

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

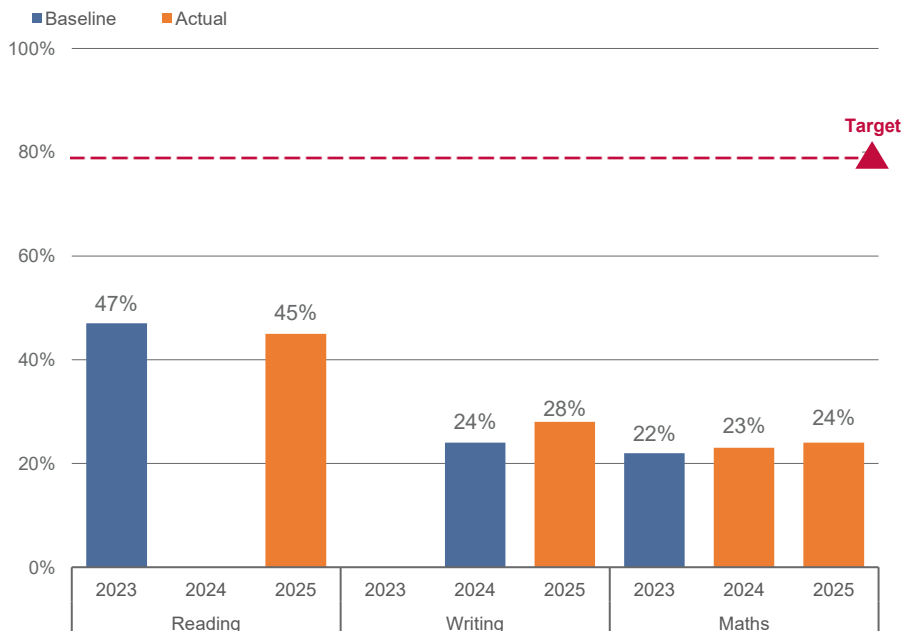
TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2026

Target	Baseline	Current	Status
80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47% Reading (Term 4, 2023) 24% Writing (Term 4, 2024) 22% Maths (Term 4, 2023) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45% Reading (Term 4, 2025) 28% Writing (Term 4, 2025) 24% Maths (Term 4, 2025) 	 At Risk

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

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

* Curriculum Insights and Progress Study: Maths and Reading are benchmarked against the 2023 draft curriculum; Writing is benchmarked against the April 2025 draft 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.

The 2025 Curriculum Insights results provide the second measurement of Reading and Writing, and the third of Maths achievement. The latest results are largely stable at Year 8 with some encouraging signs for Year 6 achievement, this includes a 6 percentage point improvement in the proportion of Year 6 students working at or above the expected curriculum level in Maths, and a 5 percentage point improvement in Year 6 writing - noting some of the key initiatives aimed at boosting achievement are still in the early stages of being embedded in classrooms.

The Government is focused on:

- Clearer curriculum.** Finalised learning areas for Years 0-10 English and Mathematics & Statistics mandated for use in schools from January 2026. The *Expanded New Zealand Curriculum: Supporting Resource for Students with Complex Learning Needs* was released in February 2026, to support the teaching of students with complex learning needs. Other subjects are on track for delivery.
- Better approach to literacy and numeracy.** The trialling of a new maths check, a short assessment focused on measuring early progress at Year 2 and ensuring young learners get the support they need as early as possible, commenced in Term 1 of 2026.
- Smarter assessment and reporting.** A new approach to school reporting for parents of Year 0-10 students was launched in February 2026. It will provide nationally consistent reporting across Reading, Writing and Maths, based on clear progress markers and informed by mandated twice-yearly assessments. The Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART) will be freely available to schools in Term 2 of 2026.
- Developing workforce of the future.** Delivery of training for teachers on structured literacy approaches has exceeded expectations, with approximately 20,370 English-medium and 1,253 Māori-medium teachers trained or currently in training since 2024. As of March 2026, the next cohort has 2,425 teachers enrolled, with PLD starting in Term 2 2026.
- Stronger and earlier learning support.** The first cohort of the Year 7 and 8 Maths Acceleration Programme is underway, targeting students who need additional support to meet curriculum expectations. The trial of the approach found that the gains achieved during the tutoring period were largely maintained over time. The Writing Acceleration Tool for Year 6-10 is also being made available to improve student writing achievement.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Curriculum Insights and Progress Study results are 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