

Investing in Maths and Literacy

Budget 2026 | Fact sheet

Budget 2026 provides \$131.3 million operating expenditure (opex) over four years for 12 components to further strengthen Maths and Literacy teaching and learning, as part of achieving the Government's target of 80% of students at curriculum level by 2030.

Key initiatives

The following key initiatives will be implemented:

- \$29.7 million for Maths and Pāngarau, including the establishment and initial trial of Maths and Pāngarau hubs, hands on Maths and Pāngarau equipment for every Years 0 to 8 classroom, a new times table and division check, an additional 36 full-time equivalent teachers for targeted Maths and Pāngarau support, and the expansion of the Maths and Pāngarau Acceleration programme.
- \$38.7 million for Writing, providing Writing and Tuhituhi workbooks for Years 4 to 5 students and implementing a digital writing tool for students in Years 6 to 8 to build writing fluency and capability.
- \$19.4 million for Structured Literacy and Te Reo Matatini decodables for older readers, an End of Year 2 Literacy | Te Reo Matatini Check, an Accelerated Literacy | Te Reo Matatini Programme, and a new Effective Literacy | Te Reo Matatini Teaching Programme for Years 0 to 10 to embed effective literacy practices aligned to the new curriculum.
- \$43.5 million to provide professional learning and development for smarter data use by school and kura leaders, and high-impact explicit teaching practices that deepen students' learning.

Initiative	Funding	Facts
Further Maths and Literacy Support	\$131.3 million opex \$0.32 million capex	<p>This initiative funds 11 components to further strengthen Maths and Literacy teaching and learning. The components include:</p> <p>Maths and Pāngarau Hub pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and initial trial of three Maths and Pāngarau Hubs as centres of excellence to promote high-quality delivery of the Mathematics and Statistics learning area and Pāngarau wāhanga ako (Tau 0 to 10). <p>Maths and Pāngarau Kits to every class in Years 0 to 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths and Pāngarau teaching kits designed to bring the new curricula to life for all Years 0 to 8 classrooms nationwide. <p>Times Table and Division Check within SMART</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a Times Table and Division Check for the end of Year 5 within the Student Monitoring and Assessment Tool (SMART) to analyse student proficiency in multiplication and division, allowing teachers to identify gaps early, target instruction, and monitor progress over time. <p>Maths and Pāngarau support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an additional 36 Maths and Pāngarau full-time equivalent teachers (FTTE). This will increase the level of resourcing from 143 to 179 FTTE. <p>PLD for High Impact Explicit Teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional learning and development to help teachers of students in Years 0 to 10 apply high impact explicit teaching in Literacy and Te Reo Matatini, and Maths and Pāngarau. <p>PLD for smarter data use, aimed at school and kura leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional learning and development for school and kura leaders of students from Years 0 to 10 so they can build their capability and confidence to use achievement data. <p>Structured Literacy and Te Reo Matatini decodables and readers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decodable readers for students in Years 3 to 10 who need additional support to strengthen their reading skills. Age appropriate decodables will be supplied in English and te reo Māori (aligned to Rangaranga Reo ā-Tā) so students can practice reading using texts that match their decoding level. <p>Universal Writing resources for Years 4 to 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing and Tuhituhi workbooks for Years 4 to 5 students, containing structured models, planning templates, vocabulary prompts and practice tasks to help students organise their ideas and strengthen sentence-level skills. A universal digital writing tool for Years 6 to 8 to give students a single, structured space to plan, draft, and revise their writing. <p>Expanding the Maths and Pāngarau Acceleration programme to include Years 9 and 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme delivers targeted teaching and structured practice to help students quickly close gaps and reach expected curriculum levels.

Initiative	Funding	Facts
Further Maths and Literacy Support - continued		<p>End of Year 2 Literacy Te Reo Matatini Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The check will help teachers identify whether learners who have secure early decoding skills are beginning to take meaning from texts at the expected level by the end of Year 2, enabling early support before any gaps widen. <p>Accelerated Literacy Te Reo Matatini Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a programme to provide short-term, high-impact, targeted Reading, Pānui, Writing and Tuhituhi support for Years 3 to 10, enabling them to reengage with classroom learning at the expected level. <p>Effective Literacy Te Reo Matatini Teaching Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an Effective Literacy Te Reo Matatini Programme to ensure a consistent, evidence-informed approach to teaching literacy that every teacher uses as part of their everyday instruction.



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