

Early Intervention Specialist Service (EISS)

Information for
schools and early
learning services



The Early Intervention Specialist Service (EISS) is a Ministry-funded learning support service for children with high and complex developmental needs. EISS provides tailored, specialised support for children/ mokopuna from birth to the end of Year 1 at school.



EISS is delivered through the Ministry's Early Intervention Service (EIS) and alternate service providers.

EISS supports the development, participation, and progress of children with high and complex developmental needs. Through early intervention and whānau-centred support, the service works with families, early learning services and schools to reduce barriers to learning and participation and improve outcomes for children in their everyday environments.

How has EISS changed?

There are now more EISS providers across the motu, including areas that previously did not have alternate service providers so you may start seeing new EISS providers supporting learners in your school or service.

There are also more EISS placements, meaning more children receiving support sooner.

The Ministry remains the primary provider of Early Intervention services across the motu, and most children will continue to receive support directly from the Ministry. For children with high and complex needs, who are eligible for EISS, the increased number of contracted providers in some regions will give families and whānau greater choice in who delivers their support.

How it works

Schools and early learning services can submit a Request for Support (RFS) to the Ministry, with parent or legal guardian consent, for children to be referred to specialist services. Requests can be made:

- › By early learning services
- › By schools (e.g. teacher, LSC or SENCO)
- › By health providers
- › In partnership with whānau and the Ministry.

The Ministry will confirm learner eligibility and provide parents and whānau with information about providers and services available in their region, including wait times, to make an informed choice to meet the needs of their child.

Children with high and complex needs remain the focus of this service.

Contact us for support

You can contact your local Ministry of Education team if you need further advice or support.

You can find the RFS form and contact details for your local office, at [Regional offices - Ministry of Education](#). Following a request for support, we will contact you to discuss next steps.

More information

- › [If you are worried about your child's learning - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Learning support when your child moves to school - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Supporting your child if they need extra help with their learning - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Learning support privacy statement](#)