

Briefing Note: Draft Cabinet papers for approval to lodge – progressing 100 day commitments for curriculum

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Date:	6 December 2023	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1319508
Drafter:	Colleen Slagter	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contacts:	Clare Old (MOE)	DDI:	9(2)(a)
	Pauline Cleaver (MOE)		9(2)(a)
	Deirdre Shaw (ERO)		9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Paper

For your consideration and approval to lodge, this briefing note provides you with:

- the draft Cabinet paper: *Approach to mandating teaching times for maths, reading, and writing*, associated Regulatory Impact Statement, and draft proposed Gazette notice and curriculum statements (see Annex 1);
- the draft Cabinet paper: *Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary school students* (see Annex 2).

These Cabinet papers have been drafted to reflect your feedback on earlier advice [METIS 1319732 refers] and the draft proposed Gazette notice and curriculum statements have also been amended.

Recommendations

Mandating teaching times for maths, reading, and writing

1. **note** we have attached the draft Cabinet paper, *Approach to mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing*, and associated Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for your consideration and feedback
Noted
2. **note** that the Cabinet paper includes the draft proposed curriculum statements and an amended gazette notice (as Appendix 2), which take account of your feedback, that is:
 - a. specify teaching time requirements as ‘10 hours of reading and writing and 5 hours of maths in a typical school week’
 - b. be clear at the start of the foundation curriculum policy statements on the need for explicit teaching of maths, reading and writing
 - c. include sub-headings in the foundation curriculum policy statements to make them easier to navigate

Noted

3. **note** that, as agreed by you, we are testing the draft curriculum statements with representatives of selected professional bodies and will brief you on the outcome

Noted

4. **note** that, if testing indicates amendments to the draft statements is desirable, we will provide you with statements updated with any changes you may agree as quickly as possible, but they may need to be updated after the paper is lodged for the 100-Day Cabinet Committee [METIS 1319732 refers]

Noted

5. **agree** that your office lodge the finalised Cabinet paper, *Approach to mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing*, and its associated RIS by 10am, Thursday, 7 December 2023 for the 100 Day Cabinet Committee Meeting on Wednesday 13 December 2023

Agree / Disagree

Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students

6. **note** we have attached the draft Cabinet paper, *Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students*

Noted

7. **note** that this draft Cabinet paper will include the proposed membership and includes an appendix with the draft Terms of Reference

Noted

8. **agree in principle** to the purpose and scope of the Ministerial Advisory Group being to review the refreshed English and mathematics and statistics learning areas, common practice model and phase by phase guidance to consider how they reflect the science of learning and how they work together to provide teachers with the clarity needed on year by year teaching expectations, and provide advice on what should sit where and any changes needed.

Agree / Disagree

9. **note** that disclosure forms, CVs and probity checks will be completed for Cabinet consideration on 18 December

Noted

10. **note** that candidates' appointments are subject to acceptable conflict of interest declarations and successful probity checks

Noted

11. **note** no agency consultation was possible given the tight timeframes;

Noted

12. **agree** that your office lodge the finalised Cabinet paper, *Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary school students*, by 10am, Thursday, 7 December 2023 for the 100 Day Cabinet Committee Meeting on Wednesday 13 December 2023

Agree / Disagree

Proactive Release

13. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full following Cabinet decisions on the attached papers.

Agree / Disagree

Release

Pauline Cleaver
**Acting Deputy Secretary,
Curriculum Centre
Ministry of Education**

06/12/2023

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education

— / — / —

Jasr

Jen Fraser
**General Manager, Schools Policy
Ministry of Education**

06/12/2023

[Signature]

Nicholas Pole
**Chief Review Officer
Education Review Office**

06/12/2023

Background

1. You have previously agreed to progress at pace:
 - a. the mandating of teaching times for maths, reading and writing in State schools;
 - b. the Expert Group to review the English and mathematics and statistics (Mathematics) curricula for primary school students, which is to be established as a ministerial advisory group.

Part 1: Mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing

A draft Cabinet paper about mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing is attached

2. We have attached for your consideration and feedback the draft Cabinet paper, *Approach to mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing* and the associated draft Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).¹
3. We are also developing supporting material and draft timetables to help schools implement the new requirements.
4. Due to the tight timeframes, no other agencies have been consulted about this Cabinet paper or RIS. You may want to send a draft to your Ministerial colleagues but, if you want Cabinet consideration of the paper this year, there is limited time for consultation.

To reflect your feedback, revisions have been made to the curriculum statements and gazette notice

5. Updated draft foundation curriculum policy statements and amendments to national curriculum policy statements, as well as a draft gazette notice, are included as an appendix in the Cabinet paper.
6. In our advice on progressing the mandating of teaching time for maths, reading and writing [METIS No 1319732 refers], we included initial drafts of the Gazette notice and curriculum statements for teaching time requirements. In your feedback, you asked for amendments to be made so that:
 - a. teaching time requirements are specified as '10 hours of reading and writing and 5 hours of maths in a typical school week' (rather than 5 hours each of reading and writing and maths);
 - b. the start of the foundational curriculum policy statements is clear on the need for explicit teaching of reading, writing and maths;
 - c. the foundational curriculum policy statements include sub-headings to make them easier to navigate.
7. Following Cabinet consideration of the approach, we will send you a final gazette notice for approval.

¹ RIS are a requirement for most regulatory changes.

We are testing the draft curriculum statements

8. You have agreed to test the draft curriculum statements with representatives of selected professional bodies. We will begin that process tomorrow (Wednesday) and brief you on the outcome of discussions, but the pace with which we can progress testing will depend on people's availability. If testing indicates amendments to the draft statements is desirable, we will provide you with updated statements for your approval as quickly as possible. This may be after the paper is lodged for the 100-Day Cabinet Committee.

Next steps for mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing

9. The tables below outlines the next steps for mandating teaching times:

Key milestone	Estimated timeframe
Updates to Cabinet paper if you require	6 December 2023
Cabinet paper lodgement	By 10am on 7 December 2023
100 Day Cabinet Committee consideration (policy approvals)	13 December 2023
Cabinet consideration	18 December 2023
Communication activities	As agreed with you and your office
Final Gazette notice and curriculum statements provided for agreement and signature, including te reo Māori translations	Tuesday, 19 December 2023
Approved Gazette notice and curriculum statements submitted to NZ Gazette for publication	Tuesday, 19 December ² 2023
Publication of Gazette notice and curriculum statements in NZ Gazette	Thursday, 21 December 2023
Foundation curriculum policy statements come into force for primary schools	1 January 2024
Foundation curriculum policy statements come into force for specialist schools and kura	1 January 2025
Change and implementation supports and activities for teaching time requirements	From mid-January 2024
ERO monitor compliance through Assurance Statements	February 2024
ERO carry out an information request to schools about their compliance	May 2024

Part 2: Ministerial Advisory Group on curriculum matters

A draft Cabinet paper about the Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students is attached

10. We have attached for your consideration and feedback the draft Cabinet paper, *Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students*.

² If we are unable to submit the notice and curriculum statements for publication by this time, then the next publication opportunity will be after the NZ Gazette office reopens on 10 January.

11. The Terms of Reference are included in the draft Cabinet paper. Following input from your office, information about the proposed membership will be included.
12. Due to the tight timeframes, no other agencies have been consulted about the Ministerial Advisory Group Cabinet paper. You may want to send a draft to your Ministerial colleagues but, if you want Cabinet consideration of the paper this year, there is limited time for consultation.

Terms of Reference

13. We have provided you with a draft Terms of Reference (see the appendix of the Cabinet paper). We have amended the purpose and scope for the ministerial advisory group, following your feedback. You asked to include a review of the refreshed English and mathematics learning areas, common practice model and phase by phase guidance to consider how they reflect the science of learning and how they work together to provide teachers with the clarity needed on year-by-year teaching expectations, and provide advice on what should sit where and any changes needed.
14. We have proposed names for membership of the Ministerial Advisory Group and we are awaiting further suggestions from your office. Once proposed membership is confirmed then candidates will be contacted to check their interest, availability and probity.

Next Steps for the establishment and operation of the Ministerial Advisory Group

15. Following Cabinet consideration, we will progress the establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Group to review the Mathematics and English learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum. We will provide you with appointment letters and communications material.
16. If the Expert Group is established by mid-January, it will provide you with:
 - a. an initial report on matters within scope by the end of February 2024;
 - b. a final report and recommendations by the end of June 2024.

Annexes *(attached separately)*

- Annex 1: (Draft) Cabinet paper - *Approach to mandating teaching times for maths, reading and writing*
- Annex 2: (Draft) Cabinet paper - *Ministerial Advisory Group to review the English and Mathematics curricula for primary and intermediate school students, which includes an appendix about the draft Terms of Reference*