

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

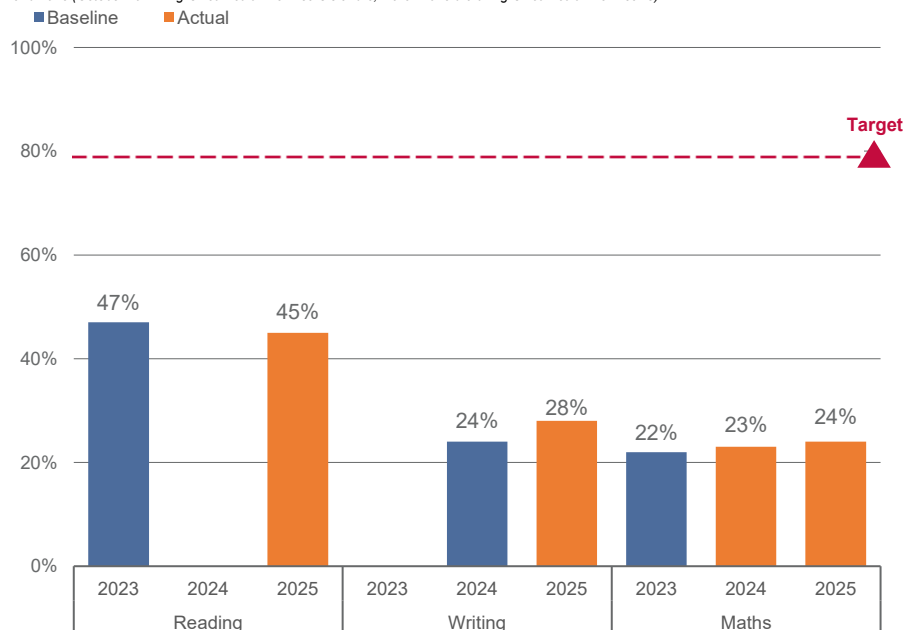
TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING JUNE 2026

Target	Baseline	Current	Status
80%	47% Reading (Term 4, 2023) 24% Writing (Term 4, 2024) 22% Maths (Term 4, 2023)	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 2025 results were benchmarked using the same approach as both 2023 and 2024: mathematics and reading were benchmarked to the 2023 draft of the refreshed curriculum used for the initial benchmarking exercise; writing was benchmarked to the English learning area available in 2024 and 2025 (October 2024 English curriculum for Years 3 and 6, March 2025 draft English curriculum for Year 8).



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 most recent Curriculum Insights and Progress Study (2025) provided 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, 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.** Learning Kits for Years 7 and 8 English have been published, providing adaptable resources designed to support teachers to plan delivery of the refreshed English curriculum. Further Kits across the remaining learning areas are planned for public release later in 2026.
- **Better approach to literacy and numeracy.** The Foundational Learning Action Plan was announced in May 2026, supported by a \$131 million literacy and maths package in Budget 2026. This includes investments in structured literacy approaches (SLA) resources, new tools and checks to support student progress, and hands-on maths teaching kits.
- **Smarter assessment and reporting.** The Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART) was used for the first time by schools during Term 2 2026. More than 200,000 students across more than 1,330 schools and kura were assessed using the tool.
- **Developing workforce of the future.** As of early July 2026, around two-thirds of schools and teachers in Y0-10 state and state-integrated schools have engaged with one or more days of Ministry-funded maths PLD. In April, 200 experienced teachers seeking to become principals started the new Aspiring Principals Programme.
- **Stronger and earlier learning support.** The first cohort of Years 7 and 8 students have completed the maths acceleration programme, with the second cohort now underway. The approach is targeting students who need additional support to meet curriculum expectations for maths, and the Ministry of Education is monitoring early implementation to gauge its impact on student 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