

Changes to school planning and reporting requirements

Information for school leaders

School planning and reporting underpins all work that schools do. This helps boards and schools identify priorities, take action to improve outcomes, and demonstrate the progress they are making for students.

School planning and reporting regulations have been updated to align with recent changes to the Education and Training Act 2020 and Government priorities. The new regulations need to be considered in your next strategic plan, which is effective from 1 January 2027.

This information supports your board to prepare for the changes to regulations.

KEY DATES

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Term 3 2026 | Consult with your school community and start to develop your strategic plan. |
| Term 4 2026 | Continue development of your strategic plan. Review your draft strategic plan against the published regulations and approve. |
| 1 Jan 2027 | New strategic plan comes into effect. |
| 1 Mar 2027 | Strategic plan must be submitted to the Ministry and published online. |
| 31 Mar 2027 | Annual implementation plan must be published online. |
| 31 May 2027 | Annual report must be submitted to the Ministry and published online. |





1. Understand the new requirements

The changes to the school planning and reporting regulations aim to strengthen the focus on educational achievement and simplify some existing requirements.

What is changing?

Your board now needs to meet the following new school planning and reporting requirements.

These changes are included in the Education (School Planning and Reporting) Amendment Regulations 2026:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2026/275/en/latest/#LMS1665118>

In your strategic plan

- › Include **at least three** strategic goals, developed in consultation with the school community, for meeting the paramount and supporting objectives.
- › Include **at least one** goal on educational achievement that addresses **one or more** of reading, writing, mathematics, pānui, tuhituhi, pāngarau.
- › It is **no longer a requirement** to include information about how your strategic goals link to any relevant national education strategies or plans. However, you may still include this if it is relevant to your school's plan.

In your annual report

- › Include a general assessment of how your school's strategies have contributed to the educational progress of students whose needs have not yet been well met, including how your school is supporting students not meeting curriculum expectations.
- › Include actions you have taken in response to any Education Review Office (ERO) recommendation for improvements, including a decision to take no action, and why.

In all of your planning and reporting documents

- › For any educational achievement goal, the measures, evidence, and processes you intend to use to evaluate progress towards achieving your goals:
 - must be informed by the school's students' results from relevant assessment or aromatawai tools¹; and
 - may be informed by qualifications system data (for senior secondary students).
- › For other strategic goals, you may use your own measures, evidence and processes to evaluate progress towards achieving your goal.

What is staying the same

Aside from these changes, the current requirements in the Education (School Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2023 continue to apply:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2023/155/en/latest/#LMS858842>

¹ a relevant assessment or aromatawai tool means a tool specified by the Minister in a national curriculum statement made under section 90 of the Act.



2. Consult and develop your strategic plan

Your strategic plan effective from 1 January 2027 will be in place for two years (2027-2028). You will then need to develop a new, three-year strategic plan effective from 1 January 2029².

Consult with your school community

Engage with students, whānau, staff and your wider school community to understand their priorities, needs and aspirations for student success. Community engagement helps ensure your strategic goals reflect the needs of your students and your local context.

Gather and use information

Use a range of information to inform your strategic plan, including:

- › Student achievement information and assessment data.
- › Attendance, engagement and wellbeing information.
- › Findings from your annual report and previous planning documents.
- › Feedback from your school community.

Develop your strategic plan

The new regulations require your strategic plan to include **at least three** strategic goals, including **at least one** educational achievement goal for reading, writing, mathematics, pānui, tuhituhi, pāngarau.

When developing your strategic plan:

- › Identify your strategic goals and decide how they will be resourced and achieved.
- › Determine specific strategies to improve outcomes for all students, including students whose needs have not yet been well met.
- › Decide what success looks like and how you will measure progress towards your goal.

You can check back with your school community to refine your plan as many times as you need.

² The strategic plan effective from 1 January 2027 will be in place for two years, to realign strategic planning timeframes with the board triennial election cycle.

3. Review and approve your strategic plan



Review your draft strategic plan

Final regulations are now published, check that your draft strategic plan meets all legislative requirements and make any necessary updates before board approval.

Approve your plan

Your board must approve your strategic plan. The approved plan will guide your school's direction for 2027-2028 and will provide the basis for your annual implementation plans.

Before your board approves the plan check that it:

- › Includes at least **three strategic goals**.
- › Includes at least **one educational achievement goal** for one or more of reading, writing, mathematics, panui, tuhituhi, pāngarau.
- › Is informed by consultation with your school community.
- › Uses measures, evidence, and processes informed by the school's students' results from relevant assessment or aromatawai tools for your education achievement goals.
- › Meets the requirements of the new regulations.



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

4. Publish and submit your documents



Once approved, publish your strategic plan (and your annual implementation plan and annual report when due) on your school's website. If your school does not have a website, the Ministry can publish your planning and reporting documents on the Education Counts website.

You also need to submit your approved strategic plan (and annual report when due) to the Ministry using the **School Planning and Reporting Application**: <https://applications.education.govt.nz/school-planning-and-reporting-submission>

See **Key Dates** on page 1 for the due dates for publishing and submitting.



Further information and support

Templates and examples to help you develop your plans and reports are available from our website.

Please visit our **School Planning and Reporting** webpage for further information: <https://www.education.govt.nz/education-professionals/schools-year-0-13/administration-and-management/school-planning-and-reporting-framework>

or contact your Ministry of Education regional office:
<https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/about-us/contact-us/regional-offices>

Support for your board is also available from GovHub – School Board Services on 0800 782 435 or govadvice@govhub.org.nz