in 2026 (this is not part of regulatory requirements)

Assess:

Begin to use the **Progress Markers for Reading** (as part of Text Studies), **Writing** (as part of Language Studies), and **Maths** to support consistency in informed decisions about literacy and mathematics progress across the teaching sequences in the curriculum statements. Progress Markers are available on [Tāhūrangi](#).

Report:

To achieve clear and consistent reporting across the country, it is expected that all school reports to parents and whānau for Reading and Writing (literacy) and Mathematics will begin to include:

- common progress descriptors based on informed decisions – For the Reading element of Text Studies (Textural and Critical Analysis element), the Writing element of Language Studies (Crafting Texts element), and overall and for each strand of Mathematics & Statistics
- a visual representation of progress over time
- a narrative about why the progress descriptor was selected, and how parents and whānau can support their child's next learning steps at home
- assessment results, or let parents know where they are available.

Reports are also expected to include an attendance record.

See the new [reporting exemplars, guidance](#) and [PLD](#) available on Tāhūrangi.

[Gazette notice 2025-sl7165](#) issued the curriculum statements under section 90 of the Education and Training Act 2020:

- [The New Zealand Curriculum – English Years 0-10](#)
- [The New Zealand Curriculum – Mathematics and Statistics Years 0-10](#)

Reporting Regulations: [Duty to report on progress and achievement of students](#)