

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

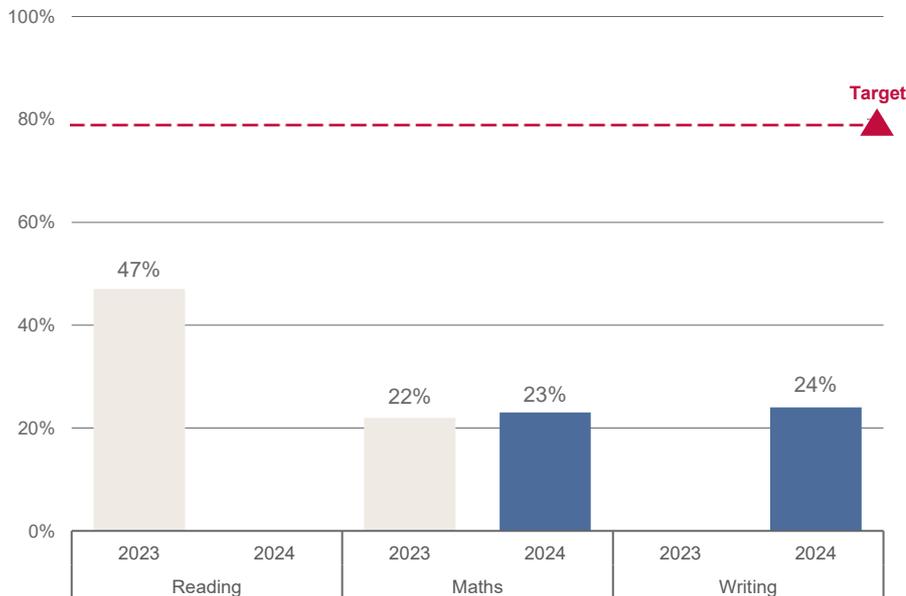
TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 2025

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 2023 (reading) and 2024 (writing and maths) provided 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. Fieldwork for the 2025 Curriculum Insights study took place in schools in Term 4 of 2025.

The Government is focused on:

- Clearer curriculum.** The Parent Portal has been updated with the learning areas for Maths and English Years 0-10 (to be used in schools in Term 1 of 2026), allowing parents to see what their child will learn across each year level in a clear and understandable way.
- Better approach to literacy and numeracy.** The Education and Training Amendment Act 2025 came into force on 19 November 2025, setting out that the paramount objective for school boards in governing a school, is to ensure that every student is able to attain their highest possible standard in educational achievement.
- Smarter assessment and reporting.** The new Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART) was trialled with schools, ahead of the first twice-yearly assessments commencing in Term 2 of 2026.
- Developing workforce of the future.** As of December 2025 (including Better Start Literacy Approach programme statistics), 100% of teachers in Years 1-3, 82% of teachers at Years 4-6, and 31% of teachers at Years 7-8 are trained or in training for SLA or Rangaranga reo ā-Tā. For 2026, maths PLD has been revised to align with the updated learning area.
- Stronger and earlier learning support.** Following trial results showing significant gains, preparations have been made to implement in Term 1 of 2026, small group maths teaching (supported by a digital learning platform) for up to 34,000 Year 7 and 8 students annually, who need additional support to meet curriculum expectations.
- Greater use of data.** Approved the design principles for Phase 2 of Tirewa Mātai, the national monitoring tool for ākonga/students 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