

Network Plan for Specialist Settings

2026 -2030

June 2026



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



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Foreword

The Government is committed to strengthening learning support so every child with additional learning needs can access education that enables them to succeed. A core focus of this commitment is ensuring families have real choice and timely access to specialist settings that best support and meet their children’s needs.

Over recent years, the Ministry of Education | Te Tahuhu o te Mātauranga has increased investment and improved support for children and young people with learning support needs. While these improvements have made progress, we acknowledge that challenges remain when families are wishing to access specialist settings.

Across the country, demand for specialist settings continues to grow as the numbers of children and young people verified for Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding increases, alongside broader population growth. These pressures on the learning support network reinforces the need for a deliberate, forward-looking approach to planning specialist settings – one that increases access and capacity and supports informed choice for families.

The Network Plan for Specialist Settings is a key action within the Government’s learning support priority. It sets out how we will grow and strengthen the schooling network of specialist settings to deliver the right settings, in the right place, at the right time, in order to meet current and anticipated demand. Targeted planning to increase capacity and increase access provides greater options for families to choose environments that best meets their child’s learning needs. This is our first attempt to develop this plan and feedback from you will help improve this activity over time.

Over the next five years, the Network Plan for Specialist Settings identifies opportunities to enhance and grow specialist settings through both learning support roll growth property investment, and non-property solutions. It is informed by current demand for specialist settings, projected growth in population and ORS-supported learners.

- The key priorities of the Network Plan for Specialist Settings are:
- Increasing parental choice for specialist settings that best support and meet child’s needs
 - Responding to immediate pressures and concerns with overcrowding.
 - Improving access in areas where there are high numbers of ORS-supported students, but specialist settings are limited or unavailable.
 - Planning for future anticipated demand from population growth.

This is a plan that has been shaped by the 12 Education Regions responding to their own challenges, realities and infrastructure, which has been brought together nationally for the first time. It considers the range of specialist settings and tailored provision, local schooling pathways and student transitions, available at this point in time. There are also opportunities for system change that will be built into a broader programme of work over time as the network of specialist settings increases in capacity. Although the plan is largely focussed on ORS supported students, the opportunities, improvements and increased capacity will permeate beyond this to a broader range of students with learning support needs.

The Network Plan for Specialist Settings demonstrates a commitment to grow the learning support network – a network that is responsive, coordinated and allows for choice.

This network plan is a living document and will be updated regularly to reflect current demand, data updates and ongoing engagement with the sector, to ensure it continues to guide investment planning, prioritisation and decision making with the most up to date and relevant information.



Geoff Short
Hautū Te Mahau
Deputy Secretary Education Services

Executive Summary

Across the country, specialist settings support students with the highest learning needs. Capacity has not kept pace with demand and there is increasing demand for access to specialist settings. All 27 day specialist school base sites and their associated satellite networks are close to or at capacity, with considerable interest from parents in their children accessing specialist settings. Some parts of the country do not yet have access to specialist schools, particularly rural or isolated locations, with long distance and travel times.

The Network Plan for Specialist Settings **will support future property investment for learning support roll growth**. The Plan signals an intent to:

- Increase capacity in specialist settings across the schooling network overtime, especially for day specialist schools
- Increase access to specialist settings across the country, including addressing key geographical gaps in provision.
- Increase genuine choice to access to specialist settings through building sufficient capacity in provision.

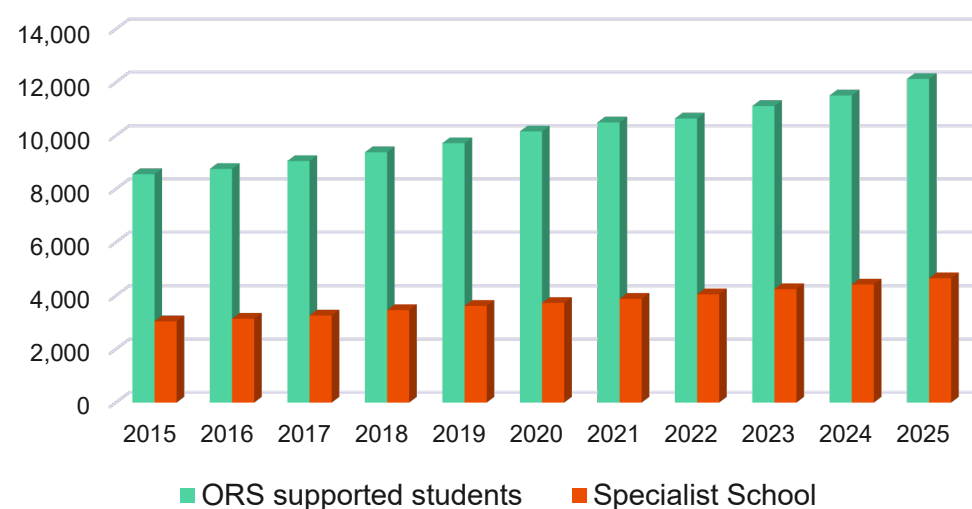
This plan includes some identified provision for the sensory schools, BLENZ and Kō Taku Reo, however specific planning for these schools will take place in the future. Likewise, Regional Health Schools have not been considered as part of this plan and will need to be considered separately through a dedicated plan. This is the first iteration of this plan and it will not yet be a complete picture of what is needed across the network.

Increasing demand – the numbers

There is an increasing number of students seeking enrolment in day specialist schools, of which, the majority are funded through Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS). Between 2023-2025 there has been an 11.2% increase in the number of ORS supported students attending specialist schools. Whilst overall school-aged population is expected to plateau, the number of ORS supported students are projected to increase. Some regions are experiencing higher levels of growth and demand in comparison to others due to shifts in the percentage of students verified for ORS funding and localised student-aged population growth.

As of 1 July 2025, 38.1% of all ORS supported students were attending a day specialist school across the country.

Figure 1: ORS supported students vs specialist school enrolments



Opportunities identified to increase access to specialist settings

Increasing capacity within the overall learning support network across all types of specialist settings will enable increased choice and access.

This plan largely focusses on planning for additional capacity at our day specialist schools and their specialist school satellites.

It reflects regionally led planning for increasing provision due to differences in current capacity across the country.

We have identified through the catchment plans where there are clear student pathways, and why there is increasing demand for specialist settings.

While there is a need to ensure choice in accessing specialist settings, there is also a need to maintain an inclusive education schooling system, where all students regardless of their abilities, are able to enrol and be supported at their local schools.

Property investment	Non-property interventions
 Up to seven proposed new specialist schools to be further investigated and planned for. These are likely to include a network of satellites, together with the base school.	 Further explore, investigate and engage with schools to host a specialist school satellite across 15 learning support catchment areas.
 Over 80 new specialist school satellites are proposed to be planned/established/delivered between 2026-2030.	 Consider more innovative opportunities for specialist settings in 15 learning support catchments, where distance from existing specialist schools currently prohibits learners from accessing specialist settings.
 Up to twelve transition hubs are proposed to be planned/established/ delivered for tertiary aged learners (18-21 years old) enrolled in specialist schools . These will support transition to life beyond schooling and free-up capacity in secondary settings.	 Develop a process and engage with up to 10 schools that have expressed an interest in becoming fundholder schools .
 Budget to be sought for 30 projects that are awaiting additional funding to progress to the next stage of design and/or construction.	 Work with local kura to consider establishing Māori Medium learning support settings .
 Specialist settings should be included, where appropriate, in the planning and delivery of school expansions and new school builds , especially in areas where there are currently no specialist settings.	 National consistency in enrolment practices to ensure access to specialist schools is fair, equitable and consistent across the country.
 Expand existing and deliver new property for Sensory Schools in locations of anticipated population growth, or known demand.	 Work together with Māori and Māori education peak bodies to explore opportunities for Māori medium learning support settings .
 Consider expanding, or refurbishing satellites and teaching spaces in 19 areas to meet demand and learning support needs.	 Work with Pacific language partners and key stakeholders to explore additional Pacific learning support pathways and opportunities .
 Further investigation required for the potential relocation and/or expansion of up to 4 existing specialist school base sites , to be better located and able to respond to growing demand.	 Consider student pathways and transitions (in line with projected growth and demand) , to ensure learners are able to progress through their schooling seamlessly.
 Improved consistency in size of teaching spaces , which ultimately impacts capacity and the number of students that can be accommodated in specialist settings.	

Increasing demand for specialist settings

- Between 2023 and 2025, day specialist school rolls have increased by 11.2% (446 students). This increased demand equates to an additional requirement of nearly 50 teaching spaces, and is placing pressure on existing capacity.
- In some Education Regions, there is an increasing number of ORS supported students choosing to enrol with Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu, The Correspondence School, or opting to be home schooled. In 2025, there was an additional 61 ORS supported students enrolled with Te Kura since 2023 (31.6% increase). This may be a temporary solution while waiting for enrolment at day specialist schools, where capacity constraints are unable to accommodate them currently.
- As of 1 July 2025, 61.9% (7,520) of ORS supported students are learning within local schools. This percentage has reduced slightly since 2023 when it was 62.7% (6,954) but overall numbers have substantially increased.
- In 2025, 1.4% of total enrolled student population is verified for ORS funding, an increase from 1.2% in 2020. While the overall student population is expected to plateau and decline in the long term due to changes in population demographics, the number of ORS supported students is expected to continue to increase.
- As part of Budget 2025, the Ongoing Resource Scheme received additional operating funding for the increasing number of students eligible for ORS funding. There is an additional 1,700 students forecast to access ORS by 2028/29.

Table 1: ORS numbers and projections

National	2023	2025	2030 Projection	Change to 2030
Total number of students	823,468	845,712	839,275	--6,437 (-0.76%)
ORS supported roll	11,112	12,129	13,610^^	+1,481
Specialist schools	4,160	4,609	5,192^^	+583 (12.65%)
Day Specialist Schools	3,985	4,431	4,992^^	+561 (12.66%)
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll^	72	84		
Ko Taku Reo*	120	108		
BLENNZ*	60	70		
ORS Correspondence / Te Kura^	193	254		

^^ ORS forecast provided by Ministry of Education, Data & Insights

^ Due to the relatively small numbers of ORS supported students in these settings, no 2030 projections are provided.

* These are only the ORS supported students who are directly enrolled with KTR and BLENNZ, They will have significantly larger number of students who are being supported by their itinerant/ outreach sensory resource teacher services.

Figure 2: Ethnicity split - Specialist schools

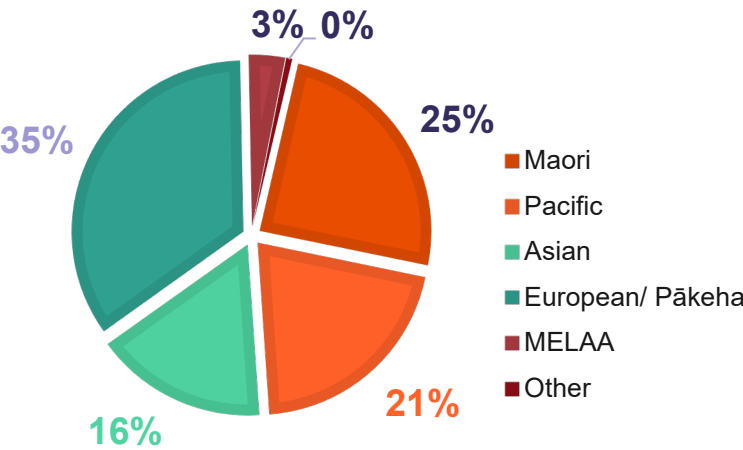


Figure 4: Split between High and Very High ORS

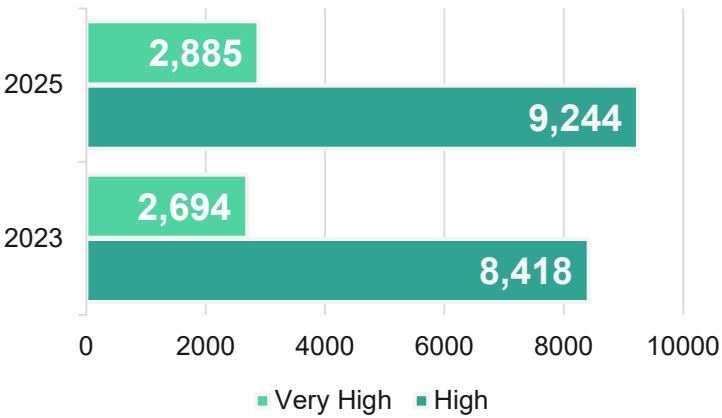


Figure 3: Local School Vs Specialist School ORS enrolments*, July 2025



* Calculated by school of enrolment, based on which Education Region the school is located within.

Introduction to the plan

The Network Plan for Specialist Settings (NPSS) provides a road map for targeted physical infrastructure responses and non-property interventions to enhance access to specialist settings across Aotearoa New Zealand over the next five years.

Providing a strategic, planned approach to growing the learning support network is a key step in getting the network right, so children and young people with the highest needs have greater choice and timely access to settings that meet their needs.

How will the plan increase and enhance access to specialist settings?

The Network Plan for Specialist Settings takes a network-wide and demand-driven view for better coordinated and effective planning.

The plan identifies opportunities that support future property investment where there is known demand, and to address known gaps in provision across different parts of the country at the current point in time. Solutions include proposed new day specialist schools and additional satellite teaching spaces. The property delivery solutions for all opportunities identified are subject to further confirmation and evidence of the demand.

Note that there is no funding allocated specifically for the delivery of this plan at the time of writing, however it is expected that property projects identified in the plan will be put forward by the Education Regions to be prioritised for funding in future Budget years.

There are also opportunities identified to improve access to specialist settings that are more systems focussed (and not directly attributed to property solutions). This includes consistency in enrolments for specialist settings, and establishing clear processes for schools that have self-identified and expressed an interest in holding Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS) funds for their students - a fundholder school and supporting local school-led programmes. At a regional level, network re-organisation of specialist schools and their satellites can better position specialist settings to respond to demand. Together, these opportunities all support a more flexible and responsive network.

Specialist Settings

The settings referred to in this Network Plan for Specialist Settings largely focus on adapted environments and purpose-designed teaching spaces that operate separately from mainstream settings. These cater for children with high or with complex learning needs, and or qualify for ORS funding.

While the NPSS has been built with a focus on ORS supported students, the intention is for improvements and increasing capacity within specialist settings and is not exclusive to those who are ORS supported. It is anticipated that the opportunities identified in the plan will benefit a wider group of students with additional learning needs, especially at the local school level.

What are the intended outcomes?

Increasing capacity within the overall learning support network across all types of specialist settings will enable increased choice and access.

The key intended outcome of the network plan is to increase choice when families are seeking to access specialist settings. We acknowledge that the growth of the learning support network over time has been ad hoc and property provision has not necessarily kept pace with population growth¹ or the number of ORS supported students in a geographical location. When the balance of demand for specialist settings matches, or is less than, the available capacity in the schooling network, choice is possible.

The scope of this plan is limited to network planning. It does not, nor is it intended to address attendance, achievement or curriculum, or quality of service delivery for the provision of learning support services.

Looking ahead

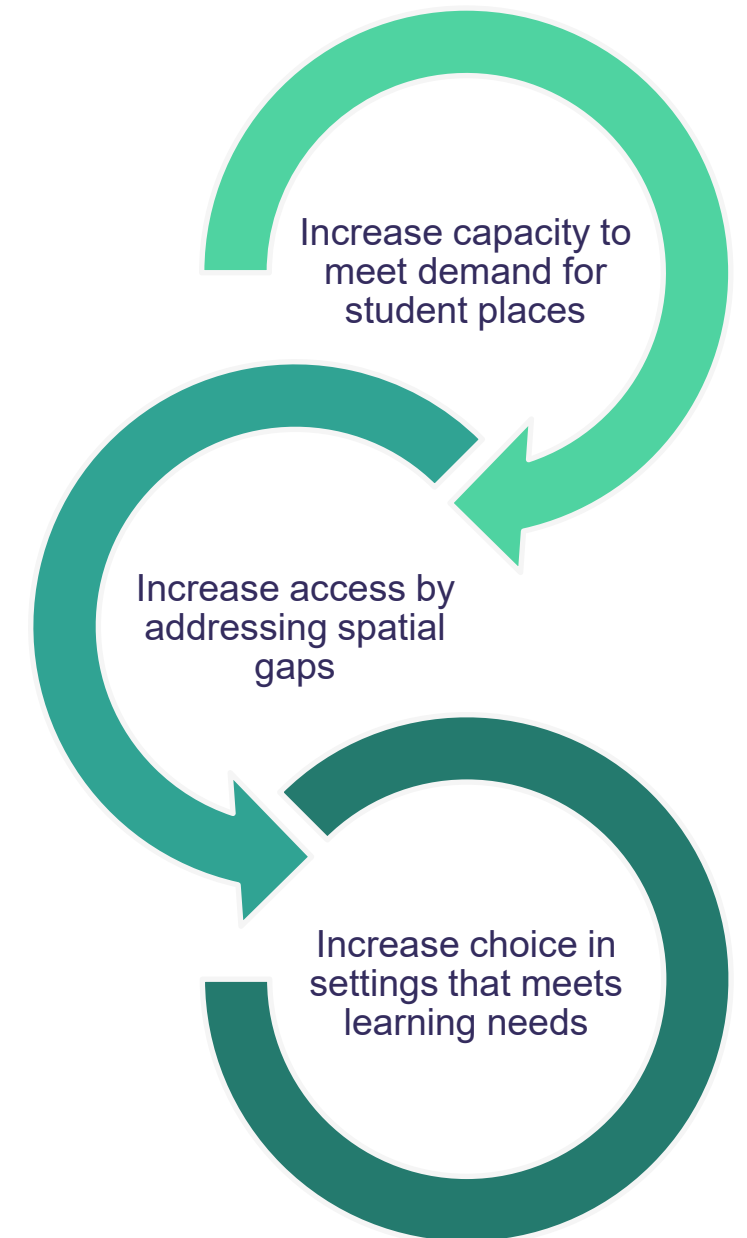
Over the next five years, additional Learning Support Roll Growth funding will be required to progress and deliver the opportunities that have been identified in the plan. By the end of June 2030, we anticipate a more coordinated, intentional network of specialist settings, where capacity meets demand and choice is enabled.

Sensory Schools planning

Some aspects of Sensory School specialist settings and their growth in demand have been included in this plan, particularly additional satellite provision. However, it is recognised that there may be other Sensory School services with property and/or network requirements that are yet to be considered. A specific network plan for Sensory School Specialist Settings is proposed in the future, to fully consider the unique network planning requirements of Sensory Schools.

Regional Health Schools

The regional health schools operate a different model of provision and rarely enrol ORS learners. For these reasons they have been considered out of scope for this plan however like the sensory schools, we intend to work with the health schools to develop a specific plan for Regional Health School provision.



¹ Education Review Office (June 2024), 'Built in, not bolted on': Evaluation of education at day specialist schools – Summary of findings

Learning Support Network

Across the country, students with learning support needs are supported in a range of settings. This reflects a continuum of provision, aligned with *He Pikorua*², the Ministry of Education’s practice framework for learning support which uses different tiers of support: universal, targeted and tailored, to meet the needs of all learners. All students with learning support needs have the right to enrol, attend and receive education at their local school.

Most students with learning support needs, including those with complex needs and supported by Ongoing Resource Scheme funding, learn at their local school. Students may be supported through school-led programmes or specialist outreach teachers while continuing to attend their local school alongside their peers. School property can be modified to improve accessibility and meet individual needs of learners. While most students with additional learning needs can, and do, learn successfully in local schools, there are options when a more specialised setting is required.

Specialist settings (as defined in this plan)

Specialist settings are educational environments that are designed to provided tailored learning support for children and young people with complex learning needs. Those who attend specialist settings are often unable to have their needs adequately met in local mainstream settings. Specialist settings are characterised by specialist staff expertise on site, adapted learning environments, and independent learning programmes that are bespoke for complex learning needs.

The settings referred to in this Network Plan for Specialist Settings largely focus on adapted environments and purpose-designed teaching spaces that operate separately from mainstream settings.

Learning Support in Local Schools

Some learners are supported in local schools by specialist settings which extend beyond the standard mainstream setting of the school. This includes:

- School Board operated learning support hubs or classrooms, where there are dedicated learning support programmes in place for students enrolled at the school.
- Specialist Teacher Outreach Services (STOS) provided by itinerant specialist teachers from a nearby specialist school, supporting learners with complex needs in their local schools.

Some schools choose to have a learning support special programme listed as part of their enrolment scheme. This enables

schools to extend priority enrolment to out of zone learners with additional learning needs into the programme (usually to a capped number).

Some schools choose to hold the Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS) funding of students enrolled at their school. Known as Fundholder Schools, these schools receive each ORS supported student’s funding to cover the provision of all specialist and teacher aide support, and are responsible for managing the specialist support required. There are 21 non-specialist schools who are fundholders. Some are in an arrangement with other local schools to hold and manage the funds for a further 30 schools.

Local school specialist settings enable students to remain connected to their local community while accessing more specialised support. Learning support settings at the local level also provides benefits for students with additional learning needs who are not ORS verified.

Day Specialist Schools

Day Specialist Schools provide more intensive specialist support for students with complex learning needs. A Specialist Education Agreement, under Section 37 of the Education and Training Act 2020 is required for enrolments at specialist schools. The majority of students enrolled in specialist schools are ORS supported.

All specialist schools have a network of satellite classrooms that are hosted by local schools, as well as their base school. Satellites provide an opportunity for students enrolled in the specialist school to learn in the community alongside their peers. Some students may transition between the satellite and base school, or the satellite and local school.

Some specialist schools have also established transition classes for students aged 18-21 years old. These are often located in the community to prepare students for life beyond schooling.

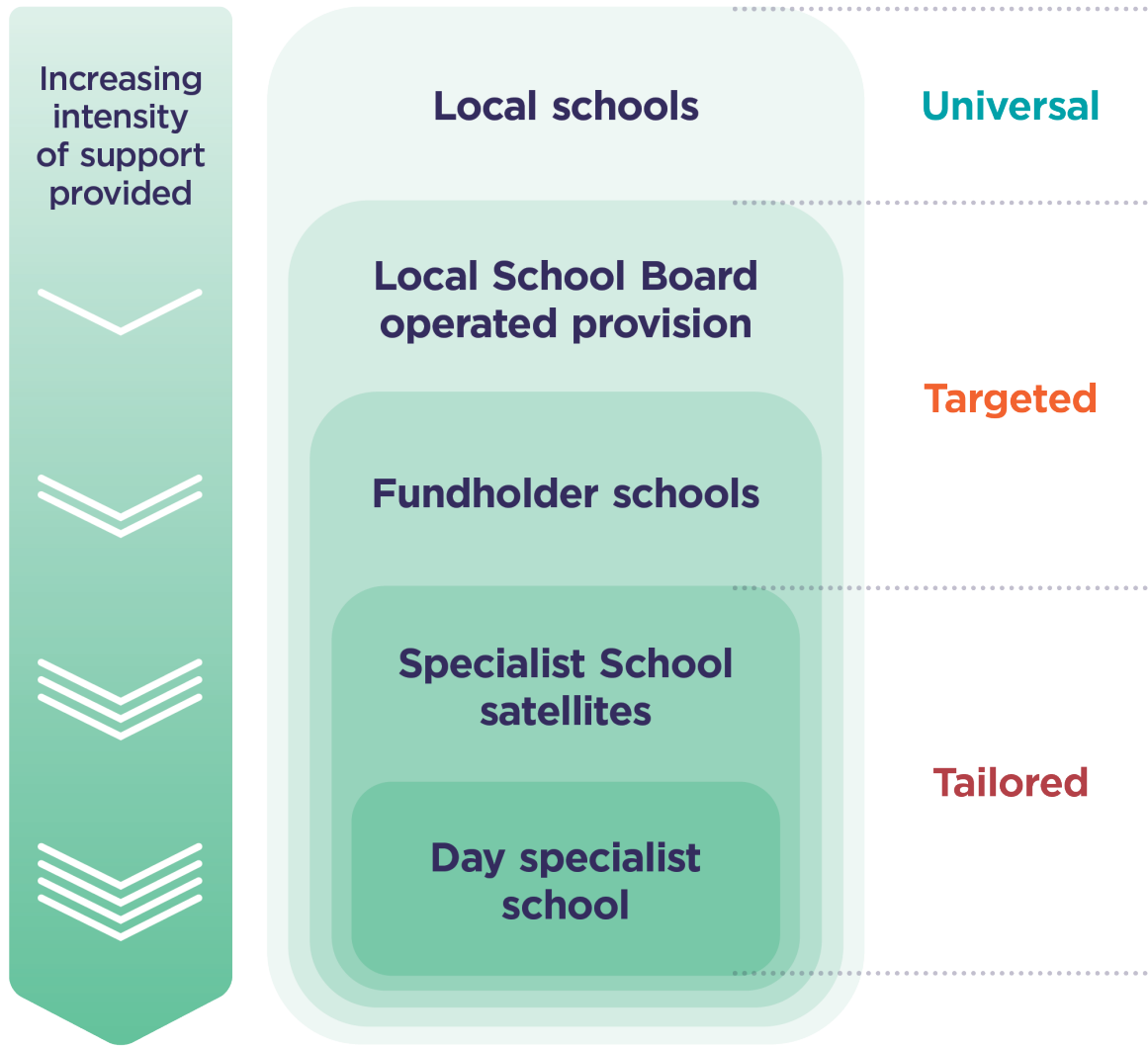
Sensory Schools

There are two sensory schools in the country providing specific focus on sensory needs: Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education New Zealand, and Blind and Low Vision Education Network New Zealand (BLENNZ). They support the majority of their students through their outreach service, however there are some students enrolled at their base sites, or learning at their small network of satellites.

Other specialist settings

Regional Health Schools and Residential Schools are included in the broader learning support network, however these are out of scope for the Network Plan for Specialist Settings due to majority of the cohort of students not being ORS-supported.

Figure 5: Types of specialist settings



² Ministry of Education (2006), *He Pikorua – Our Practice Framework*, <https://hepikorua.education.govt.nz/>

Responses to changing demand

Opportunities to increase access to specialist settings



New school or student places delivered



Availability and/or acquisition of land for new (specialist) schools



Funding required for additional student places



Refurbishment, expansion and redevelopment



Network structure solutions/options for the location of settings



Network re-organisation, enrolment schemes and special programmes at local schools



Fundholder school/local school programme pathway for schools that express an interest.



Innovation for small numbers of ORS supported students

Property investment

To deliver the opportunities identified in the plan, we will work with School Property to develop pragmatic delivery approaches that include repurposing existing surplus land and buildings where possible.

Non-property interventions

The planning for additional specialist settings takes into consideration student pathways and transitions between settings as learners progress through their schooling.

Increasing access for specialist settings

Key reasons for opportunities being identified will fall into one, or more, of the following categories:

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
Specialist settings exist, however there is insufficient capacity to meet demand. There may also be known large cohorts of students progressing through the system that will result in insufficient capacity in some types of settings, i.e. large numbers of primary age students progressing to secondary.	Statistics NZ population projections suggests increasing population across a number of areas nationally, largely driven by housing developments and intensification. This generally correlates with increases in school-aged population, and number of ORS supported students, driving an increase in specialist school rolls.	Long travel times for children with complex needs can be challenging . Many students access specialist settings via SESTA (Specialised School Transport Assistance) and will need to meet these eligibility requirements.	If there is no access, there will be no choice – opportunities to address spatial distribution of specialist settings across the country will create better opportunities for ORS supported students to accessing specialist settings and enrol in specialist schools.

System opportunities to increase access and enhance specialist settings

Achieving sustainable improvements in access to specialist settings requires a more intentional, system-wide approach. The opportunities identified below represent a range of priority improvements that will be progressed through a phased implementation programme over the next two to three years. As part of a broader programme of work, these initiatives will need to be appropriately resourced and developed to support long-term system enhancement. Over time, these improvements will increase specialist capacity, strengthen access pathways, and deliver greater national consistency and equity across specialist provision.



Improvements to specialist settings

Demand for specialist settings

- Understanding the demand for specialist settings is key to planning for additional capacity in the learning support network. We will work closely with specialist schools to understand community demand, including families who have expressed interest for specialist settings, and how this information can be utilised for planning

National consistency in enrolment practices

- Further work is required to ensure there is national consistency in enrolment processes for specialist schools. In some areas, specialist schools have their own self-defined catchments for enrolment, whereas others have enrolment catchments that have been defined by the Ministry. National consistency in practice will ensure that legislative requirements are met, and access to specialist schools is fair, equitable and consistent across the country.

Innovative approaches for specialist settings

- We will work with the specialist schools to explore opportunities to leverage their resources, facilities, staff and expertise to support local schools. This includes considering possibilities for ORS supported students to spend some time in specialist settings, while still being enrolled at their usual school and vice versa where appropriate.

Specialist Teacher Outreach Services (STOS)

- We will consider how to enhance STOS to improve support to local schools by having a wider reach of engagement and support for ORS supported students in their communities – particularly, for communities that are more remote or further away from a specialist school base site. This could include professional development for local schools and will strengthen connections between specialist and local settings.



System Improvements

Data Improvements

- We have continued to improve our data quality and data collection approaches in recent years, but the picture is still not complete. Further work is required to ensure we have timely data to better inform the planning of specialist settings. We will work together with schools and Ministry teams to improve this.

Capacity and size of teaching spaces

- Across existing specialist settings, there is variation in the size of teaching spaces, which ultimately impacts capacity, and the number of ORS supported students that can be accommodated per teaching space. We will work with School Property for better consistency in provision, nationally.

School Transport

- A number of ORS supported students are eligible for Specialised School Transport Assistance (SESTA) to get them to and from school safely due to safety and/or mobility needs. When planning for new specialist settings, travel time needs to be considered, in order for students to meet SESTA constraints and eligibility requirements.

Network re-organisation and relocation

- Population growth, coupled with historical ad hoc planning has meant that some current specialist settings are now no longer located in areas that best meet the needs of the community they serve.
- Network re-organisation and/or relocation of existing bases schools and satellites may be necessary in some areas to give a more balanced and effective network. This is particularly the case in areas that currently are, or have recently experienced high population growth.
- Any new schools built should include dedicated teaching spaces for specialist settings as part of their planning.



Enhancing access

Fundholder Schools

- A process will be established for local schools that have expressed an interest becoming a fundholder school, to hold and manage ORS funding for students enrolled at their school. This will include:
 - Criteria to become a fundholder, and minimum thresholds
 - Ongoing monitoring requirements
 - Fundholder arrangements with other schools

Special programmes (enrolment schemes)

- A process will be established for Local schools that are expressing an interest to grow their own learning support programmes. A special programme as part of the enrolment scheme will enable them to enrol students from outside their enrolment zone into the programme, which allows for greater numbers of students and better use of resources.

Rural and isolated areas

- Innovative solutions are required in more rural and isolated areas, where distance to current specialist settings limits opportunities for access.
- This would be targeted towards smaller provincial centres, where there are insufficient numbers to sustain a specialist school or other specialist settings themselves.

Pacific languages learning support settings

- Nationally, Pacific ORS supported students make up 21% of the total number of ORS supported students enrolled in specialist schools. This is disproportionately high compared to the total student population.
- We will work with Pacific language partners and key stakeholders to explore expansion of the existing provision at Central Auckland Specialist School and additional Pacific learning support pathways and opportunities, especially in areas with a high Pacific population.

Reo Māori / Kura Kaupapa Learning Support Settings

Māori are disproportionately represented across ORS supported students:

- Nationally, those identifying as Māori make up 33% (4,097) of the total number of ORS supported students.
- ORS supported Māori ākonga make up 25% of the total number of ORS supported students enrolled in specialist schools. This is high when compared to those identifying as Māori within the total student population.

There is a gap in culturally aligned support for Māori ākonga with additional learning needs:

- Māori ākonga with learning support needs often enrol in Kōhanga Reo, however as they transition to kura, there are limitations in what specialist support and settings they can currently access. Māori ākonga will often transfer to a specialist school or other specialist settings.
- Only 2% of ORS supported Māori ākonga remain enrolled in kura kaupapa across the country.
- Specialist schools have identified culturally aligned support as a gap in provision. Some suggest they would benefit from either bilingual or immersion reo Māori classes at their base school or satellites, given the already high number of Māori students enrolled at their school.

Working together with Māori to develop specialist settings:

- All Education Regions have indicated further work required to explore opportunities for Māori medium learning support settings, in recognition that there are few currently.
- Developing specialist settings for Māori cannot be done in isolation by the Ministry, we will work together with iwi, Māori organisations and Māori education peak bodies. There is interest from Māori education peak bodies to explore options further.

Opportunities to explore for Reo Māori Specialist Settings include:

Support Māori-led innovation in specialist education, including kaupapa Māori therapeutic models and mātauranga-based interventions

Culturally aligned models for specialist provision

Supporting innovation and autonomy within Kura Kaupapa Māori and Kura ā Iwi.

Introduce Reo Māori Outreach Teachers to support both mainstream and specialist settings, bridging cultural knowledge and specialist expertise.

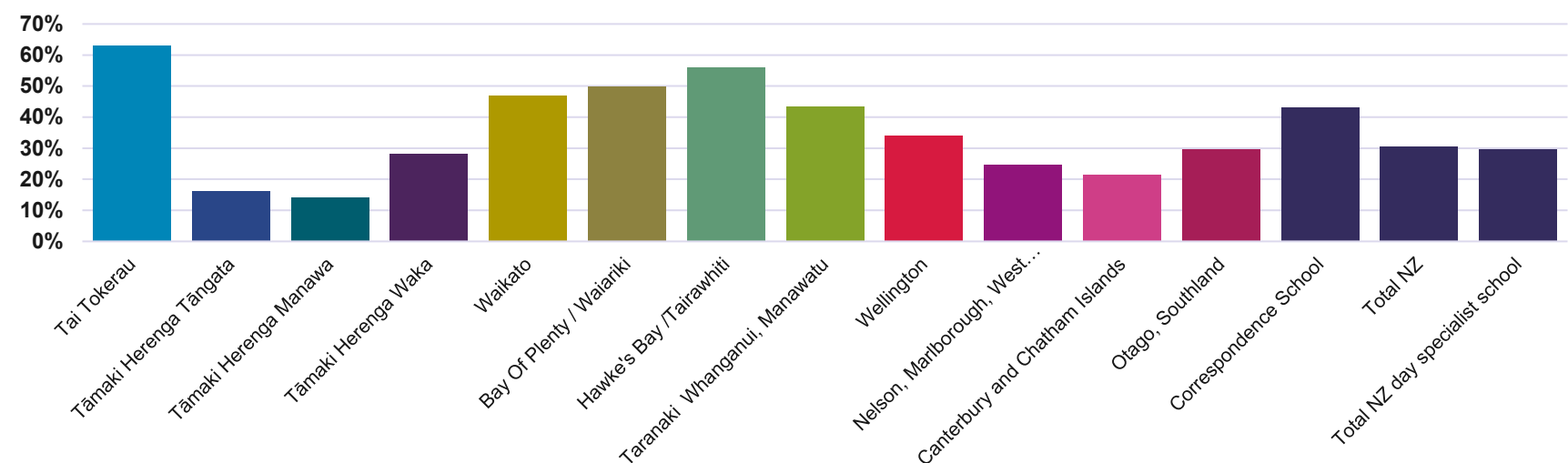
Collaborating with a specialist school to build a responsive, skilled workforce that reflects Te Ao Māori values.

Establish satellite units that can operate within or alongside kura, offering targeted support while maintaining cultural integrity.

Establish a fundholder model within Kura Kaupapa Māori to enable iwi-led service design and delivery.

Co-create specialist pathways that reflect Māori worldviews and community aspirations.

Figure 5: % Māori ORS supported in Specialist Schools



Note the Total NZ percentage includes the percentage of Māori ORS supported ākonga enrolled at Correspondence School

Specialist settings by region

A balanced learning support network is one where there are options for specialist settings that enables choice of provision for families seeking specialist settings.

The regional variation in the current level of provision of specialist settings reflects a locally responsive planning direction within the region. For some, historical planning decisions have taken a strong position on inclusion within local schools, guided by priorities identified by communities and their unique needs. In other regions, well established specialist school and satellite networks have evolved over

time, enabling broader geographical coverage, but now face challenges in providing sufficient capacity to meet demand.

Two new specialist schools were announced in January 2026, to be delivered in Palmerston North and Drury, South Auckland. A third new specialist school was announced in August 2026, to be delivered in Gisborne. These new specialist schools will address current gaps in the network and/or capacity constraints. A satellite network will also be established as part of the planning and establishment of these new schools.

Student Pathways

Student pathways are a key consideration when planning for additional specialist settings. This ensures that as a child progresses through their schooling, there is an age - appropriate setting for them to learn in, alongside their peers.

Some of the opportunities identified by the regions are intended to complete existing student pathways, or address gaps in areas where there may be limited specialist settings currently. An assessment of current student pathways is identified below for each of the learning support catchments, using the key to the right.

Clear pathways for students

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Gaps in pathways – solutions yet to be determined

No specialist settings

Table 2: Network of specialist settings across the country, as of July 2025

Student Pathways		Existing specialist settings			
Student pathways within region	Education Region	Specialist School	Satellite host schools	Fundholders	Local Schools >=25 ORS*
Rural and remote areas with incomplete pathways or no provision	Tai Tokerau	Blomfield Specialist School		N/A	N/A
Mostly complete pathways. Some areas with little provision	Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata / Auckland North West	Arohanui School		3	3
		Oaklynn Special School			
		Wairau Valley Specialist School			
		Wilson School			
Clear pathways across majority of region	Tāmaki Herenga Manawa / Auckland Central & East	Central Auckland Specialist School		3	3
Clear pathways across majority of region	Tāmaki Herenga Waka / Auckland South	Sommerville School		3	3
		Mt Richmond School			
		Parkside School			
		Rosehill School			
Mostly complete pathways. Some areas with little provision	Waikato	Sir Keith Park School		1	2
		Goldfields School Paeroa			
		Hamilton North School			
		Patricia Avenue School			
Some pathways, with areas with little to no provision	Bay of Plenty / Waiariki	Rotorua Specialist School		N/A	4
Significant towns/cities with no specialist settings	Hawke's Bay / Tairāwhiti	Tauranga Specialist School		1	3
		Fairhaven School			
Significant towns/cities with no specialist settings	Kōwhai School	Arahunga School		4	6
Mostly complete pathways. Some areas with little provision	Wellington	Kimi Ora School		1	6
Rural and remote areas with incomplete pathways or no provision	Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	Mahinawa School		1	1
		Maitai School			
Mostly complete pathways. Some areas with little provision	Canterbury / Chatham Islands	Ferndale Te Ahu		4	5
		Pitau - Allenvale School			
		Waitaha School			
Rural and remote areas with incomplete pathways or no provision	Otago / Southland	Ruru Specialist School		N/A	2
		Sara Cohen Specialist School			

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Primary satelliteSecondary satelliteTransition

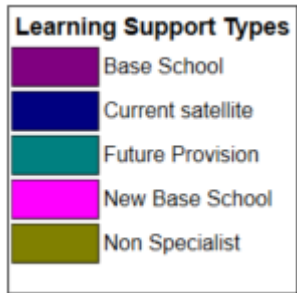
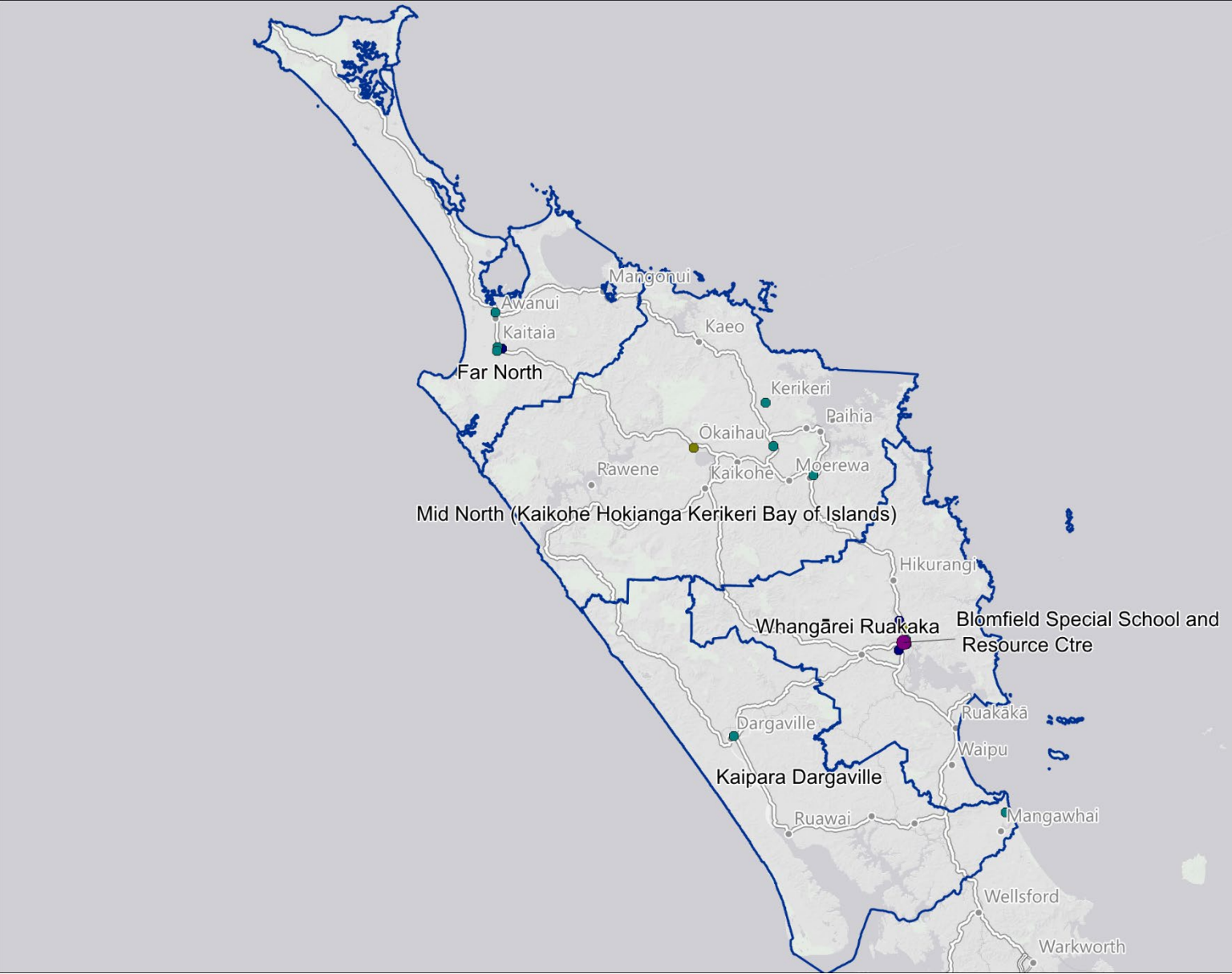
*Local Schools include schools with learning support special programmes in places, as part of their enrolment scheme

Regional Network Plans



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

Te Tai Tokerau - Regional Summary



Te Tai Tokerau

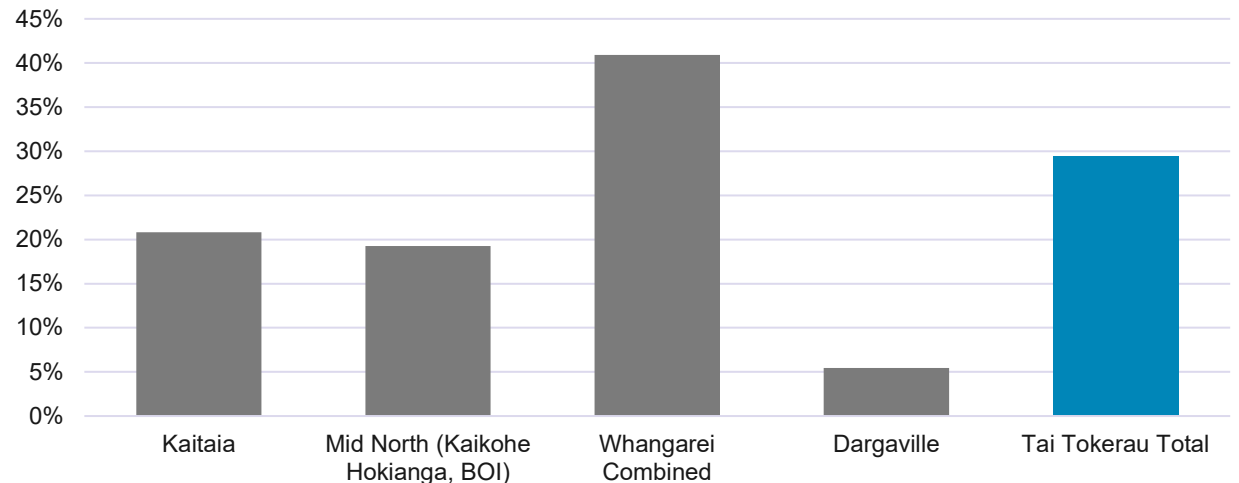
Te Tai Tokerau has a large Māori population, pockets of geographic isolation and some of the highest national deprivation indicators. There are challenges associated with the geographic spread of ORS supported students.

29% of ORS supported students in Tai Tokerau attend Blomfield Specialist School located in Whangarei, however, ORS supported students from Whangārei make up 68% of its total roll. Additional teaching spaces for Blomfield satellites and new specialist provision are key levers for meeting demand.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Far North	73	70	87
Mid North (Kaikohe Hokianga, Kerikeri Bay of Islands)	73	80	99
Whangārei Ruakākā	288	313	387
Kaipara Dargaville	48	48	59
Tai Tokerau TOTAL	482	511	632

Tai Tokerau - % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Te Tai Tokerau – Far North

Catchment overview

- Kaitiaa catchment has a high number of ORS students relative to the total number of enrolled students (2.5%).
- There is some anticipated population growth in the east of the catchment (Cooper's Beach/Taipa), however in general, population numbers are small. Taipa Area School is serviced by specialist services from Kaitiaa.
- The Far North population is expected to remain relatively stable, however, the number of ORS supported students are anticipated to grow. Kaitiaa can expect an increase of up to 10 ORS supported students over the next five years.
- Within the next five years there will be increased demand for secondary student places, with larger cohorts of ORS supported students progressing through their primary/intermediate schooling compared to previous years.
- Based on projected growth in number of ORS supported students, Kaitiaa will need additional secondary and transition hub space in 2030.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment

Specialist School	Satellite locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Blomfield Special School and Resource Centre	Kaitaia College	7
	Kaitaia School	16
Funded/ in construction	Awanui School	

Student Pathways

Clear pathways for students

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Far North	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	3,906	3,760	3,651
ORS supported students	89	96	80
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	8	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	20	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	20.83%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- An additional teaching space for Blomfield Specialist School at Kaitia College will provide equivalent numbers of student places for both primary and secondary settings, and meet future demand as ORS supported students progress in their schooling journey.
- A transition hub for senior secondary students enrolled in local schools and Blomfield satellite will create capacity in secondary settings.

2026

**Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation*

2030



Relocation of satellite (Awanui School from Kaitiaia Primary School) due for delivery in 2026



Consider establishing a Transition Hub



Seek funding for 1 teaching space at the secondary satellite 2026



Bid for an additional teaching space for Blomfield secondary satellite 2030

Te Tai Tokerau – Mid North (Kaikohe Hokianga, Kerikeri Bay of Islands)

Catchment overview

- Kerikeri and Kawakawa in the east of this catchment have forecast population growth. Kerikeri/Waipapa in particular are planned to double in size over the next 30 years with significant growth over the next decade.
- With an average 5% annual projected growth in ORS supported students, this could equate an additional 26 ORS students in the catchment by 2030.
- The primary satellite at Oromahoe School is at capacity, with some students at secondary age waiting to move to the new secondary satellite at Bay of Islands College when it is delivered mid-2026.
- The Hokianga area is rural and remote with large travel distances and access challenges, it is over 40 minutes travel to Kaikohe, the nearest town. This is not an area of growth, but a gap in provision which requires consideration for future development. Travel to current specialist settings is over an hour away.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Satellite locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Blomfield Special School and Resource Centre	Oromahoe School	16
Funded/ in construction	Bay of Islands College Oromahoe School (expansion)	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Mid-North	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	7,820	7,791	7915
ORS supported roll	86	109	135
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	5	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	21	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	19.27%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- The completion of Bay of Islands College satellite will provide secondary pathway for ORS supported students.
- With the projected population growth in the Kerikeri area and demand for ORS supported students wishing to enrol at specialist school, additional satellite teaching spaces will be required in the near future. Further consideration is required to determine where these satellite teaching spaces are best located in the network. .

2026

 Delivery of 2TS satellite at Bay of Islands College 2TS (B24)

 Construction of additional 1TS at Oromahoe Primary satellite (B25)

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

 Consider expansion of and/or additional satellite in Bay of Islands/ Kerikeri areas

Te Tai Tokerau – Whangārei Ruakaka

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- District Council plans for both Whangārei and Ruakākā anticipate future population growth. Ruakākā has growth signalled to treble over the long term with steady growth in the short term. The Northern Suburbs of Whangārei have planned greenfield and brownfield intensification.
- 1.9% of all students are ORS supported in the Whangārei catchment which is higher than the national average and projected to grow.
- Blomfield Special School is the only specialist school in the Tai Tokerau region.
- 41% of all ORS supported learners in Whangārei are currently enrolled in a specialist school setting. There remains high demand for student places across all year levels in the Whangārei catchment seeking to enrol at Blomfield specialist school.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Satellite locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Blomfield Special School and Resource Centre	Blomfield Specialist School (base)	36
	Te Kamo High School	26
	Manaia View School	22
	Morningside School	12
	Transition hub (located on base)	30
Funded/in construction	Blomfield Special School primary provision	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Whangārei Ruakaka	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	15,976	16,251	16,196
ORS supported roll	250	281	352
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	1	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	132 [^]	115 ^{^^}	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		40.93%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Establish a transition hub for students aged 18-21 years. This hub may be attended by ORS supported students who have been enrolled in local schools as well as Blomfield Special School students. Blomfield's transition-aged students are currently located on the base site. Additional capacity for the transition years would create capacity at the base site.
- Expansion of the primary satellite, which is currently hosted by Morningside Primary School, from two teaching spaces to three teaching spaces. A new host site is required as the current location is not fit for purpose and is not located where the greatest demand is. The preferred location is Northern Suburbs as there is currently no provision for primary in that area. As an interim measure, Blomfield Special School will be accommodated in a leased space to provide additional capacity in their network while a more permanent solution is being sought.
- Consider establishing a new secondary satellite in Whangārei – this would provide additional capacity in Blomfield's secondary network and match the demand of primary capacity.
- The population growth coupled with the high percentage of ORS students may require an expansion of the base site. The above satellites will alleviate the general demand for places, however the base site provides for the highest need students. An expansion at the existing site may not be possible due to the size and location of the site, the school may need to be relocated to enable expansion.
- Investigate the demand for establishing an additional specialist school within the region, with a network of connected satellites to service the south, including the existing Dargaville satellite network and extending provision to the Kaiwaka/Maungaturoto areas where there is currently no specialist provision.

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Blomfield Specialist School, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^} Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Seek funding to Establish transition hub



Expansion and relocation of Morningside Primary Satellite



Consider new secondary satellite 3TS



Future expansion of Blomfield Base School



Investigate establishing a new Specialist School



Temporary lease at vacant ECE to provide additional capacity

Te Tai Tokerau – Kaipara Dargaville

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- Anticipated growth in the areas of Mangawhai / Kaiwaka / Maungaturoto. The Mangawhai population is expected to double over the next 10 to 15 years.
- As the population grows, it is likely the number of ORS supported students will also increase. It is anticipated that there could be up to an additional 13 ORS students over the next five years.
- This catchment currently has no specialist settings, with a gap from Orewa to Whangārei. A new primary satellite in Dargaville was recently funded for construction.
- There are significant travel times to specialist provision for those living in the south-east of the catchment, with the options being to travel north to Whangārei, south to Albany or west to Dargaville. Delivering specialist settings in the south-east of Tai Tokerau would result in a shorter travel distance for ORS supported students living north of Warkworth (Auckland).

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Satellite locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA
Funded/in construction		
Blomfield Specialist School	Dargaville High School Selwyn Park School	

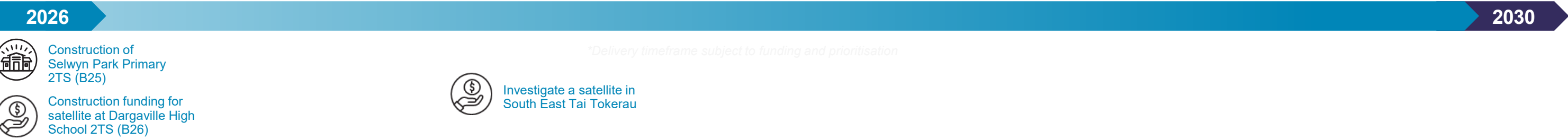
Student Pathways
No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion			
			
Risk of overcrowding	Anticipated population growth	Travel distance	Access to specialist settings

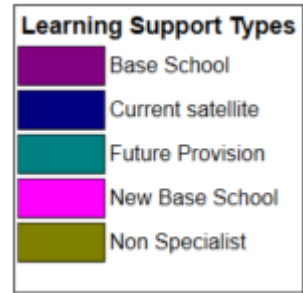
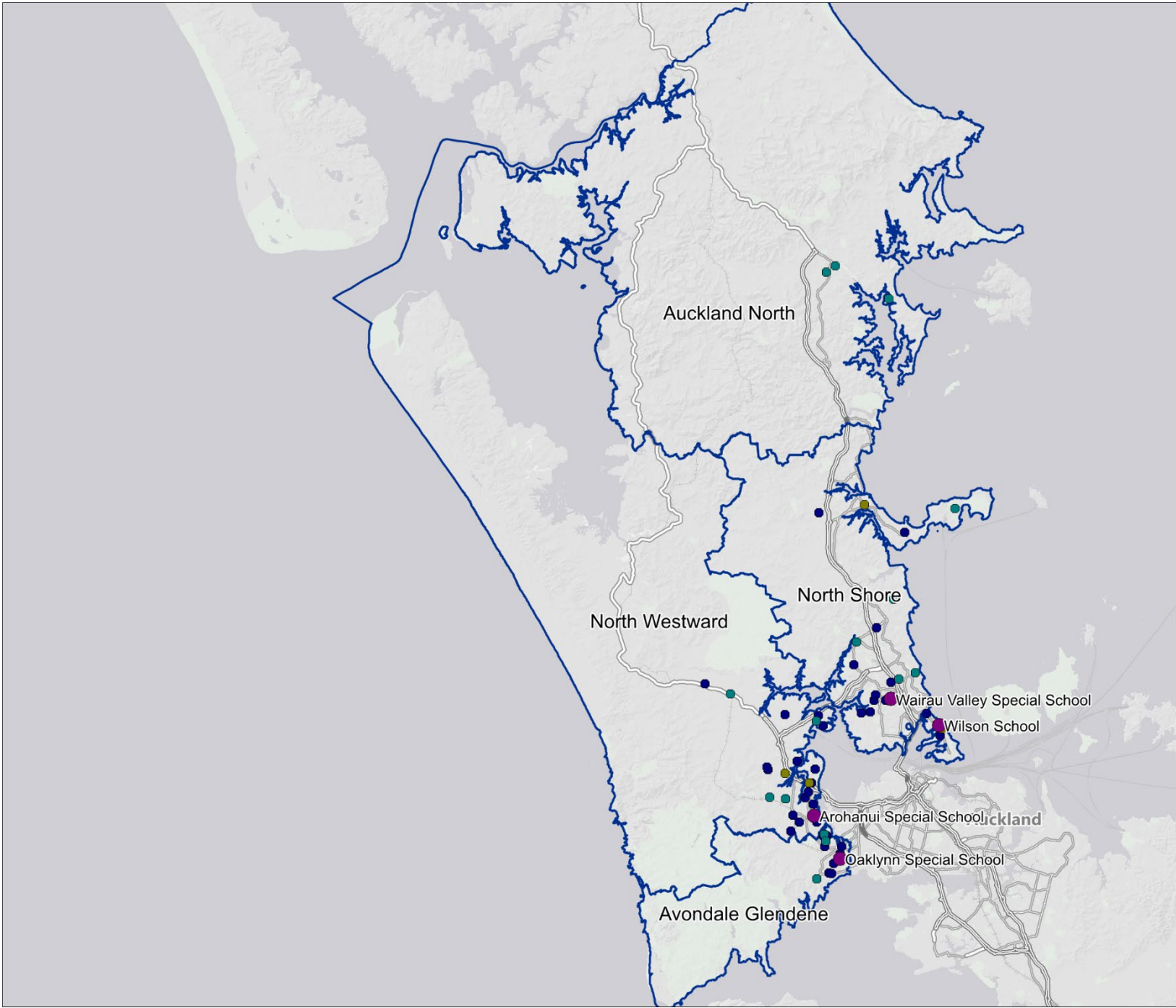
ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Kaipara	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	3,507	3,599	3,907
ORS supported roll	49	55	68
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	3	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	5.45%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- The secondary satellite in Dargaville at Dargaville High School will complete the specialist pathway for students who will be attending the new Selwyn Park School satellite once it is constructed.
- Investigate the demand for a satellite in the Maungaturoto/Kaiwaka area. A satellite in this area would service not only the immediate area but potentially further south to Wellsford.
- Investigate the demand for establishing an additional specialist school within the region, with a network of connected satellites to service the south, including the existing Dargaville satellite network and extending provision to the Kaiwaka/Maungaturoto areas where there is currently no specialist provision..



Auckland North & West – Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata - Regional Summary



Auckland North & West - Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata

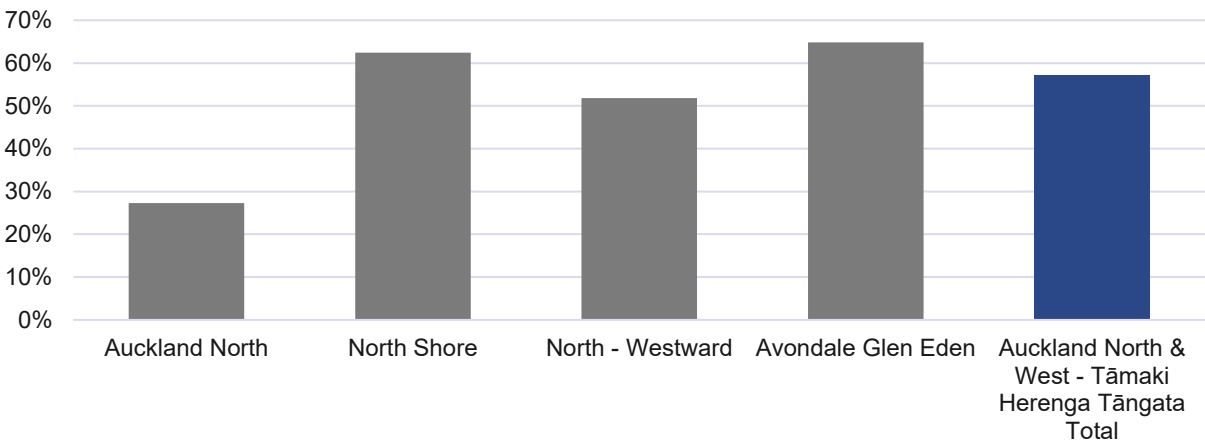
Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata has 58% of ORS supported students across its four specialist schools – Wairau Valley Specialist School, Wilson School, Arohanui Special School and Oaklynn Specialist School. Ko Taku Reo base school is also located in the region, in Kelston.

The specialist schools have been experiencing an increase in demand, especially in areas of rapid population growth. In the North, specialist provision is concentrated in the southern part of the catchment, limiting access for students in northern areas. In the West, additional provision is required in the rapidly growing areas of Massey-Redhills, Kumeu and Hobsonville.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Auckland North	29	28	38
North Shore	559	594	735
North Westward	444	522	646
Avondale Glendene	374	390	483
Auckland North West – Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata TOTAL	1,406	1,534	1,898

Auckland North West - Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata
- % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Auckland North & West – Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata – Auckland North

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- This catchment covers the Mahurangi and Rodney areas, between Orewa and Te Hana.
- Warkworth and surrounding areas are experiencing significant population growth, with housing developments proceeding and projections of 20,000 additional residents over the next decade.
- This greenfields development will increase the total student population, and it is expected the number of ORS supported students will also increase at the same rate.
- There are no specialist base schools or satellites in the Mahurangi catchment or southern Te Tai Tokerau region. The largest town centres of Warkworth and Wellsford where there is the greatest anticipated population growth have limited specialist settings. This puts additional capacity pressures on the North Shore specialist schools.
- Currently, ORS supported students living in the catchment must travel long distances south to Wilson Special School (Hauraki) or Wairau Valley Special School (Glenfield), to access specialist base school settings. Both options are at least 30km from the southern edge of the catchment. The closest satellite provisions are in Orewa (Primary) and Whangaparāoa (Intermediate and College), still requiring significant travel.
- ORS supported students often attend local schools to avoid travel, though the specialist support may be limited or not be provided at the level they require.
- Mahurangi College offers a local learning support programme for Intermediate and Secondary learners.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Auckland North	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	4,025	4,076	4,686
ORS supported roll	36	44	54
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	12	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	22.27%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is an identified need for a new specialist base school in the Warkworth area for ORS supported students residing between northern North Shore and southern Te Tai Tokerau. This would improve access to specialist settings and reduce travel times for students. It could also better serve the northern North Shore, especially the growing Orewa, Silverdale and Wainui areas. Further work is required to determine where this is best located. The planning timeframes are dependent on availability and suitability of land and property in the area.
- In addition to this, expanding specialist school satellites into the Mahurangi area will reduce travel time and provide access and choice in provision. Warkworth and Wellsford should be prioritised based on population growth and current gaps in specialist settings. A satellite network will be developed as part of the planning for the new specialist school and this is likely to extend into neighbouring catchments both to the north and south.
- Explore more innovative approaches to service areas that are further away from the base school, or in remote communities to enable access to specialist services and other learning support professionals. This will enable ORS supported students who need to access base school facilities but live some distance away.
- There may also be additional opportunities for the sensory schools, Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ, and local schools that are currently delivering learning support programmes.
- Currently there are no transition classes north of Glenfield. Developing transition programmes north of Glenfield and establishing post-school pathways will provide a pathway for young adults beyond schooling. There is potential to collaborate with community providers to offer supported transition programmes.
- Work with iwi and design services that ensure new provisions reflect culturally responsive models and build workforce capability to deliver Kaupapa Māori and Pacific focussed specialist education.

2026



Identify a site and commence planning for a potential new specialist school base in Warkworth



Investigate options for additional satellites in existing teaching spaces across the catchment (Mahurangi & Warkworth)

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Establishment of a 2TS satellite in Warkworth area

Auckland North & West – Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata – North Shore

Catchment overview

- This catchment stretches from Devonport in the south to Orewa in the north. Within this catchment, there are pockets of anticipated population growth, from both housing intensification and new green fields developments.
- The North Shore catchment includes two specialist schools: Wilson School (Hauraki) and Wairau Valley Special School (WVSS, Glenfield).
- Both schools are experiencing increasing demand, with Wilson School projected to grow from 125 to 152 students and WVSS from 271 to 280 by 2030.
- A high proportion of students at Wilson School are verified for Very High ORS (66% at base, 43% overall), indicating a concentration of complex needs.
- Specialist provision is concentrated in the southern part of the catchment. Between Wilson School and WVSS, there are 31 satellite classrooms that are hosted at 13 schools. Only five satellite spaces are located north of Albany, limiting access for northern communities. ORS supported students residing in the north of the catchment (e.g. Milldale, Wainui and Orewa) experience long travel times through congested traffic to access base sites or satellites.
- There are no clearly defined catchments for Wilson School and WVSS, resulting in overlapping and ad hoc satellite placements, including one satellite host school with satellites from both schools. There is a chance students travel past the satellite closest to them, as it is the satellite for the other specialist school.
- Both specialist schools are unable to meet current demand and have a number of ORS supported students who are expressing an interest in attending specialist school settings. The demand for enrolments are particularly acute when needs require a base school placement.
- The catchment is absorbing demand from outside its boundaries, especially from North Auckland where there is no current provision, further straining capacity. Key pressure points are new entrants and intermediate year levels, causing delays in progression and creating a bottleneck effect across age groups.
- Two fundholder schools operate within the catchment and a strong network of secondary schools deliver their own learning support programmes. Primary and intermediate local school programmes are limited. There is one primary school with a special programme as part of its enrolment scheme, providing access to a wider area.
- Anticipated growth in Wainui and Orewa has slowed with Auckland Council delaying future developments to 2050.
- Initial consideration for a new specialist school was focussed in the Wainui area, however further planning and analysis based on the population growth patterns suggest that the requirement for a potential new specialist school is further north in the Warkworth area. It is still possible that a specialist school will still be required in the northern North Shore in the future.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Wilson School	Wilson School (base)	42
	Albany Junior High School	16
	Glenfield College	28
	Manuka Primary School	16
	Windy Ridge School	12
	Bayswater School	15
Wairau Valley Specialist School	Wairau Valley Specialist School (base)	96
	Ahutoetoe School	15
	Birkdale North School	13
	Glenfield College	34
	Glenfield Intermediate School	23
	Glenfield Primary School	21
	Target Road School	16
	Whangaparaoa College	19
	Transition Hub (community based)	34
Funded/ in construction		
Wilson School	Long Bay School	
	Wairau Intermediate	
Wairau Valley Specialist School	Gulf Harbour School	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
North Shore	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	56,213	58,372	56,817
ORS supported roll	505	538	666
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	352^	336^^	
% ORS enrolled in Specialist School	62.45%		

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Wilson and Wairau Valley Specialist Schools, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^}Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Wairau Valley Specialist School (WVSS) and Wilson School have both recently had additional satellite teaching spaces delivered which will provide additional capacity. However, population growth in northern areas will continue to generate demand. Additional specialist school satellites will be investigated in Orewa, Whangaparāoa, and mid-East Coast Bays, where gaps in student pathways and provision currently exist.
- There is immediate need for more intermediate-level satellite provision, with only five classes currently available across both specialist schools. One intermediate school has confirmed willingness to host and we will be seeking funding in future budget rounds.
- There is a gap in provision in the Albany area, with only a 2 TS satellite at Albany Junior High School. We will explore additional specialist settings in the Albany catchment to complete the pathway for a growing number of students.
- We will also explore the possibility of increasing the number of teaching spaces at schools that already host a satellite for WVSS and Wilson School to provide additional capacity in the catchment.
- There are currently no defined catchments for WVSS and Wilson School. Establishing clear geographical catchments would support equitable access, better planning, and more efficient use of resources. It is anticipated that this will include reorganisation of existing satellite provision, with management of the satellites better aligned to geographic areas. Further work is required together with Wilson School and WVSS to explore options for re-organisation of the network. Any additional satellites added to the network in the interim will need to be mindful of future catchment planning.
- We will explore more innovative approaches to support ORS - supported students who need to access base school facilities but live some distance away, or are limited by long travel times.
- A local kura has expressed interest in hosting a provision or establishing a school learning support programme. This would allow ORS-funded Māori students seeking kaupapa Māori education to remain in immersion settings within their community. Further engagement is needed to determine the most appropriate model and required support.
- While there is a relatively even balance between specialist and local school settings in the North Shore catchment, geographic gaps continue to impact access. A combination of immediate solutions (new satellites) and long-term strategies (e.g. new base school) should be actively pursued to create a more balanced and sustainable network



Auckland North & West – Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata – North Westward

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The North Westward catchment spans from Glendene North to Kaipara, including Massey and Hobsonville. It is a part of West Auckland which has a significant Māori and Pasifika population.
- The catchment is experiencing rapid growth. Significant housing development is planned, with 25,000–35,000 new homes expected in Massey, Whenuapai, and Hobsonville Point over 20 years. Kumeū's population is projected to reach 25,000 within 30 years.
- Arohanui Special School is the only day specialist school in the catchment and the total roll is projected to grow by 10% to 298 students by 2030. They report strong demand outpacing available spaces. Most students are retained till aged 21 which places pressure on spaces for new entrants.
- Arohanui Special School operates 24 satellite classes hosted by 14 schools, mainly in the southeast of the catchment. They also operate a transition hub, Pakeke for learners aged 18-21 years old. No satellite provision is available north of Huapai leading to long travel times for some students. Key pressure points for capacity exist at new entrant and intermediate level.
- Rutherford College and Lincoln Heights School are fundholder schools each with large numbers of ORS supported students. Kaipara College also offers a local learning support programme for students in the Helensville area.
- Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ operate across the catchment with a Sensory Resource Centre in Hobsonville. BLENNZ operates a primary satellite at Scott Point Primary School.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Arohanui Special School	Arohanui Special School (base)	45
	Bruce McLaren Intermediate	16
	Colwill School (Massey)	16
	Edmonton School	6
	Flanshaw Road School	13
	Freyberg Community School	14
	Glendene School	15
	Hobsonville Point Secondary School	18
	Massey High School	13
	Massey School	9
	Matua Ngaru School	13
	Pakeke (Community based transition hub)	31
	Rutherford School	28
	Te Atatu Intermediate	11
	Whenuapai School	15
Funded/ in construction	Te Pae School	
	Massey Primary (expansion)	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

North Westward	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	29,209	31,326	34,009
ORS supported roll	492	592	733
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	2	2	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	221^	307^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	51.86%		

^Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Arohanui Special School, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^^Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Te Pae School (Years 0–8) will open in Massey-Redhills in Term 1, 2027 and includes two satellite teaching spaces for Arohanui Special School.
- There are plans in place for a future relocation of Arohanui Special School base school to the Massey-Redhills area. The current site is unable to accommodate the current roll and cannot expand for future growth. Land has been purchased, as part of the new Te Pae School site, for the relocation. This will enable the school to be better located to respond to both growing and future demand, reduce travel distance for students, and grow the number of teaching spaces at the base site.
- We will explore innovative approaches to enable access for specialist settings for ORS-supported students who need to access base school facilities but live some distance away, or are limited by long travel times. This may include the opportunity to include specialist staff and sensory resource teachers in one location. Further work is required to explore this and identify the best location.
- Expanding satellite provisions in existing and new host schools will be necessary as the number of ORS supported students grows in the catchment. Careful planning is needed to manage transport, staffing, and operational challenges of multiple satellites at multiple host schools. Planned satellites include those in areas to address geographic and/or pathway gaps. Some areas identified include Hobsonville, and further North West in Kumeu/ Huapai areas.
- We are considering options for BLENNZ secondary provision in the northwest. This would complete the pathway currently ending at Scott Point Primary. The only secondary satellite provision for BLENNZ in Auckland is located in Manurewa in South Auckland.
- Culturally responsive provisions for Māori and Pasifika learners should be considered to better serve the diverse population in West Auckland. The catchment has a high Māori and Pasifika community. Arohanui School is exploring a Māori bilingual/immersion setting at a primary level.

2026



Delivery of additional TS at Lincoln Heights



New satellite at Te Pae School (2TS)



Proposed satellite at Ranui School (2TS)



Proposed relocation of Arohanui Base School to Massey-Redhills area, at new Te Pae School site



Investigate options for a primary satellite in Hobsonville



Investigate options for secondary BLENNZ provision in Hobsonville



Work with Māori and Pasifika communities to explore bilingual options



Ongoing - investigate options where existing teaching spaces can be converted to satellites



Proposed expansion of satellite provision at Massey High School (2-4TS)



Proposed secondary satellite in Kumeu/ Huapai (4TS)

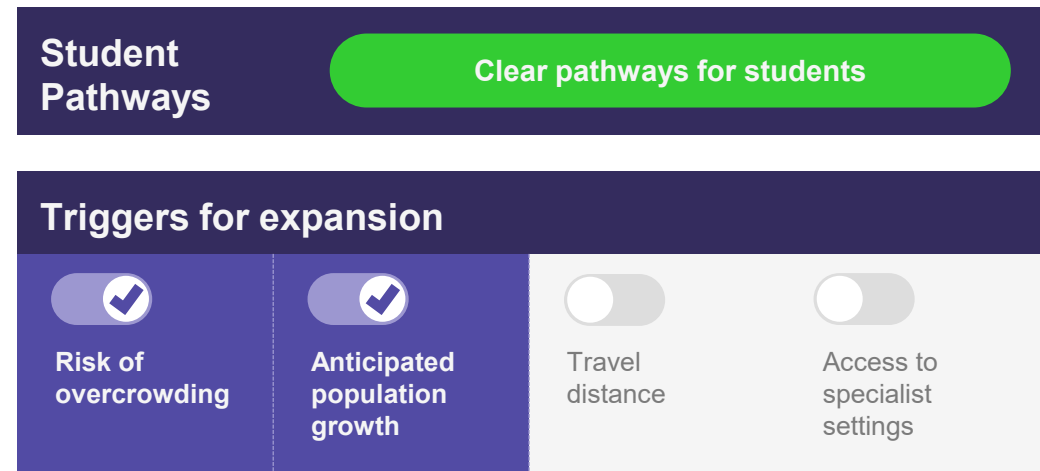
2030

Auckland North & West – Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata – Avondale Glendene

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- This catchment spans from Avondale to Glendene, and south to Blockhouse Bay. It also includes the more rural West Coast beaches.
- There are pockets of housing intensification and new developments within the catchment, contributing to a growing number of ORS supported students.
- Oaklynn Special School is located in New Lynn and total roll is projected to grow by approximately 6% to 250 students by 2030. They report a strong demand for specialist settings, with large numbers of ORS supported students expressing an interest in attending either the base site or satellites.
- Oaklynn Special School operates 22 satellite classes hosted by 10 schools, across the catchment. They also operate a transition hub OakTEC for learners aged 18-21 located in New Lynn town centre.
- Waitākere College is one of the largest fundholder schools in the country, providing access to specialist programmes for 60+ ORS supported students.
- Ko Taku Reo has their main administration hub located in Kelston. They have satellites located in Kelston Primary, Kelston Intermediate and both Kelston Boys' and Girls' High Schools to provide a complete pathway for those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Oaklynn Special School	Oaklynn Special School (base)	48
	OakTEC (Community based transition hub)	35
	Avondale Intermediate	15
	Chaucer School	9
	Glenavon School	17
	Te Kura o Pātiki Rosebank School	11
	Arahoe School	14
	Green Bay High School	31
	Green Bay Primary School	14
	Kelston Boys' High School	12
	New Lynn School	7
	St Leonard's Road School	13
Funded/ in construction	Kelston Intermediate	



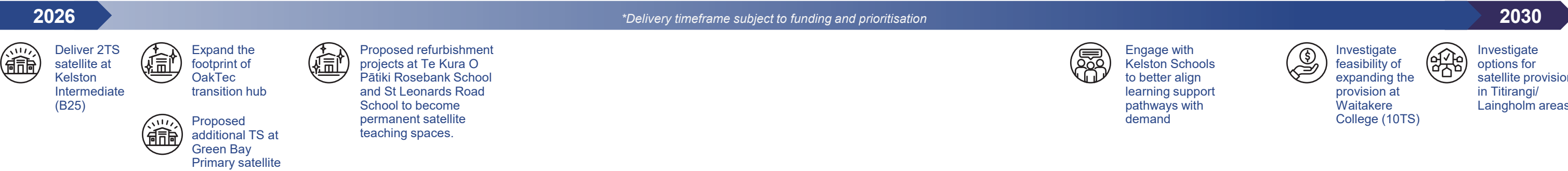
Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- In planning for the relocation of Arohanui Special School base to the Massey – Redhills area, further work is required to clarify the catchments for both Oaklynn and Arohanui Special Schools and they will be realigned if required.
- A review of catchment boundaries between Oaklynn Special School and Central Auckland Special School will enable both schools to better serve their communities and ensure that there are clear pathways and access to specialist settings across all areas.
- Growing Oaklynn's outreach team of teachers and therapists will strengthen support for ORS-funded students in local schools. This will also enhance local school learning support settings and provide specialist professional development for local schools. Further work is required on how increased outreach teachers and specialists are best accommodated within the catchment.
- We will investigate options to expand satellite teaching spaces at existing host schools to maintain leadership capacity and specialist staff support, instead of increasing the number of host schools.
- We will investigate options for additional satellites in areas where there are currently gaps in student pathways or no specialist settings e.g. Titirangi/Laingholm areas.
- Further work is required to understand whether fundholder schools have requirements for additional teaching spaces in the near future.
- Establish a bilingual or immersion provision in the Avondale–Glendene area, with support from local iwi and Pasifika communities, to better serve the region's diverse population.

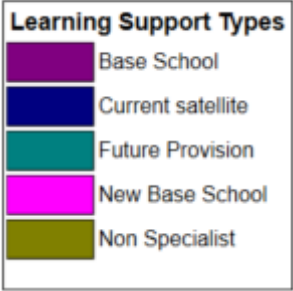
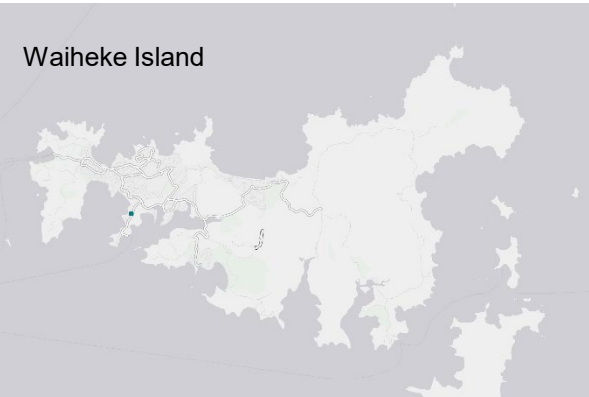
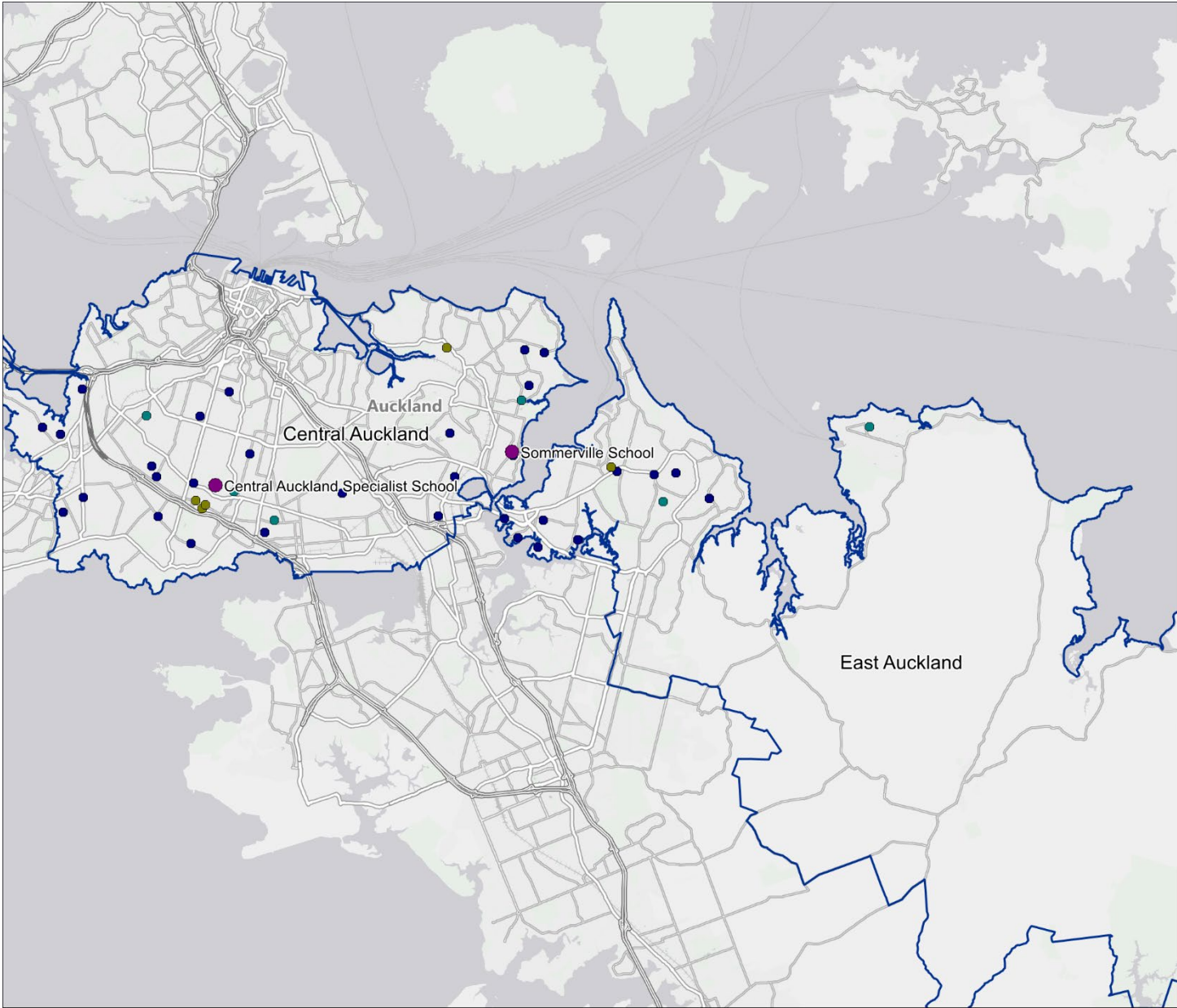
ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Avondale Glendene	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	11,375	11,559	10,668
ORS supported roll	192	219	271
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	217^	142^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	64.84%		

^Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Oaklynn Special School, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^^Note that 2025 ORS. data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite



Auckland Central & East – Tāmaki Herenga Manawa - Regional Summary



Auckland Central & East - Tāmaki Herenga Manawa

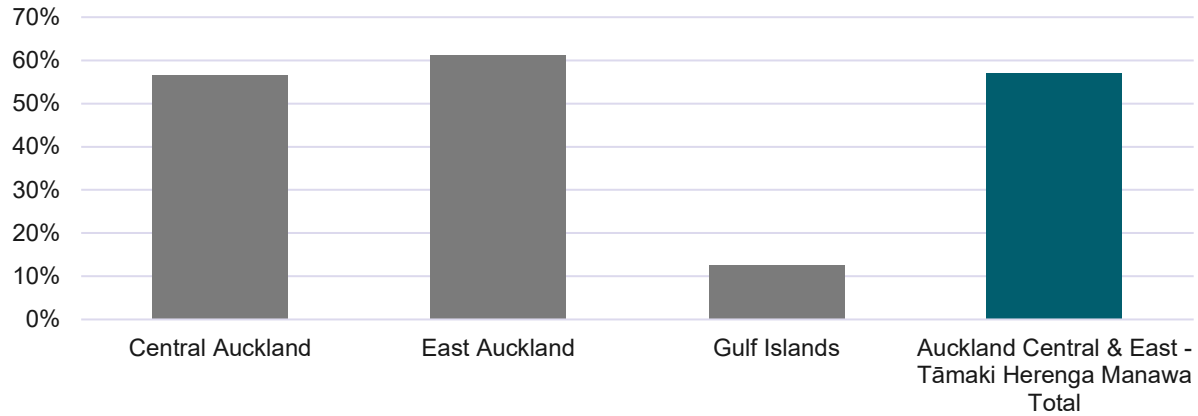
Tāmaki Herenga Manawa has 58% of ORS supported students enrolled across the two specialist schools – Central Auckland Specialist School and Sommerville School. Establishing additional satellites at different year levels will ensure sustainable pathways for learners. This is especially important in pockets of high population growth, around transport hubs and Kāinga Ora development areas.

In the East (Beachlands) and Waiheke Island, there is a lack of provision, with long travel times to reach the closest specialist setting.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Central Auckland	888	992	1,228
East Auckland	114	121	150
Gulf Islands	8	13	16
Auckland Central & East– Tāmaki Herenga Manawa TOTAL	1,010	1,126	1,393

Auckland Central & East - Tāmaki Herenga Manawa
- % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Auckland Central & East – Tāmaki Herenga Manawa – Central Auckland

Catchment overview

- The Central Auckland catchment is large diverse area and includes the Central Auckland suburbs between Avondale to Glen Innes, and the CBD to Onehunga.
- Across the whole catchment, Stats NZ projects a relatively stable school-aged population. The population distribution across the catchment is expected to shift, with growth concentrated around transport hubs due to enabled urban intensification.
- Some Kāinga Ora urban regeneration projects are on hold (e.g. Wesley area), but some are progressing, which will drive localised population growth. Areas of known future development include the Glen Innes Tāmaki area with the Tāmaki Regeneration project, Oranga, and Owairaka Mt Albert areas.
- It is projected that the number of ORS supported students in this catchment will continue to increase.
- There are two specialist school base schools in this catchment. Central Auckland Specialist School (CASS) has recently relocated from Three Kings to Mt Roskill, with all satellites located in the central Auckland suburbs. Sommerville School is based in Tāmaki and has satellites located both in the eastern suburbs of this catchment and the neighbouring East Auckland catchment.
- Both specialist schools are near capacity, with large numbers of ORS supported students expressing an interest in enrolling, either at the base school or satellites.
- Sommerville School has a significant construction project underway to rebuild their base school.
- Two sites recently vacated by the CASS base school are offering opportunities through redevelopment to provide additional capacity for future enrolments.

- Both Oaklynn Special School and Sir Keith Park Specialist School also have satellites in this catchment area – this is due to the specialist schools each having developed their own catchment areas with a network of satellites, but these specialist school catchments do not necessarily align with other Ministry or geographical boundaries.
- There are a number of ORS supported students who reside in this catchment, but attend specialist settings elsewhere, including other specialist schools in Auckland.
- There is a well established fundholder pathway with the Mt Roskill Schools – primary, intermediate and secondary, supporting approximately 100 ORS supported students.
- There are also a number of local schools, across both primary, secondary and state-integrated settings that provide specialist learning support provision for local students.
- A sensory resource centre has recently been established at Westmere Primary School for Ko Taku Reo.

Triggers for expansion



Risk of overcrowding



Anticipated population growth



Travel distance



Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Central Auckland	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	70,455	72,696	67,075
ORS supported roll	701	794	983
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	5	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	513 [^]	449 ^{^^}	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	56.55%		

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Central Auckland Specialist School and Somerville School regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^}Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Existing specialist settings in the catchment

Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Central Auckland Specialist School	Central Auckland Specialist School (former base & STAR)	58
	Balmoral School	15
	Dominion Road School	22
	May Road School	35
	Mt Eden Normal Primary School	8
	Onehunga High School	23
	Oranga School	15
	Te Whare Pitau (transition hub located at base)	14
	Waikowhai Intermediate School	7
	Waterview School	14
Sommerville School	Wesley Intermediate School	13
	Wesley Primary School	24
	Sommerville School (base)	173
	Glenbrae School (from Term 1 2026)	-
	Glendowie College	19
	Glendowie Primary	8
	Panmure District School	14
	Stonefields School	12
Oaklynn Special School	Sylvia Park School	13
	Tāmaki School	10
	Waterview School	
Sir Keith Park Specialist School	Waterlea School	18
Funded/ in construction		
Central Auckland Specialist School	One Tree Hill College	
	Mt Albert Grammar School	
Sommerville School	Sommerville School (base school rebuild)	
	Glen Taylor School (new provision)	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Central Auckland Specialist School (CASS) currently has one secondary satellite in its network, located in Onehunga. A new secondary satellite was funded in Budget 25 to be hosted at a secondary school in the western part of the catchment. This satellite will provide a logical student pathway for learners residing in the more western suburbs, and double the capacity for secondary satellite settings across CASS’ network.
- There is also an opportunity to establish an additional secondary satellite in the south-eastern part of the catchment.
- With CASS relocated to their new base, there is an opportunity to retain some of the existing teaching spaces from the St Andrews Road site, adjacent to Three Kings School, where part of the base site for CASS was located. These will become a satellite of CASS hosted by Three Kings School and continue providing access to specialist settings in this area.
- The second former base site at Smallfield Avenue in Three Kings will be converted to their new transition hub for learners aged 18-21 to prepare them for life beyond school.
- There are opportunities for expansion of satellites for CASS, and establishment of new satellites, in order to increase capacity and provide a clear geographical pathway for ORS supported students as they progress through CASS’ satellite network.
- Both Sommerville School and CASS have satellites that are currently located in temporary accommodation. These are often in existing buildings on the host school site, while awaiting learning support roll growth funding for the permanent satellite. There is opportunity to improve the specialist settings by investing in fit for purpose teaching spaces so the satellites are able to continue to operate without disruptions to the students and host schools. Work is already underway in some schools to progress this.
- In this catchment, Sommerville School has satellites hosted at five primary schools and only one secondary school. There is a need for additional secondary school satellites to balance the provision profile, and ensure a complete pathway for all Sommerville School students within the catchment.
- To strengthen existing non-specialist school specialist settings, we will explore the feasibility of upgrading local school specialist settings to align with the standards and property specifications of specialist school satellites. This will enable existing local school specialist settings to offer equivalent provision and increase overall quality of provision in the catchment.
- Currently there are no specialist settings for BLENNZ in this catchment. We will explore establishing a specialist pathway and/or a Student Resource Centre for students who are blind or low vision. There are currently three students residing in the catchment who are travelling to attend BLENNZ provision elsewhere in Auckland.
- Similarly, there is only outreach support for deaf or hard of hearing students from the Sensory Resource Centre based at Westmere School. There is an opportunity to consider establishing a central Auckland satellite pathway for Ko Taku Reo.
- There is a lack of specialist settings in the CBD and city fringe suburbs of Central Auckland. We will explore opportunities to establish specialist settings.
- For any new schools or significant roll growth projects at existing schools, where appropriate we will include teaching spaces for specialist settings as part of the design.



Auckland Central & East – Tāmaki Herenga Manawa – East Auckland

Catchment overview

- This catchment is from Pakuranga Bridge eastward to Waiti Bay. The catchment is a mixture of urban in the west and rural in the east.
- An increase in ORS supported students is expected in the eastern part of the catchment, driven by residential development in the Beachlands and Clevedon areas.
- Sommerville School has satellites hosted in 8 schools all located in the north-west of this catchment. This includes four primary, two intermediate, and two secondary schools. Sommerville School also has their transition hub, Te Hāpori, located in Pakuranga for ORS supported students aged 18-21 years old.
- Pakuranga College Board operates a large learning support programme, known as Pegasus Unit. There is capacity for up to 30 ORS supported students who live within the Pakuranga College enrolment scheme zone.
- There are a number of ORS supported students who reside in this catchment, but attend specialist settings elsewhere, including specialist schools based in South Auckland.
- There are barriers to accessing specialist settings in the eastern part of the catchment due to the more rural locations and lack of provision.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Sommerville School	Te Hāpori (Community based transition hub)	26
	Anchorage Park School	11
	Edgewater College	19
	Howick College	20
	Howick Intermediate	14
	Owairoa School	5
	Pakuranga Intermediate	11
	Riverhills School	13
	Riverina School	11

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Currently there are no specialist settings in the east of the catchment. With the large-scale housing development planned for Beachlands South, there is an opportunity to include specialist settings as part of the planning for schooling provision in the area.
- There are also no specialist settings between Ormiston (southeast Auckland) and Howick areas. Further work is required to best determine how this gap can be addressed.
- Given the significant population growth projected for the Beachlands and Clevedon areas, and the distance to existing specialist settings, consideration will be given to adding capacity to support this part of the catchment. This would meet growing demand and address the absence of choice for specialist settings across this area, ensuring more equitable access.
- To strengthen existing non-specialist school specialist settings, we will explore the feasibility of upgrading local school specialist settings to align with the standards and property specifications of specialist school satellites. This will enable existing local school specialist settings to offer equivalent provision. and increase equity of provision in the catchment.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
East Auckland	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	32,714	32,620	30,970
ORS supported roll	249	281	348
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	172	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	61.21%		

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Work with local schools to consider options for specialist settings in East Tāmaki/Botany area



Space for specialist settings to be included in new school design in Beachlands

Auckland Central & East – Tāmaki Herenga Manawa – Gulf Islands

Catchment overview

- This catchment covers the Gulf Islands of Waiheke Island and Aotea (Great Barrier Island).
- Significant population increase is not anticipated in this catchment.
- There are currently no specialist settings in this catchment.
- The catchment has unique challenges with significant barriers to access specialist settings. Specialist teachers and therapists are largely based on the mainland, and there is a reliance on public ferry services to access specialist services.
- There is a regular ferry service for Waiheke Island to Auckland CBD. A small number of ORS supported students travel from Waiheke to Auckland to attend specialist settings.
- Aotea Great Barrier Island has infrequent ferry services with travel time of 4 hours, and there are further access limitations due to limited roading networks and connections on the island.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Currently there are no specialist settings in this catchment. The focus is on equitable provision of specialist settings to support ORS supported students living in more isolated and remote areas.
- For Waiheke Island, there is currently insufficient demand to support a specialist school satellite. Further work is required to determine an alternative model to support equitable access to specialist settings.
- In the future, should demand increase to a level which would make it viable, we can investigate establishing a satellite unit of Central Auckland Specialist School.
- For Aotea, Great Barrier Island, there are limited options for increasing access to specialist settings. There is a need to consider a more sustainable funding model to support ORS supported students.
- Aotea Learning Hub supports students learning through Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (the Correspondence School). We can consider including outreach services at this hub to support students with additional learning needs.
- We can also consider and explore learning support hubs at other remote locations e.g. Tryphena (Aotea, Great Barrier Island) to support students with learning support needs.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Gulf Islands	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	1,060	1,028	881
ORS supported roll	10	16	20
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	2	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	12.50%		

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

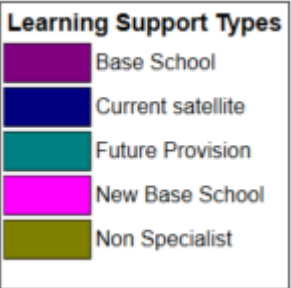
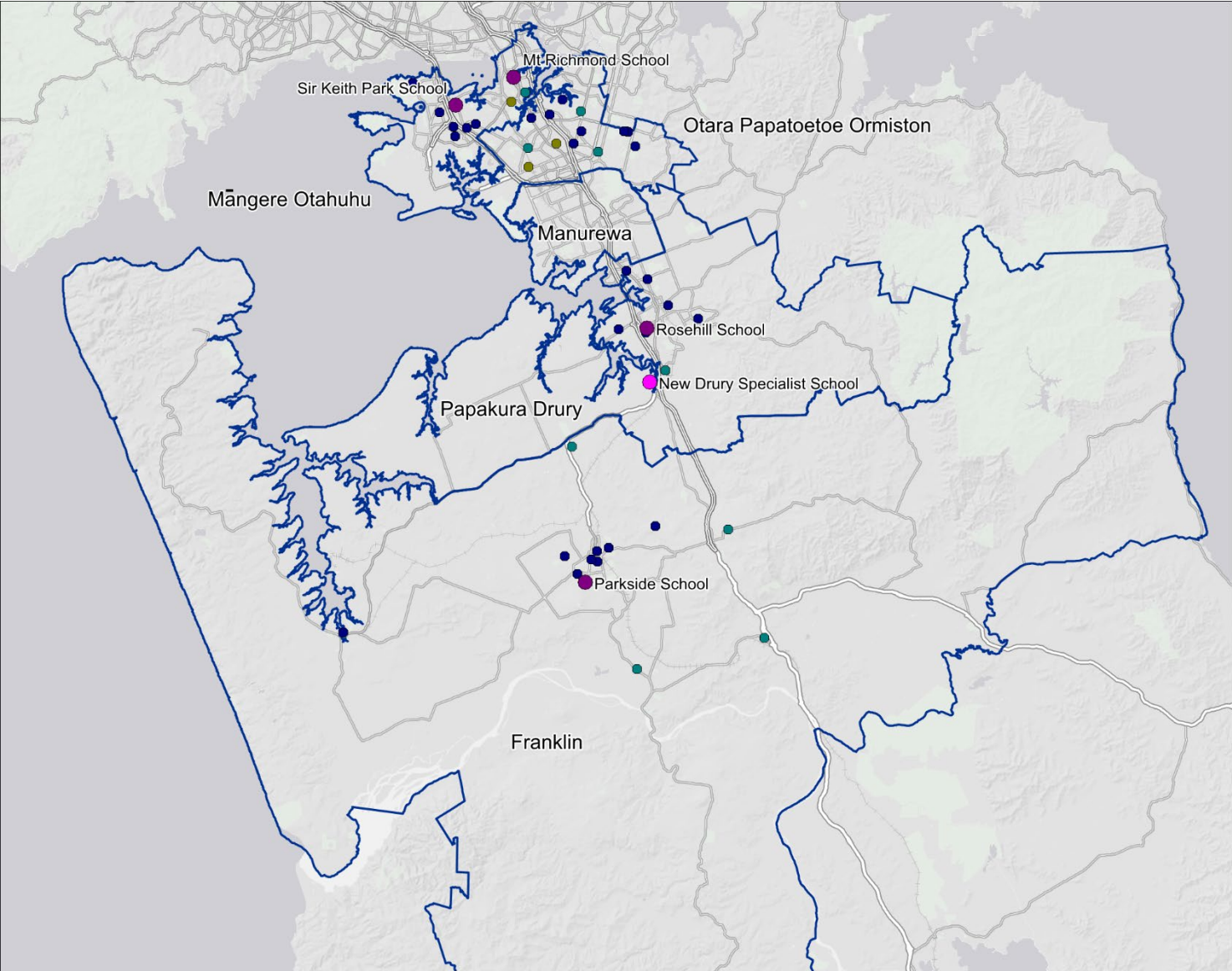


Engage with schools on Waiheke Island to consider options for specialist settings



Work with Central Auckland Specialist School to determine options for specialist settings on Aotea Great Barrier Island

Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka - Regional Summary



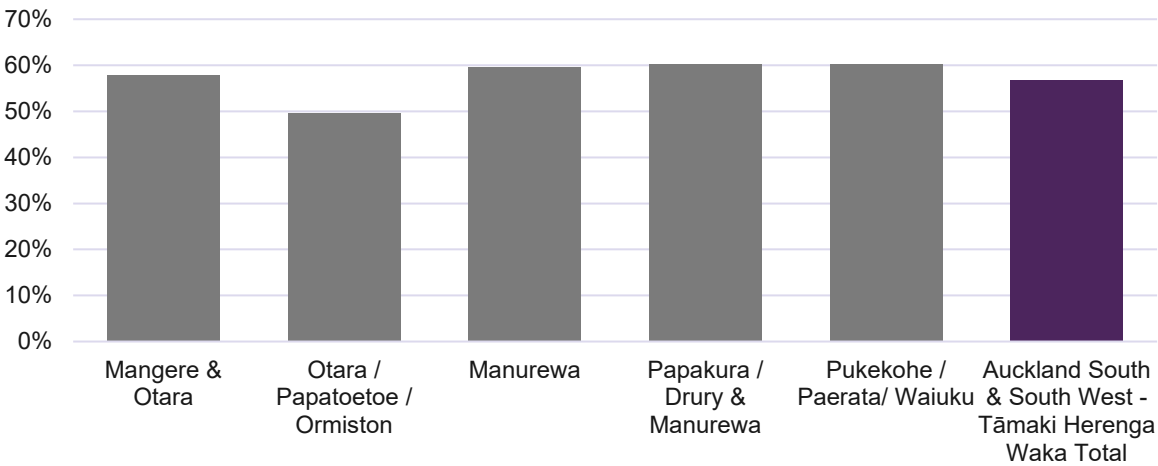
Auckland South & Southwest - Tāmaki Herenga Waka

Tāmaki Herenga Waka has 57% of ORS supported students enrolled across four specialist schools – Mt Richmond School, Sir Keith Park Specialist School, Rosehill School and Parkside School. The BLENZ campus is located in Manurewa. The region has the largest growth and demand for specialist provision in the country with significant growth in population and housing developments. All specialist schools are at capacity with additional satellite teaching spaces planned. A new specialist school opening in 2028 in Drury, South Auckland, will relieve some of the existing pressure on the network.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Māngere Ōtāhuhu	416	478	592
Ōtara Papatoetoe Ormiston	178	236	292
Manurewa	160	216	267
Papakura Drury	358	426	527
Franklin	208	238	295
Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka TOTAL	1,320	1,594	1,973

Auckland South & South West - Tāmaki Herenga Waka - % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Māngere Ōtāhuhu

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Māngere Ōtāhuhu catchment is expected to experience significant growth over the coming decades, however a number of previously initiated Kāinga Ora housing redevelopment projects are currently paused. This has delayed the projected growth in the catchment, and kept student roll numbers steady and stable.
- ORS supported student numbers are anticipated to continue to increase. In Māngere alone, Early Intervention teachers completed close to 40 new ORS applications in 2025 for learners turning 5 years old.
- We are aware of an increasing number of ORS supported students who are unable to enrol with specialist schools and are choosing to enrol directly with Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu.
- Sir Keith Park School (base school) and its satellite network are located in this catchment. The school is largely concentrated in the Māngere area of the catchment, and is also an ORS fundholder school to four local schools in Māngere.
- Mt Richmond Specialist School (base school) is located in Ōtāhuhu, in a more industrial neighbourhood. The satellite host schools are predominantly in Papatoetoe and Ormiston areas.
- A high proportion of Māori and Pacific ORS supported students are enrolled at specialist schools in comparison to the total population. 79% students enrolled with Sir Keith Park School and 63% at Mt Richmond Specialist School identify as Pacific.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Mt Richmond School	Mt Richmond School (base)	69
	Sir Keith Park School (base)	89
Sir Keith Park School	Mangere College	28
	Ngā Iwi School	7
	Robertson Road School	20
	Sir Douglas Bader Intermediate School	20
Funded/ in construction	Mt Richmond School Transition Hub	
	Sir Keith Park School – base school rebuild	

Student Pathways

Clear specialist school pathways for students

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Māngere Ōtāhuhu	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	16,791	17,344	15,829
ORS supported roll	249	304	376
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	345^	176^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	57.89%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- The Ko Taku Unit at Ōtāhuhu College provides a non-specialist school specialist setting to secondary aged deaf or hard of hearing students in the catchment. There is a gap identified in primary and intermediate levels to provide a pathway for enrolment at Ko Taku Unit.
- One option is to consider implementing learning support specialist settings as part of enrolment schemes and/or establish an arrangement for Ōtāhuhu schools to provide specialist provision where a wider area of students can enrol from.
- Southern Cross Campus School has previously indicated they are interested in becoming a fundholder school.
- We will investigate the potential to relocate Mt Richmond Specialist School to a more centralised location within their satellite network. This will better position the school to meet population demand, including the high growth areas of Ormiston/Flat Bush. It will also provide the opportunity to increase capacity, and provide more green space at their base site, of which there is very limited green space. Currently, Mt Richmond is located in an industrial area and is not easily accessible.
- There is a gap in satellite specialist settings in Ōtāhuhu. We will investigate options for a new primary satellite to cater for local ORS supported students seeking specialist school settings.
- Stage 1 is underway of Sir Keith Park School (base site) rebuild to provide fit for purpose teaching spaces and additional capacity.
- There is an opportunity to increase specialist settings in the Māngere area, to provide additional access to specialist school satellites.
- There are number of planned satellite expansions in Māngere, however these are now delayed as the delivery is dependent on student population growth at the host school. We will consider alternative solutions to increase capacity within the network in the interim.
- We will work with relevant stakeholders to improve access to specialist settings for ORS supported Māori learners through culturally aligned models and co-create specialist pathways that reflect Te Ao Māori values and community aspirations. In the future, this could be a fundholder model within Kura Kaupapa Māori and/ or inclusive teaching spaces that culturally responsive.

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Mt Richmond School and Sir Keith Park Specialist School, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^}Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite

2026

2030

Delivery of 2TS expansion at Sir Douglas Bader Intermediate School satellite

Stage 1 rebuild of Sir Keith Park School base site complete, stage 2 to commence

New community based transition hub for Mt Richmond

Investigate the possibility for the relocation of Mt Richmond base school

Investigate options for specialist settings in Ōtāhuhu/ Middlemore area

Work with Southern Cross Campus on options for specialist settings

Delivery of 1TS proposed expansion at Māngere College

Delivery of refurbished TS for Ko Taku Unit at Ōtāhuhu College

Delivery of 1TS proposed expansion at Robertson Road School

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Ōtara Papatoetoe Ormiston

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- Ōtara, Papatoetoe and Ormiston have experienced significant population growth over the past decade, from a combination of infill housing and intensification (Ōtara, Papatoetoe), significant new housing developments (Ormiston), and immigration. There are further housing development projects in the planning phases. As a result, the total student population of the catchment continues to rapidly rise.
- ORS supported student numbers are anticipated to continue to increase in line with student population growth. Over the past five years, ORS supported student numbers in the catchment have increased by 57%.
- Mt Richmond Specialist School has the majority of their satellite network located in this catchment. Satellites are hosted at 5 primary, 1 intermediate and 2 secondary schools with a total of 19 teaching spaces.
- There are two fundholder schools in Papatoetoe – Le Va centre at Papatoetoe South School (up to 40 student places), and the Richards Centre at Papatoetoe High School (up to 25 student places).
- Ko Taku Reo satellites and a Sensory Resource Centre are located across the Ormiston Schools. There is also a special programme in place at Ormiston Primary for siblings of those who are deaf and hard of hearing and enrolled in Ko Taku Reo satellites to learn New Zealand Sign Language.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Mt Richmond School	Bairds Mainfreight School	16
	Flat Bush School	14
	Ormiston Primary School	14
	Ormiston Senior College	15
	Papatoetoe Intermediate School	28
	Rongomai Primary School	20
	Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate	18
	Te Uho o te Nikau Primary School	11
Funded/ in construction	Ormiston Junior College	

Student Pathways

Clear pathways for students

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding

 Anticipated population growth

 Travel distance

 Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Ōtara Papatoetoe Ormiston	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	21,636	23,474	22,383
ORS supported roll	389	465	575
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	231	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	49.68%%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is a need to increase specialist settings within the catchment to meet growing demand, whilst still maintaining a balance within the network.
- There is a gap for intermediate aged students in the Papatoetoe specialist pathway. We will explore the possibility of establishing more specialist settings to accommodate ORS supported students of intermediate age.
- There is also increasing demand for more satellite teaching spaces for Mt Richmond Specialist School. There is opportunity to expand the number of teaching spaces at existing satellite host schools, or establish new satellites in Ōtara/central Papatoetoe area where there is less provision than other parts of the catchment.
- We will investigate the potential relocation of Mt Richmond Specialist School base school to this catchment to a more centralised location which will better position the school to meet population demand, including the high growth areas of Ormiston/Flat Bush. Currently, Mt Richmond is located in an industrial area and isolated from their satellite network
- In the Ormiston area, there is already a good balance between local school specialist settings, and satellites for Mt Richmond. A two teaching space satellite at Ormiston Junior High School will complete the Ormiston schools satellite pathway.
- Two new schools in the Ormiston area will have local school specialist settings. Te Kura Rau Iti will have teaching spaces for specialist settings incorporated into Stage 2 of the build and Chapel Downs Primary School already supports a large number of ORS supported students and the school wishes to grow it. The new Chapel Downs Junior College will have five dedicated teaching spaces for the school to grow their learning support programme and provide an alternative local school learning support pathway for the Ormiston area.
- Ko Taku Reo satellite units at Ormiston are at, or close to capacity. Further work is required to determine whether an expansion of satellite teaching spaces is possible, or find an alternative solution which still meets communication and learning needs..

2026

 Deliver new teaching spaces for Le Va at Papatoetoe South School (B24)

 Deliver new satellite at Papatoetoe Intermediate (3TS-B24)

 Deliver new satellite at Ormiston Junior College (2TS)

 Investigate options for intermediate specialist setting in Papatoetoe

 Deliver dedicated learning support teaching spaces at Chapel Downs Junior College

 Investigate options for relocation of Mt Richmond base school

 Investigate options for new satellites in Ōtara/Papatoetoe areas

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Manurewa

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Manurewa catchment includes the suburbs of Manurewa, Weymouth, Takanini and Alfriston.
- There is expected population growth in Manurewa due to a number of Kāinga Ora developments, as well as a partnership social housing development between Home Capital Partners and Habitat for Humanity. There are a number of larger scale housing development projects in progress and expected to be completed in the next five years. The significant growth in student numbers is linked to recent housing developments in the area.
- The number of ORS supported students continue to increase, with a 66% increase over the past five years. There is an increasing number of children with complex needs currently working with Early Intervention services who will be seeking ORS verification over the coming years.
- Rosehill School services this catchment, but is unable to meet current demand. There is a significant number of ORS supported students who are seeking a place at either the base school or satellites. Rosehill School has a limited intake of students each year due to limited or no available capacity. As a result, parents of ORS supported students are delaying enrolment and education decisions until the child turns 6 years old.
- 36% of students enrolled at Rosehill School identify as Māori. They have the largest number of Māori ORS supported students in the country.
- Rosehill School has 15 satellite teaching spaces hosted at 7 host schools in the area.
- Manurewa High School is a fundholder school with capacity to support approximately 30 ORS supported students.
- BLENNZ campus is located in Manurewa. They also have a satellite at James Cook High School.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Rosehill School	Clendon Park School	8
	The Gardens School	14
	Greenmeadows School	18
	James Cook High School	29
	Manurewa East School	16
	Manurewa South School	15
Funded/ in construction	Te Matauranga School	23
	Rowandale School	

Student Pathways

Clear pathways for students

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Manurewa	2023	2025	2030
Total Student roll	17,823	18,886	18,093
ORS supported roll	317	369	457
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	3	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	220	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		59.62%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is a high number of ORS supported students in the younger primary school years. Over the next few years, this trend is expected to extend into the intermediate year group as they progress through their schooling. This will have a significant impact on both mainstream and specialist schools, particularly those experiencing roll growth. Further planning is required on how we can increase specialist settings for intermediate aged students, including more satellites.
- A number of primary schools in Manurewa have expressed an interest to become a fundholder or establish special programmes to continue providing for ORS supported students in their community.
- We will also look at increasing the number of satellite teaching spaces in the Manurewa area for Rosehill School. This will include exploring options where there are areas with no satellites, e.g. Alfriston, Weymouth and Takanini. More locally accessible satellites will reduce student travel time.
- Further work is required in partnership with key stakeholders to improve access to reo Māori pathways for ORS supported students. There are opportunities including using culturally aligned models and co-creating specialist pathways that reflect Te Ao Māori values and community aspirations. We will consider a fundholder model within Kura Kaupapa Māori and/or inclusive teaching spaces that are culturally responsive.
- We will also consider schools in the Manurewa area that could potentially host a satellite for Rosehill school to support ORS supported Māori students alongside rumaki Te Reo Māori programmes. This option enables specialist school expertise in combination with reo Māori pathways.
- Some of the existing satellite teaching spaces are not wheelchair accessible or do not have access to a universal bathroom and ceiling hoists. This limits the students they are able to accommodate. We will work with School Property to address learning support property modifications requirements, so all satellite teaching spaces are able to be fully utilised to their maximum capacity.
- BLENNZ will have additional satellite teaching spaces delivered at James Cook High School. There is a gap in primary satellite provision as the nearest satellite is currently in Pukekohe at Tamaoho School. We will explore options for a primary satellite in Manurewa for BLENNZ.

2026

2030

Delivery of 4TS for Rosehill and 3TS for BLENNZ at James Cook High School

Deliver satellite at Rowandale School (B25)

Work with Manurewa Central School to establish specialist settings

Investigate options for new satellite in Alfriston and Weymouth

Work with local schools to consider options for specialist settings including hosting

Deliver primary satellite for BLENNZ

Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Papakura Drury

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Papakura Drury catchment includes Papakura, Rosehill, Drury and Karaka areas.
- There is significant population growth in the catchment due to new housing developments and infill housing. There are also large scale funded infrastructure projects that will contribute to anticipated population growth over time.
- The growth of Drury over the next decade will see an anticipated population growth of 60,000 residents. There are a number of new schools planned in preparation for this anticipated surge in population.
- The number of ORS supported students in the catchment continue to increase, with a 32% increase over the past five years.
- Approximately 61% of ORS supported students residing in the catchment attend a specialist school base or satellite.
- Rosehill School is based in Rosehill. They have 25 satellite teaching spaces hosted at twelve schools (six in this catchment). They also have a community based transition hub located in Takanini town centre for 18 – 21 year old learners.
- Since 2022, there has been a noticeable increase in demand for enrolment at Rosehill School. Capacity is unable to meet demand, with very limited places each year.
- Whānau choice for specialist education in the catchment is currently influenced by limited availability over readiness and suitability for specialist education. Whānau are expressing an interest for enrolment early, even if their initial plan was to try local school first, and if offered a place will accept it to avoid losing the opportunity later.
- Early Intervention Teachers are aware of 25 cases where whānau of ORS supported children are delaying making education decisions until the child is 6 years old.
- Parkside School has a satellite located at Ngākaroa School, in Drury.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Rosehill School	Rosehill Base School	73
	Kereru Park Campus	16
	Papakura High School	20
	Papakura Normal School	16
	Redhill School	24
	Rosehill Intermediate School	19
	Te Ara Poutama (Community based transition hub)	36
Parkside School	Hingaia Peninsula School	11
	Ngākoroa School	15
Funded/ in construction		
Rosehill School	Papakura Normal School (permanent)	
	Papakura High School (expansion)	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Papakura Drury	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	11,687	13,375	14,609
ORS supported roll	212	275	340
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	1	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	310^	166^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	60.63%		

^Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Rosehill School regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^^Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Drury Specialist School

- In January 2026, Education Minister Erica Stanford, announced a new specialist school in South Auckland. The specialist school base site will be located adjacent to Ngākoroa School, in Drury.
- The proposed catchment of Drury Specialist School will support the areas of Drury, Karaka, Kingseat, Waiau Pa, Waiuku, Patumahoe, Paerata, Ararimu, Ramarama and Redhill.
- The new base school will provide capacity initially for 54 students.
- Drury Specialist School is anticipated to open Term 1, 2028.
- The planning for the new specialist school will include planning for a satellite network to be hosted by local schools, and planned new schools in the area. Some re-organisation of existing satellite networks for neighbouring specialist schools (Rosehill School and Parkside School) may be required, to ensure there are clear student pathways.

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is a high number of ORS supported students in the younger primary school years. Over the next few years, this trend is expected to extend into the intermediate year group as they progress through their schooling. This will have a significant impact on both local and specialist schools, particularly those experiencing roll growth. Further planning is required on how we can increase specialist settings for intermediate and high school students in the future. This may include additional satellite teaching spaces for Rosehill School.
- As part of the planning for the new Drury Specialist School there will be some re-organisation required of existing Rosehill and Parkside Schools satellite networks. We will work with both specialist schools as we progress our planning for this proposed new specialist school.
- There are a number of new schools planned for the Drury area. Satellite provision will be considered in the establishment of all new schools in the Drury catchment to ensure adequate specialist provision. In addition, we will approach existing schools in the area to consider satellite provision to support the new specialist school.
- The proposed new specialist school will provide capacity to meet future demand as the Drury area grows. It will also provide additional capacity in the network to address some of the current capacity pressures that both Rosehill and Parkside Schools are encountering.
- Additional satellite teaching spaces are required for Rosehill School in north Papakura to continue meeting demand in the catchment from Papakura northwards. Some host schools have indicated that they would be happy to expand the number of teaching spaces, and some schools have indicated they are willing to host a satellite. Further work is required to determine where these new satellite teaching spaces are best located in the catchment.
- Further work is required in partnership with key stakeholders to improve access to reo Māori pathways for ORS supported students. This could include establishing a fundholder model within Kura Kaupapa Māori to enable different options for service design and delivery.



Auckland South & Southwest – Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Franklin

Profile of demographic change to 2030

- This geographically large, but mostly rural catchment includes the areas of Pukekohe, Paerata, Waiuku, Tuakau, Pōkeno and Te Kauwhata. It also includes three schools in the Hauraki and North Waikato District.
- Many schools in the catchment are located in small rural communities. School Principals often take on multiple roles, including SENCO and part-time teaching.
- There are transport challenges with some students travelling significant distances to school, with some spending up to an hour on transport each way.
- This catchment is experiencing significant population growth with new greenfield developments in the areas of Pōkeno, Ramarama, Paerata and Pukekohe.
- The number of ORS supported students continues to increase in line with population growth, with a 35% increase in the past five years.
- Parkside School is based in Pukekohe. They have 12 satellite teaching spaces hosted in seven schools in Pukekohe, Drury and Waiuku areas. They also have a community based transition hub for 18-21 year old learners.
- Parkside School also provides Specialist Teacher Outreach Services (STOS) to local schools. Both Parkside School specialist settings and their STOS services are under pressure with a growing demand for access to specialist provision.
- BLENNZ has a primary satellite at Tamaoho School. Both Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ have Sensory Resource Centres in Pukekohe to support students with sensory needs in local schools.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Parkside School	Parkside School (base)	29
	Te Waka Tapawha (transition hub)	26
	Pukekohe East School	7
	Pukekohe Hill School	8
	Pukekohe High School	31
	Pukekohe Intermediate School	13
	Tamaoho School	9
	Valley Primary School	16
	View Road School	8
Funded/ in construction	View Road School (expansion)	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Franklin	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	12,908	13,189	14,196
ORS supported roll	196	227	281
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	156^	137^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		60.35%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Pokeno School has grown from a small rural school of approximately 90 students to nearly 700 students over the past decade, with a projected roll of 900 students. There are no specialist settings in Pōkeno. A new primary school is planned for Pōkeno and will include a satellite for Parkside School and sensory school settings to serve the North Waikato corridor.
- We will also work with the Waikato Education Region and explore options for new satellites and specialist settings in the North Waikato area, including Te Kauwhata. Provision here will enable access to communities that are currently too distant from existing specialist settings for effective provision.
- There is a gap in secondary provision in Waiuku, with families currently travelling to Pukekohe High School satellite to access specialist education. The primary satellite at View Road School has recently been expanded. We will investigate establishing appropriate secondary specialist settings to service the Waiuku area. This will form part of the satellite network of the new Drury Specialist School.
- In order to keep pace with population growth, Parkside School will need to expand and/or increase satellite teaching spaces. We will work together with Parkside School and local schools in the area to plan for new satellite teaching spaces.
- Tuakau College has indicated that they are interested in growing their own learning support programme and would benefit from some dedicated teaching spaces to enable this.
- There is a critical need for a dedicated facility in the South to support students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Currently Parkside School allocates some of its specialist funding to Ko Taku Reo, which enables access to a Resource Teacher of the Deaf for students in the region. The closest satellite provision is located in Ormiston. We will investigate options for establishing a Ko Taku Reo satellite in the catchment.
- There is a gap in secondary provision for BLENNZ, with the nearest secondary satellite located in Manurewa at James Cook High School. A secondary satellite for BLENNZ has been funded at Pukekohe High School as part of Budget 2026.
- Further work is required in partnership with key stakeholders to improve access to reo Māori pathways for ORS supported students. There is opportunity to establish a complete Māori learning support pathway in Pukekohe.

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Parkside School regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^}Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

2026

Deliver additional teaching space at View Road School (1TS, B24)

Work with Tuakau College to establish specialist settings

Explore options for a specialist setting in North Waikato (Pōkeno/ Te Kauwhata/ Meremere areas)

Work with Parkside School and local schools to consider options for specialist settings

New satellite and other specialist settings to be included in the planning of new Pōkeno School

2030

Proposed new satellite in Paerata area

Deliver secondary specialist settings in Waiuku

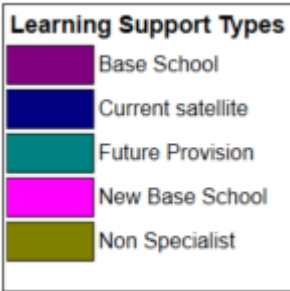
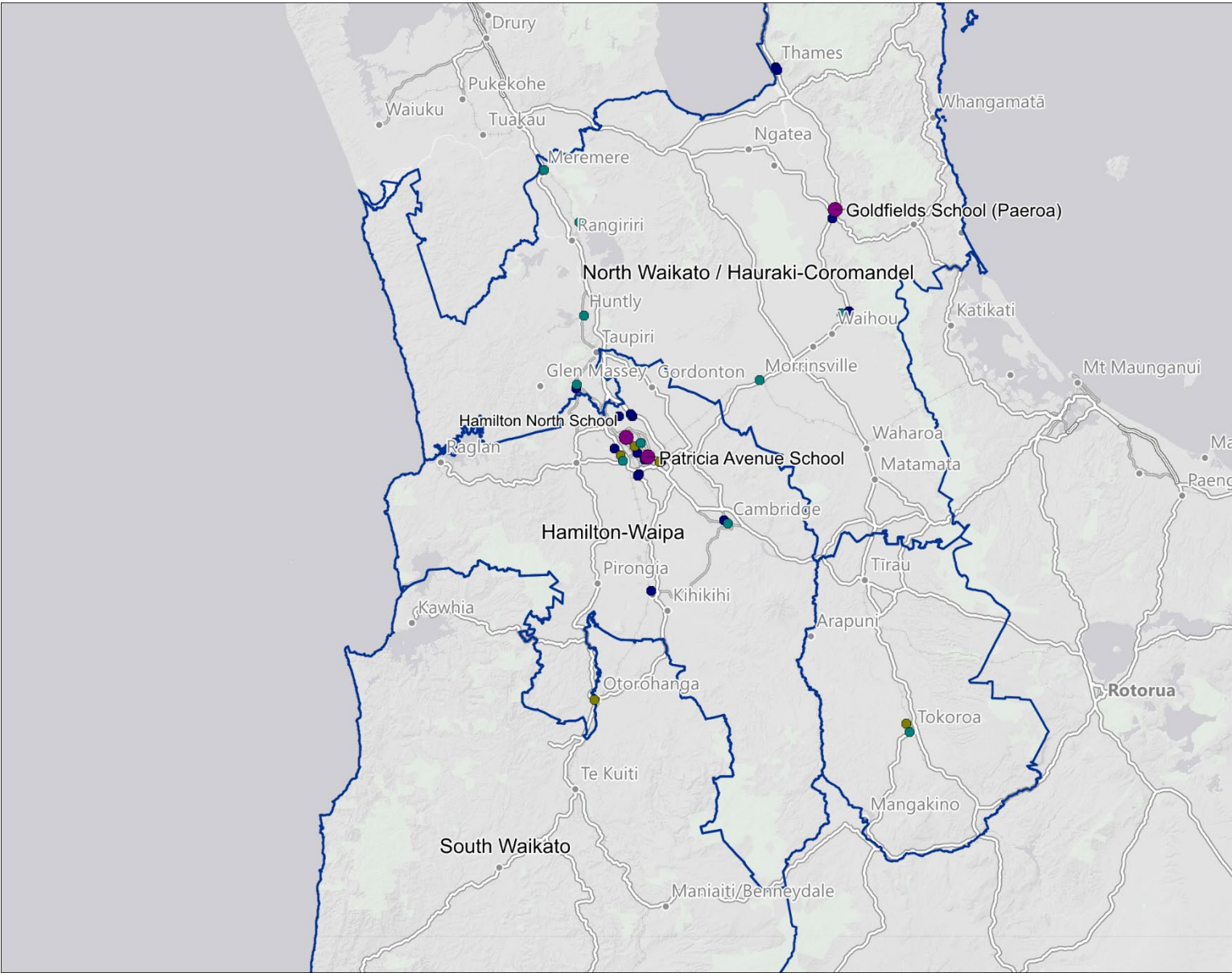
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Network Plan for Specialist Settings 2026-2030 – August 2026

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Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Waikato - Regional Summary



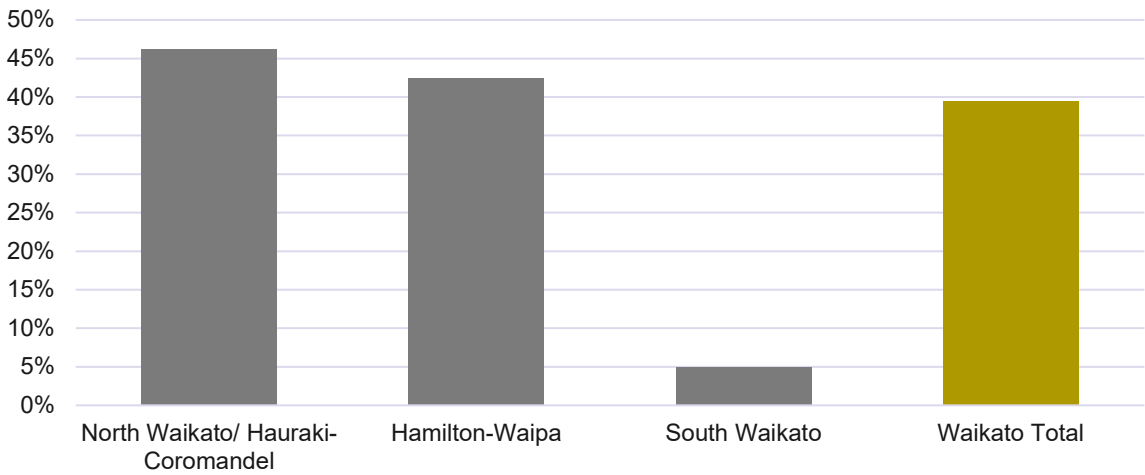
Waikato

Waikato has 40% of ORS supported students enrolled across its three specialist schools - Goldfields School (Paeroa), Hamilton North School, and Patricia Avenue School, a relatively even balance between provision in local schools and specialist settings. Two of the three catchments have well developed satellite networks, and there are opportunities to continue expanding these with additional satellites to meet demand. In North Waikato, there are opportunities to work together with Tāmaki Herenga Waka to be innovative in establishing settings in locations of future population growth.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
North Waikato / Hauraki Coromandel	207	244	302
Hamilton – Waipa	734	770	953
South Waikato	104	110	136
Waikato TOTAL	1,048	1,124	1,391

Waikato - % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Catchment overview

- This catchment covers the area north of Hamilton, including Ngāruawāhia, Huntly and Te Kauwhata; and Hauraki – Coromandel, including the Hauraki Plains, Thames, Waihi, Paeroa, Te Aroha and the Coromandel Peninsula.
- There are numerous small and distinct communities across the area and some students that have significant travel times to attend even their local schools. Distance creates some significant barriers to allowing whānau to have choice where needed.
- There is a significantly variable future demand profile with some areas (especially Te Kauwhata and the Hamilton-Auckland corridor) experiencing growth, and other areas experiencing steady and stable or declining student population.
- The proportion of learners who are Māori is increasing across the catchment and is forecast to increase further.
- There is a particular gap in specialist provision north of Hamilton City, where the next-closest provision is in Pukekohe. This is being partially addressed with a two classroom Hamilton North Specialist School satellite at Ngāruawāhia Primary School funded in Budget 2025.
- Goldfields Specialist School in Paeroa is currently near capacity (it does not enrol non-ORS students) but broadly meets the needs of the Hauraki-Coromandel catchment with a base in Paeroa and satellites in Paeroa, Thames and Te Aroha.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Goldfields School (Paeroa)	Goldfields School Paeroa (base)	34
	Miller Avenue School	25
	Paeroa College	9
	Te Aroha Primary School	4
	Thames High School	5
	Thames South School	13
Funded/ in construction		
Hamilton North School	Ngāruawahia School	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
North Waikato / Hauraki - Coromandel	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	18,064	18,364	18,663
ORS supported roll	245	301	372
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	9	8	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	86^	139^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	46.18%		

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Goldfields School regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^}Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Provision in the Hamilton-Auckland corridor will need to be considered across all types of specialist provision, especially as the population grows. Students at Hamilton North School are travelling to the city from as far as Huntly, though the (two teaching space) satellite to be delivered in Ngāruawāhia may help address access challenges.
- There may be options to provide for specialist provision from Te Kauwhata Primary should this school be relocated to a new site (land for this purpose is owned by the Ministry with relocation currently anticipated c. 2030). This could cater for a growing population in the areas along the Hamilton-Auckland corridor.
- Limited space is available in existing schools in growth areas where demand is located for repurposing for specialist provision.
- The eastern coast of the Coromandel, Te Kauwhata and Huntly areas currently do not have dedicated specialist settings/provision, with all students enrolled in mainstream settings.
- While some areas are likely to be too distant for effective satellite specialist school provision from existing Waikato specialist schools, we will work with Tāmaki Herenga Waka (South Auckland) to explore the potential for a centrally located satellite for Parkside School (Pukekohe) to service the growing North Waikato corridor (Pōkeno, Te Kauwhata, Meremere).
- Distance from base sites means specialist satellites are also unlikely in some areas, but expanding and enhancing Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS) arrangements with specialist schools may also be possible and should be investigated.
- We need to consider opportunities for supporting ORS learners within Kaupapa and Māori Medium settings and advocate to ensure equitable access to Health School provision across different groups with needs.
- A satellite was established for Goldfields School at Thames High School in 2024. Enhancing the space to make it fit for purpose would allow for a broader range of needs to be met and students enrolled.

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

2026

2030

Hamilton North Specialist School satellite at Ngāruawāhia Primary funded for construction (B25)

Explore options for a specialist setting in North Waikato (Pōkeno/ Te Kauwhata/ Meremere areas)

Consider dedicated learning support teaching spaces at Huntly College

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Hamilton – Waipā catchment includes Hamilton City and the areas immediately south and west, including Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Matamata and Morrinsville. This is a rapidly growing area (Hamilton is the country's most youthful and fastest-growing city).
- This is where the population and also specialist provision is most concentrated across the broader Waikato region with Hamilton North School and Patricia Avenue School operating base and extensive satellite networks. There is also significant board operated provision in this catchment, particularly at secondary level.
- Whilst there is a reasonably well-developed specialist network, demand is also high with specialist schools reporting increased demand for places both from new entrants and students moving from other regions. Demand is anticipated to grow further, to 921 ORS supported students in 2030.
- The specialist schools are limiting the number of students they enrol because they believe they do not have sufficient space for any additional students. Neither of the specialist schools have enrolled non-ORS supported students for some time.
- There are challenges getting schools without existing specialist satellites to agree to host. This is the case in Hamilton, Cambridge and Te Awamutu.
- The population is diverse, particularly in Hamilton City. The proportion of learners who are ākonga Māori is expected to continue to increase. All specialist settings will need to ensure the needs of all cohorts are met.
- Te Awamutu is experiencing steady growth in the school-aged population, with additional teaching spaces having been required at several schools in the catchment. Current access to specialist settings is limited, particularly at primary ages. There is a Patricia Avenue School satellite at Te Awamutu College.
- Cambridge is an area where requirements are challenging to accommodate within existing property. The only specialist provision is at Cambridge Middle School (a Patricia Avenue School satellite).
- Ko Taku Reo has expressed an interest in space in Cambridge to cater for the southern part of the region (the nearest sensory resource centre is located alongside BLENNZ at Hamilton North School), but property is not available.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Hamilton North School	Hamilton North School (base)	61
	Crawshaw School	12
	Rototuna High Schools (Rototuna Junior and Senior High School)	30
	Te Ao Marama School	14
	Te Au o Tamatea (St Andrews Middle School)	28
Patricia Avenue School	Te Tōtara Primary School	16
	Patricia Avenue School (base)	71
	Cambridge Middle School	12
	Fairfield Intermediate School	7
	Mangakōtukutuku College	25
	Marian Catholic School	16
	Melville Primary School	11
	Silverdale Norrnal School	14
	Te Awamutu College	21
	Woodstock School	13
	Transition Unit (community based)	12

Student Pathways

Clear pathways for students

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Hamilton - Waipa	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	49,611	51,279	53,557
ORS supported roll	686	744	921
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	1	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	374^	316^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	42.47%		

^Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Hamilton North School and Patricia Avenue School regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.
^^Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

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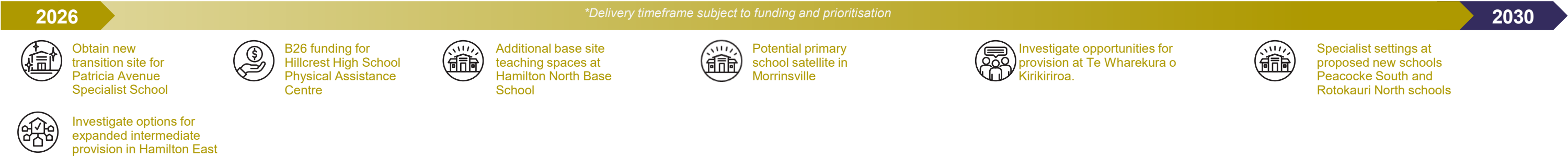
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Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Currently, a relatively even balance exists between specialist school and local school specialist settings. In order to maintain current levels of provision across both settings, additional specialist school capacity is required to ensure choice, due to rapid population growth in this catchment.
- Very little existing/surplus space exists in local schools. Opportunities to build satellites at local schools will continue to be sought in Hamilton City, Cambridge and Te Awamutu.
- Additional teaching spaces in a specialist programme at Hillcrest High School will increase student places available. Funding is being sought for this project in 2026.
- Options are being explored together with Patricia Avenue School for new transition provision in Hamilton City.
- The Patricia Avenue specialist satellite at Fairfield Intermediate School is located in a single-cell classroom that is not well suited to this provision. Intermediate provision in this area should be expanded.
- The Tumuaki and Board of Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) have expressed an aspiration for Māori medium specialist provision. The lack of specialist spaces in Māori-medium settings is a significant gap in provision and this aspiration is being investigated further.
- The Hamilton-based specialist schools offer Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS). This model could expand to enhance access to specialist teachers in other local schools.
- There is a potential gap in provision identified in Morrinsville for a primary school specialist satellite. This could be for Patricia Avenue or Hamilton North Schools (Hamilton) or Goldfields School (Paeroa). We will investigate opportunities and seek funding in future budgets should this be feasible.
- Ko Taku Reo has sought property in Cambridge. Specialist provision is also required in this growing catchment. The only satellite currently is in Cambridge Middle School, with learners travelling to Hamilton at younger ages. Any future projects in Cambridge would consider including Sensory Resource Centre and specialist school satellite provision.
- No specialist provision exists in the Te Awamutu primary school network though there is a Patricia Avenue School satellite at Te Awamutu College. Despite engaging with local schools, no suitable location has been identified for a primary school satellite, further work is required.
- An expansion of Hamilton North School base site has been identified as a requirement. Funding will be sought in future budgets.
- Hamilton North School does not have dedicated transition provision for 18-21 year olds outside of the school setting. A transition unit would both enhance access and support transition and increase capacity at the school.
- A Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ Sensory Resource Centre servicing the entire region is located at Hamilton North School, though the Hamilton North base site is challenged for space. Other locations for Resource Centre provision could be considered, freeing up this space to allow for additional student spaces at the base site.
- Funding to enhance some older satellite spaces would allow for a broader range of needs to be met and students to be enrolled. This would enable better efficiencies and utilisation of space to capacity.
- Any new school builds in the region will consider specialist settings where appropriate, including proposed schools in Peacocke (South West Hamilton) and Rotokauri (North West Hamilton).
- Given anticipated population growth in this catchment correlated with expected increase in ORS supported students, the Ministry will investigate opportunities to expand the specialist schooling network in this catchment, including the potential for a new specialist school that could service growth areas in South West Hamilton and Waipa.



Catchment overview

- South Waikato includes schooling catchments in Waitomo (including Te Kuiti and Ōtorohanga), Tokoroa-Putāruru and Taumarunui.
- The South Waikato catchment comprises rural areas and associated service towns with relatively small and geographically dispersed populations.
- The number of ORS supported students is expected to remain stable or increase very slightly to 2030 in contrast to the forecast total student roll.
- Learning support provision in this catchment is limited. It occurs exclusively in local schools.
- Itinerant specialist services including sensory and Northern Health School have identified difficulties in accessing and providing support in the catchment.
- Given population changes, surplus space exists in a number of schools across the area. This could provide cost-effective opportunities to improve access to specialist settings.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated
population
growth



Travel distance



Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Given small student numbers and population densities in the region, new specialist schooling provision in the area is unlikely. Dedicated specialist settings would be likely to find it difficult to recruit skilled staff.
- Distance from specialist school base sites in Rotorua and Hamilton means specialist satellites are also unlikely in South Waikato, but Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS) arrangements may be possible and should be investigated. We will also explore innovative options to service more remote and/or rural communities where distance currently prohibits access to specialist settings.
- There is already successful board operated specialist provision in Ōtorohanga South School (a special programme under the enrolment scheme), Tokoroa North School, Ōtorohanga College, Tokoroa High School (Te Kahui Whetu) and Taumarunui High School. The Ministry will continue to support this local provision.
- Given the travel distances required, Ko Taku Reo/BLENNZ have indicated space in Cambridge would better enable southward travel than existing spaces in North Hamilton. We will continue to investigate opportunities in Cambridge to service this catchment.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

South Waikato	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	8,059	8,262	8,041
ORS supported roll	112	122	151
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	2	2	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	6	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	4.92%		

2026

2030



Seek funding for sensory school spaces in Cambridge to better support service into Southern Waikato

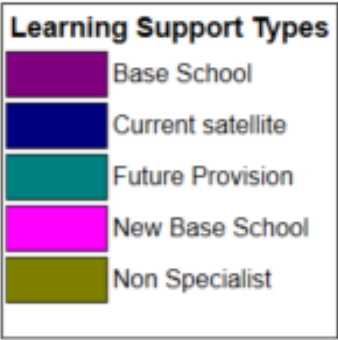
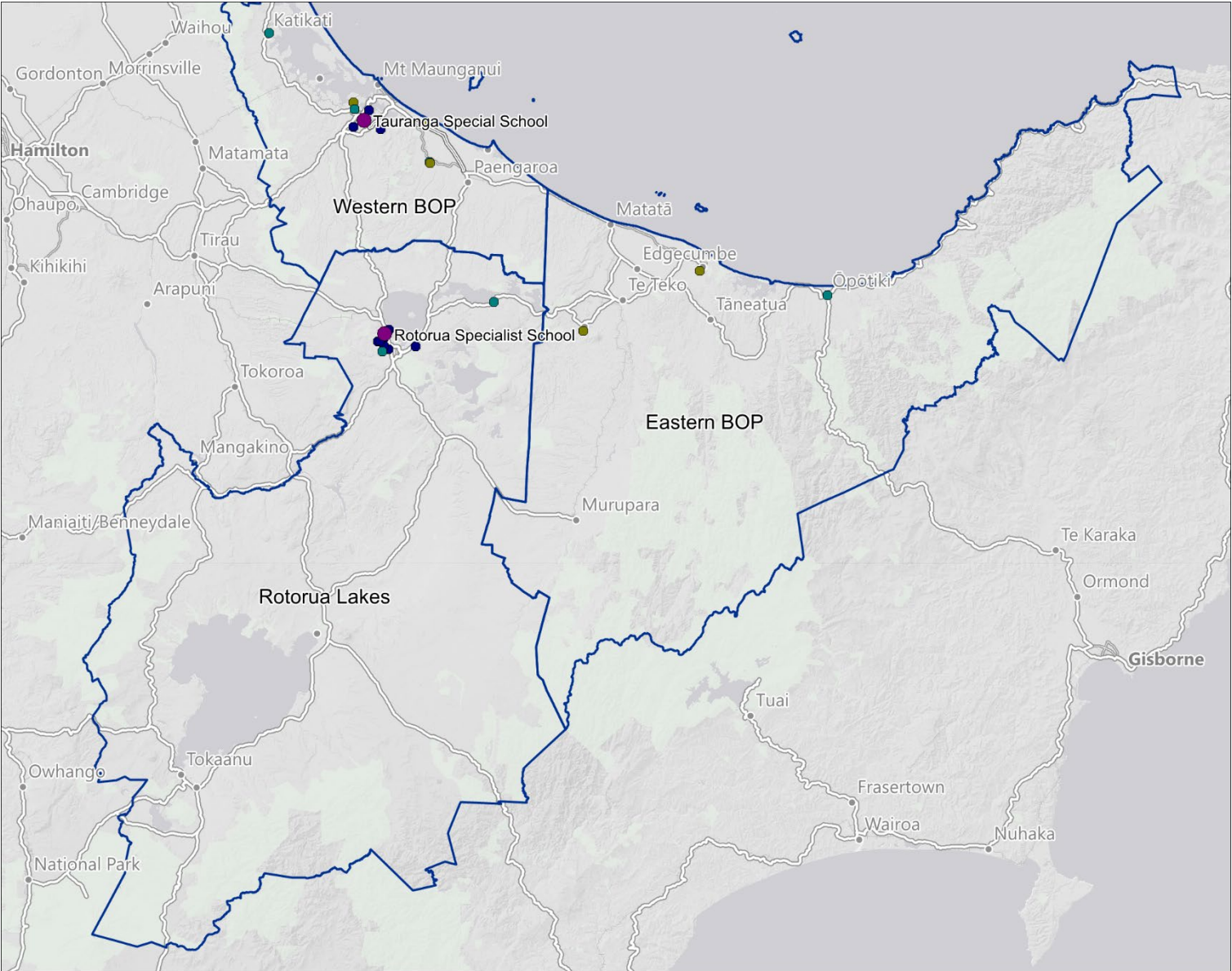


- Explore innovative options to service more remote and/or rural communities



Continue to support local schools working with students requiring additional supports

Bay of Plenty / Waiariki Regional Summary



Bay of Plenty / Waiariki

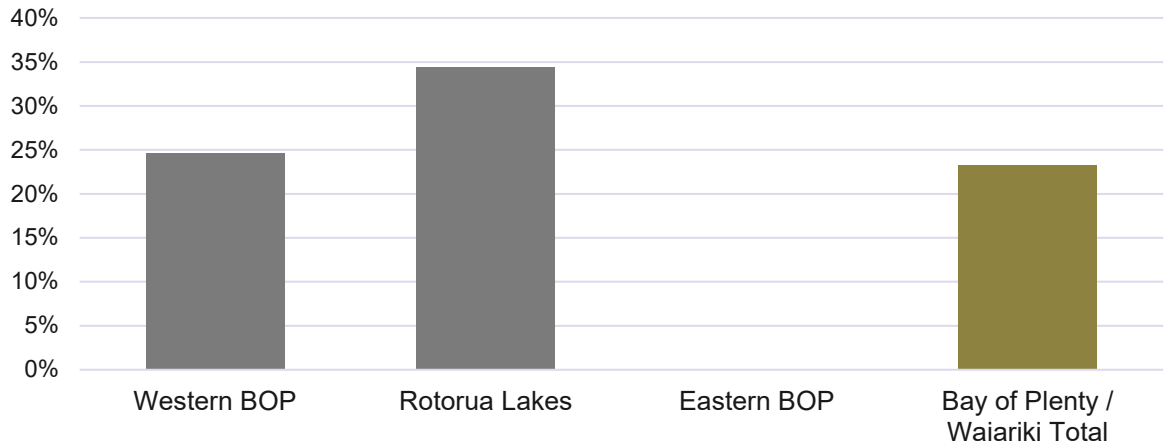
Bay of Plenty Waiariki has 23% of ORS supported students across the two specialist schools within the region - Tauranga Specialist School and Rotorua Specialist School.

Roll growth in some areas has increased pressure on learning support spaces and there are challenges finding schools that are willing to host a satellite. There are a number of new satellite and local school specialist settings opportunities identified across the region. It is acknowledged that there is a need for Māori medium learning support settings and further work will explore the options available.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Western BOP	447	482	596
Rotorua Lakes	269	290	359
Eastern BOP	148	154	191
Bay of Plenty / Waiariki TOTAL	864	926	1,146

Bay of Plenty / Waiariki - % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Catchment overview

- An overall increase of approximately 300 learners with ORS verification is anticipated across the Bay of Plenty – Waiariki region by 2030. The majority of this growth is expected to occur within Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty, where continued school-aged population growth is anticipated.
- High population growth continues to be a feature of the Tauranga catchments, with more than 500 additional students enrolling in state schools between 2023 and 2025. This growth has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the number of learners requiring learning support.
- A projected 10% increase in ORS numbers is anticipated within this catchment. This trend is already evident in Tauranga Special School's enrolment, which has grown by 10% over the past three years. As the only specialist school in this part of the region, it reflects the growing demand for specialist provision.
- There are three key growth catchments in this part of the region - Tauranga, Pāpāmoa, and Ōtūmoetai. Each is expected to experience continued population growth driven by ongoing housing development.
- Current gaps in Te Puke and Katikati are being addressed through new satellites. In Te Puke, a learning support roll growth project has been funded through Budget 25. In Katikati, repurposing surplus space at an existing school to establish a satellite in the area.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Tauranga Specialist School	Tauranga Specialist School (base)	12
	Tauranga Community College	14
	Papamoa College	19
	Tauranga Intermediate	12
	Te Kura o Manunui	16
	Welcome Bay School	16
Funded/ in construction	Te Puke Primary School	
	Katikati Primary School	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Western BOP	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	33,794	34,416	38,606
ORS supported roll	426	491	608
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	4	4	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	106	121	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	24.64%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Learning support at local schools is well established across the Western Bay, however, there is a need to expand specialist settings to meet growth and increasing demand.
- Local schools are committed to inclusive education and supporting all students to achieve positive outcomes. Several schools in the region offer specialised learning support settings, particularly within the secondary network, delivering a high level of support to ORS-verified learners. Some schools are seen as school of choice for students with learning needs.
- Roll growth in local schools has greatly reduced the number of locations available for new satellites. We are looking at the relocation of some provision to alternative sites that can accommodate additional learning support students.
- Most students with sensory needs attend their local school with support from Sensory Resource Teachers. Further work is required to determine the need for additional sensory specialist settings.
- Historically, the number of ORS-verified students engaged in te reo Māori immersion settings has been very low. However, current projections suggest that approximately 1% of ORS students in the catchment will participate in Kaupapa Māori or Māori-medium education. A high proportion of Māori learners are enrolled at the region's two specialist schools, highlighting the need for more inclusive and culturally responsive provision within kura. Currently, there are no specialist learning support facilities within kura across the region.

2026*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation2030

New 2TS satellite at Te Puke Primary School (B25)

New 2TS satellite at Katikati Primary School (B25)

New transition space for Tauranga Specialist School

Ongoing - Space for Specialist settings to be included as part of new school builds

Catchment overview

- There is no significant anticipated school-aged population growth in either Rotorua or Taupō as the population is ageing.
- Rotorua has a considerable number of students identified as having additional learning needs who are supported across all local schools and Rotorua Specialist School – Te Kura Pūkenga o Rotorua.
- ORS supported student numbers are anticipated to remain relatively stable, with a potential small increase. However, this trend has not been reflected in the roll of Te Kura Pūkenga o Rotorua, which has experienced growth of around 8% over the past three years (from 94 to 102 students). In response, two new classrooms have been added to the base site and a new permanent off-site location at Kawaha Point School has been established.
- This unexpected growth is likely linked to Rotorua’s current social housing programme, which schools have reported is contributing to an increase in ORS-verified learners entering the local network. This trend is not expected to be long-term; once the housing developments are completed and fully occupied, enrolment numbers are anticipated to stabilise.
- Current projections suggest that approximately 2% of ORS students in the catchment will participate in Kaupapa Māori or Māori-medium education.
- Local schools are committed to being inclusive and are keen to support all students in achieving positive outcomes. Several schools in the region offer specialised learning support, particularly within the secondary network, providing a high level of support to ORS-funded learners.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Rotorua Specialist School	Rotorua Specialist School (base)	39
	Aorangi School (Rotorua)	5
	Kaitao Intermediate	9
	Kawaha Point School	7
	Malfroy School	13
	Owhata School	7
	Selwyn School	6
	Sunset Primary School	11
	Western Heights Primary School	5

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Roll growth in local schools has increased the pressure on learning support spaces, leading some host schools to seek the termination of satellite or other hosting arrangements.
- In some cases, satellites have also been under-utilised and subsequently closed due to a lack of demand, as families have opted for local school specialist settings. We will assess demand to determine whether there is a need to re-establish a satellite of Rotorua Specialist School in Taupō at some point in the future.
- ADDI Enrichment Academy, a private school that supported ORS-funded learners in Taupō, closed in 2023. As a result, 16 students have enrolled across five state schools within the Taupō urban network, placing additional demand on the network.
- Recent increases in teaching space at both Mountview School and Tauhara School have helped enable support for ORS-verified learners within mainstream school settings.
- Tauhara College have expressed an interest in becoming a fundholder school.
- Further work is required to investigate options for additional specialist settings in Taupō. A more innovative approach can be considered where distance currently prohibits access to a specialist school base site for those who require a base school setting.
- Rotorua Specialist School has initiated an inquiry into a potential satellite arrangement at TKKM o Rotoiti kura. We will further explore this proposal. It is important that we engage with Te Rūnanga Nui o Aotearoa to understand how such an arrangement could operate within a Kura Kaupapa Māori environment.
- Transition aged students (18-21 years old) are currently based at the base site of Rotorua Specialist School. We are looking to establish a separate transitional space that will provide a more suitable environment for these students and free up space at the base site for school-aged learners. This is likely to be located on Ministry owned land, with opportunity for sensory school and other learning support provision to be co-located together.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Inland BOP	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	19,863	20,008	19,325
ORS supported roll	264	294	364
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	7	6	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	92	101	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	34.35%		

2026

Continue planning for a new transition hub on Ministry owned land in Rotorua

Work with local schools to consider options for specialist settings in Taupo area.

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

Ongoing - Space for Specialist settings to be included as part of new school builds /relocations

2030

Bay of Plenty / Waiariki – Eastern BOP

Catchment overview

- There is no significant anticipated school-aged population growth in the Eastern Bay of Plenty (BOP) overall as the population is ageing.
- A stable number of learners with ORS verification is anticipated as has been the case for some time in the region. In the longer term, there is likely to be a decrease as the school-aged population declines overall.
- Currently there is no specialist school operating in the Eastern BOP catchment.
- Learners are serviced by a strong local school network including specialist space at James Street School, Trident High School, Kawerau South School and Tarawera High School. Property modifications and redevelopments have occurred in most of these spaces recently to keep them fit for purpose for current learners.
- A high proportion of students in the catchment identify as Māori. We estimate that approximately 6% of ORS-supported students in the Eastern BOP catchment will be engaged in Kaupapa Māori or Māori-medium education.
- Currently, challenges within this catchment include, but are not limited to: travel times and distances, availability of specialist staff (SENCOS, teacher aides and therapists), existing property modifications and community aspirations.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings – local pathways only

Triggers for expansion


Risk of overcrowding


Anticipated population growth


Travel distance


Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Eastern BOP	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	9,497	9,631	9,549
ORS supported roll	151	169	209
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	12	14	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	0	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	0.00%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Further investigation is required into specialist school provision to meet the needs of Ōpōtiki and the coastal areas of the Eastern BOP. Students attend their closest local schools within this area with travel times extending out towards the East Cape.
- Currently, there are no specialist learning support facilities available in kura across the region. There is a shortage of classroom spaces that adequately cater to students in dual-medium and small kura settings.
- There is interest in exploring how kura are supported in these situations. Between Ōpōtiki and the East Cape, there are six kura Māori affiliated with Ngā Kura-a-Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI). Currently, there are no providers operating in this space, presenting an opportunity to collaborate with NKAI and kura to develop a model that meets the needs of this community.
- Most students with sensory needs attend their local school with support through the Sensory Resource Centre. Planning is underway for a new Sensory hub in surplus space at Trident High School.

2026



Work with local schools to consider options for specialist settings – especially in kura and rural areas

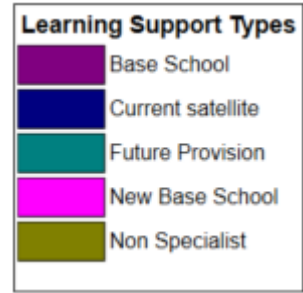
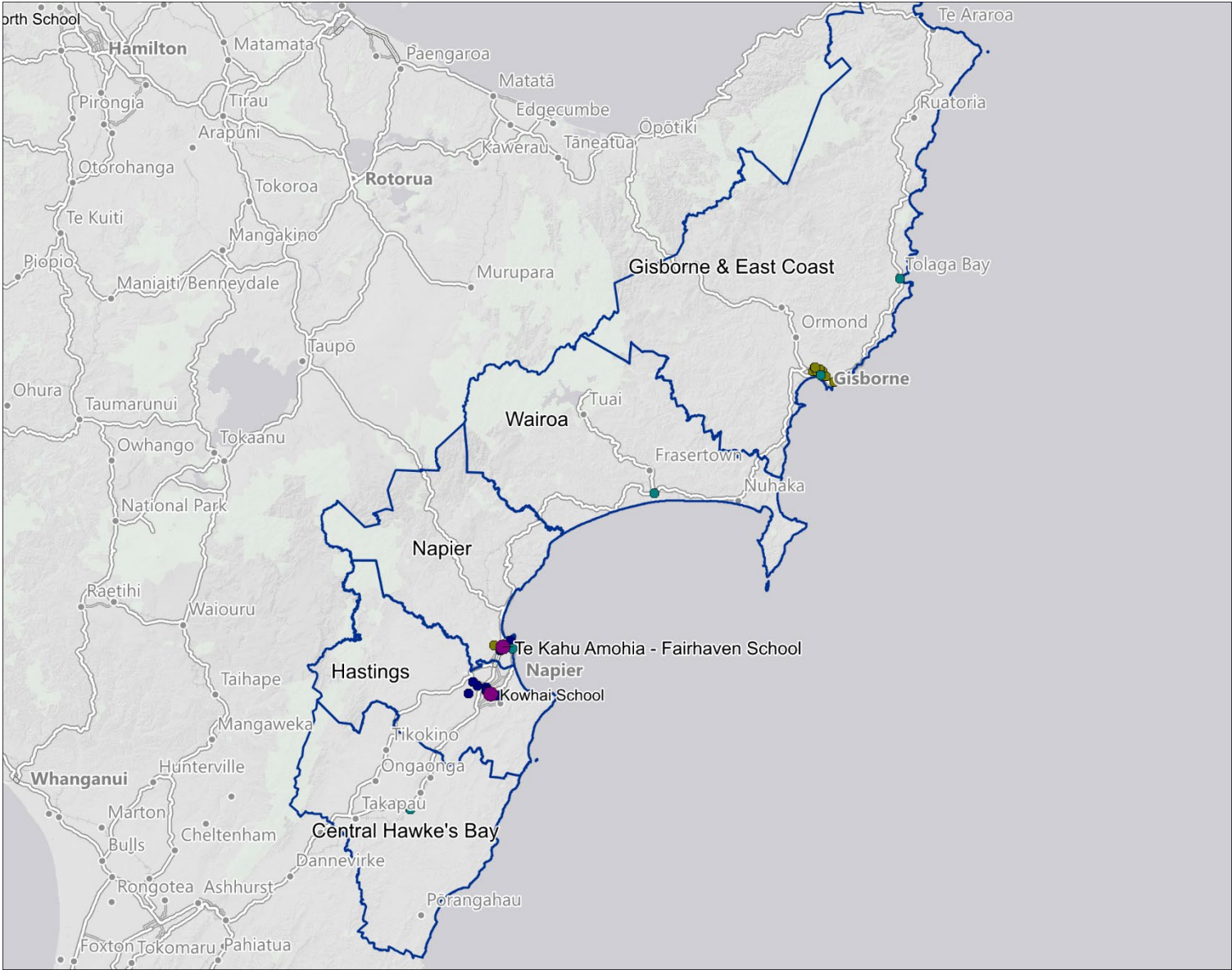


New teaching spaces being delivered at Kawerau South School will support learners with additional needs

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

Hawke’s Bay / Tairāwhiti Regional Summary



Hawke’s Bay / Tairāwhiti

Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti has 35% of ORS supported students across the current two specialist schools in the region - Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven School and Kōwhai School. Both specialist schools are located in Hawke’s Bay.

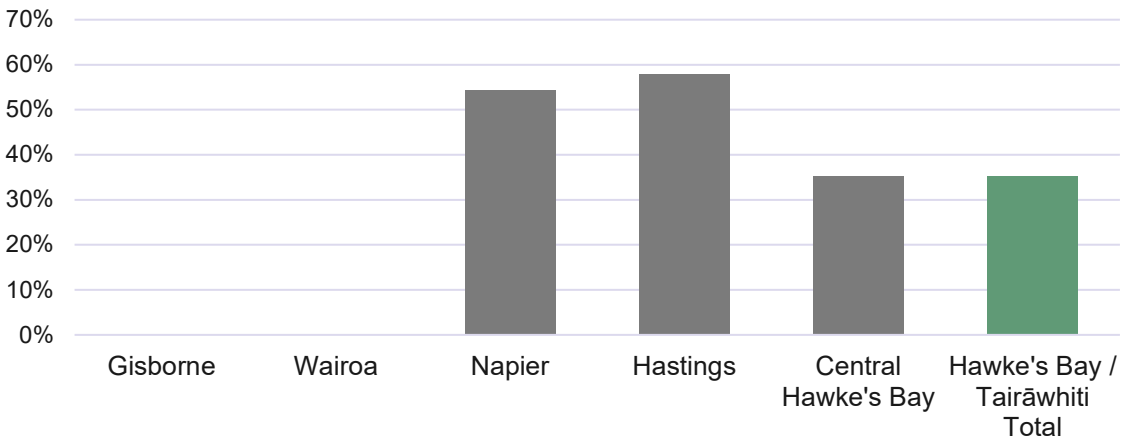
The establishment of Gisborne Specialist School was announced August 2026, to be opened Term 1 2028. This will provide access to specialist settings for Gisborne and wider Tairāwhiti areas.

Some parts of the region are rural and isolated, making access to specialist settings challenging, with large travel distances. Local school and outreach opportunities are important.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Gisborne & East Coast	154	178	220
Wairoa	24	30	37
Napier	161	160	198
Hastings	209	215	266
Central Hawke's Bay	17	32	27
Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti TOTAL	565	606	749

Hawke's Bay / Tairāwhiti – % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Hawke's Bay / Tairāwhiti – Gisborne & East Coast

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Gisborne Tairāwhiti catchment covers the entire East Coast including the urban area of Gisborne. There are numerous small and distinct communities across the area. Distance creates some significant barriers to allowing whānau to have choice where needed.
- The school-aged population is projected to continue to decline.
- There are 189 ORS supported students enrolled in the catchment. There continues to be children with additional needs who are likely to have ORS verification that are currently enrolled in early childhood education.
- 71% of Gisborne ORS supported students are male (124 of the 174), with 17 of these currently intermediate age.
- Recently there has been an increase in the number of ORS supported students choosing to attend Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (the Correspondence School) with 11 ORS supported students from Tairāwhiti currently enrolled. This equates to 6% of ORS supported students in this catchment.
- Riverdale School currently serves a local specialist setting option in Gisborne for Year 1-6 students with 49 ORS students.
- In Tairāwhiti, as of July 2025, 19% of all students are level 1 and 2 Kaupapa Māori/Māori medium education learners, with 13% KME and 6% MME. All kura kaupapa Māori across the catchment enrol ORS supported students.
- Gisborne Girls' High School is the only fundholder school across the entire catchment and supports six local schools.
- BLENNZ and Ko Taku Reo are based in Gisborne.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment

Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings – local pathways only

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Gisborne & East Coast	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	9,114	8,933	7,572
ORS supported roll	158	189	208
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	10	9	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	1	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		0.00%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist provision

- Establish a specialist school to service Gisborne city and the wider Tairāwhiti region, which will provide an alternative specialist setting for the community. This will include a base school located on School Road near Gisborne Boys High School, and an off-site location at Inner Kaiti, Gisborne. It is anticipated that the proposed new specialist school could open as early as Term 1, 2028.
- The proposed new specialist school will also investigate geographically dispersed satellites covering rural Gisborne, the East Coast, and Wairoa, including the potential for a specialist satellite in a Māori Medium immersion setting. These are all areas that currently have no choice in specialist provision. We would look to ensure the provision supports all year levels.
- A specialist school would also be able to support the wider community through their Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS). Also increasing professional practice and capability in kaupapa Māori educational spaces.
- Consider options to support ORS students who are currently learning in mainstream settings, to ensure there's clear pathways and sufficient capacity in the network.
- There is a gap in specialist provision in the East Coast, with Tolaga Bay Area School the only provision. Explore opportunities to enhance provision in this part of the catchment.
- There is a need for a transition programme that caters for 18-21 year old ORS supported students. This could potentially be linked to local tertiary and community-based services. It will reduce pressure to retain older ORS supported students at secondary settings.

Gisborne Specialist School

- In August 2026, Education Minister Erica Stanford, announced a new specialist school in Gisborne. The specialist base school will be located at School Park, Gisborne.
- The new base school and concurrent satellite will provide capacity initially for 54 students.
- Gisborne Specialist School is anticipated to open Term 1, 2028.
- In the future, opportunities will be explored for satellite provision in Tairāwhiti and Wairoa..

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Establish a new specialist school in Gisborne, with satellite network and Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS)



Work with local schools to consider options for specialist settings in Gisborne East



Explore options for specialist settings in East Coast area



Explore options for a transition hub

Hawke’s Bay / Tairāwhiti – Wairoa

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Wairoa catchment extends from Kotemaori and Mohaka in the south, to Māhia in the east, and Mōrere to the north.
- The school-aged population is projected to continue to decline.
- There are 35 ORS supported students living in Wairoa who are currently enrolled at their local schools. There is a further 10 anticipated to be ORS verified from those currently enrolled at ECE. If they become ORS verified this would increase the number of ORS supported students living in the catchment.
- Currently the small population does not support having a specialist school. The nearest specialist school, Te Kahu Amohia - Fairhaven School, is 121kms away.
- All ORS supported students are catered for within mainstream settings, and 11% (4 learners) of ORS students are enrolled with Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu.
- In Wairoa, as at July 2025, 19% of all students are level 1 and 2 Kaupapa Māori/Māori medium education learners, with 13% KME and 6% MME.
- BLENNZ has a Sensory Resource Centre based at Wairoa College.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion			
			
Risk of overcrowding	Anticipated population growth	Travel distance	Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Explore options to establish a satellite in Wairoa. Potentially from Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven in Napier, or a possible newly established specialist school in Gisborne.
- We will also explore innovative options to service more remote and/or rural communities where distance currently prohibits access to specialist settings.
- Explore the option to have a Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS) to service local schools across Wairoa district from a location in Wairoa town.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Wairoa	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	1,484	1,444	1,383
ORS supported roll	23	35	43
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	3	4	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	0	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	0.00%		

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Explore establishing a specialist school satellite in Wairoa, including Specialist Teacher Outreach Service (STOS)

Catchment overview

- The Napier catchment extends from Ngaruroro River south of the city to encompass the surrounding rural area in the north and west (in the Hastings District).
- The school-aged student population in Napier has been slowly declining since 2018.
- There are 160 ORS supported students living in the Napier catchment. There is a further 45 anticipated to be ORS verified over the next few years from those currently enrolled at ECE.
- Te Kahu Amohia - Fairhaven School provides for ORS supported students at both the base site as well as satellites hosted at five local schools (including Onekawa School which is under construction).
- There is increasing demand for access to Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven School with large numbers of students anticipated to seek enrolment over the next five years. The school is currently limiting the number of enrolments as they believe they do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate additional students.
- Hōhepa School (a private specialist school) provides both residential and day programmes for children aged 7 to 21 years.
- BLENNZ is based at Henry Hill School and Ko Taku Reo at Marewa School.
- A transition programme is currently provided at Te Rangimarie (Bridge Pa), based in the Hastings catchment, to accommodate ORS supported learners at Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven School.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven School	Fairhaven School (base)	9
	Tamatea School	4
	Nelson Park School	14
	Tamatea Intermediate	13
	Tamatea High School	34
	Te Rangimarie (Transition Hub)	17
Funded/ in construction	Onekawa School	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Napier	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	11,644	11,613	11,494
ORS supported roll	136	160	198
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	87	87	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	54.38%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Two new specialist teaching spaces for Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven School are being delivered at Onekawa School. This will provide an additional 18 student places.
- We are exploring options to support growing ORS students numbers by increasing the size of the Te Kahu Amohia – Fairhaven School. Expansion of the base school and the addition of new satellites may be accommodated by repurposing surplus teaching spaces in the Napier schooling network.
- Engage with tertiary education providers, including EIT, to investigate increasing provision for ORS students aged 18 to 21 within their facilities or programmes.

2026

Completion of new satellite at Onekawa School

Investigate increasing the size of Te Kahu Amohia Fairhaven School – both base school capacity and additional satellites

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

Hawke's Bay / Tairāwhiti – Hastings

Catchment demographic outlook to 2030

- The Hastings catchment includes the main towns of Hastings, Havelock North and Flaxmere, as well as smaller communities in the surrounding Heretaunga Plains. It is in the rohe of Ngāti Kahungunu iwi and several Takitimu hapū.
- The total school-aged population is expected to remain stable to 2030.
- There are 213 ORS supported students living in the Hastings catchment who are currently enrolled. There is up to a further 74 children anticipated to be ORS verified over the next few years from those currently enrolled at ECE.
- There is increasing demand for access to Kōwhai School with large numbers of students anticipated to seek enrolment over the next five years. The school has five satellite units. The school is currently limiting the number of enrolments as they believe they do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate additional students.
- A small percentage of ORS supported students are enrolled at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu correspondence school.
- There is a board operated Learning Support programme at Havelock North High School which supports 22 ORS verified students.
- Ko Taku Reo is based at Ebbett Park School in Hastings.
- Kōwhai TEC operates two classes out of St Peter's Anglican Church.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Kōwhai School	Kōwhai School (base)	24
	Hastings Central School	13
	Flaxmere College	34
	Heretaunga Intermediate	16
	Te Kura o Kimi Ora	17
	Raureka School	13
	TEC (Community Based Transition Hub)	14

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding

 Anticipated population growth

 Travel distance

 Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Continue to support Kōwhai School to find a permanent location for its transition provision for 18 to 21 year olds. This is currently provided via a short term lease agreement.
- Investigate potential secondary satellite host schools to meet the increasing demand for ORS secondary places in Hastings.
- Investigate potential satellite host schools in North Hastings.
- Engage with tertiary education providers, including EIT, to investigate increasing provision for ORS students aged 18 to 21 within their facilities or programmes.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Hastings	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	14,613	14,890	14,658
ORS supported roll	209	213	264
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	119	123	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	57.57%		

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

 Build on previous planning to increase specialist places in North Hastings

 Investigate potential secondary satellite host schools to meet the increasing demand for ORS secondary places in Hastings

 Support Kōwhai School to find a permanent location for transition provision for 18 to 21 year olds

Hawke's Bay / Tairāwhiti – Central Hawke's Bay

Profile of demographic change to 2030

- The Central Hawke's Bay catchment, south of Hastings, includes the main towns of Waipukurau and Waipawa, alongside other settlements and coastal communities.
- The school-aged population is expected to remain stable with no anticipated growth out to 2030. However, there is inward migration of working-age individuals and whānau, offsetting the regional trend of an ageing population.
- There are 34 ORS supported ākonga living in Central Hawke's Bay. There are a further 18 children anticipated to be ORS verified in the near future from those currently enrolled in early learning.
- There is currently no specialist provision within the Central Hawke's Bay catchment, with 62.5% of ORS students receiving their education in local school settings.
- The remaining 37.5% of ORS students living within the Central Hawke's Bay catchment are travelling to Kōwhai School in Hastings. Travel is required to access to specialist learning support settings that are not available in the more rural Central Hawke's Bay catchment.
- As of July 2025 in Central Hawke's Bay, 3% of all ākonga are learning in Level 1 and 2 Māori immersion education. This is broken down by 1% Kaupapa Māori Education and 2% Māori Immersion Education.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion			
☐	☐	☒	☒
Risk of overcrowding	Anticipated population growth	Travel distance	Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is no specialist provision in Central Hawke's Bay in mainstream or specialist settings. With an anticipated increase in ORS supported ākonga, there is a need for appropriate specialist settings. Waipukurau is approximately 50kms (45 minutes drive) from Kōwhai Specialist School.
- We will investigate opportunities to support specialist education provision in Central Hawkes Bay. This includes establishing primary and secondary satellites of Kōwhai School in Central Hawke's Bay.
- We will also explore more innovative options for access to specialist settings in our remote and/or rural communities, where distance from existing specialist schools currently limits opportunity for access.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Central Hawke's Bay	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	2,405	2,423	2,360
ORS supported roll	24	34	42
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	12	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	35.29%		

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

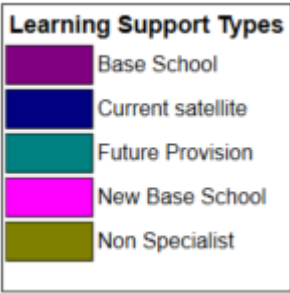
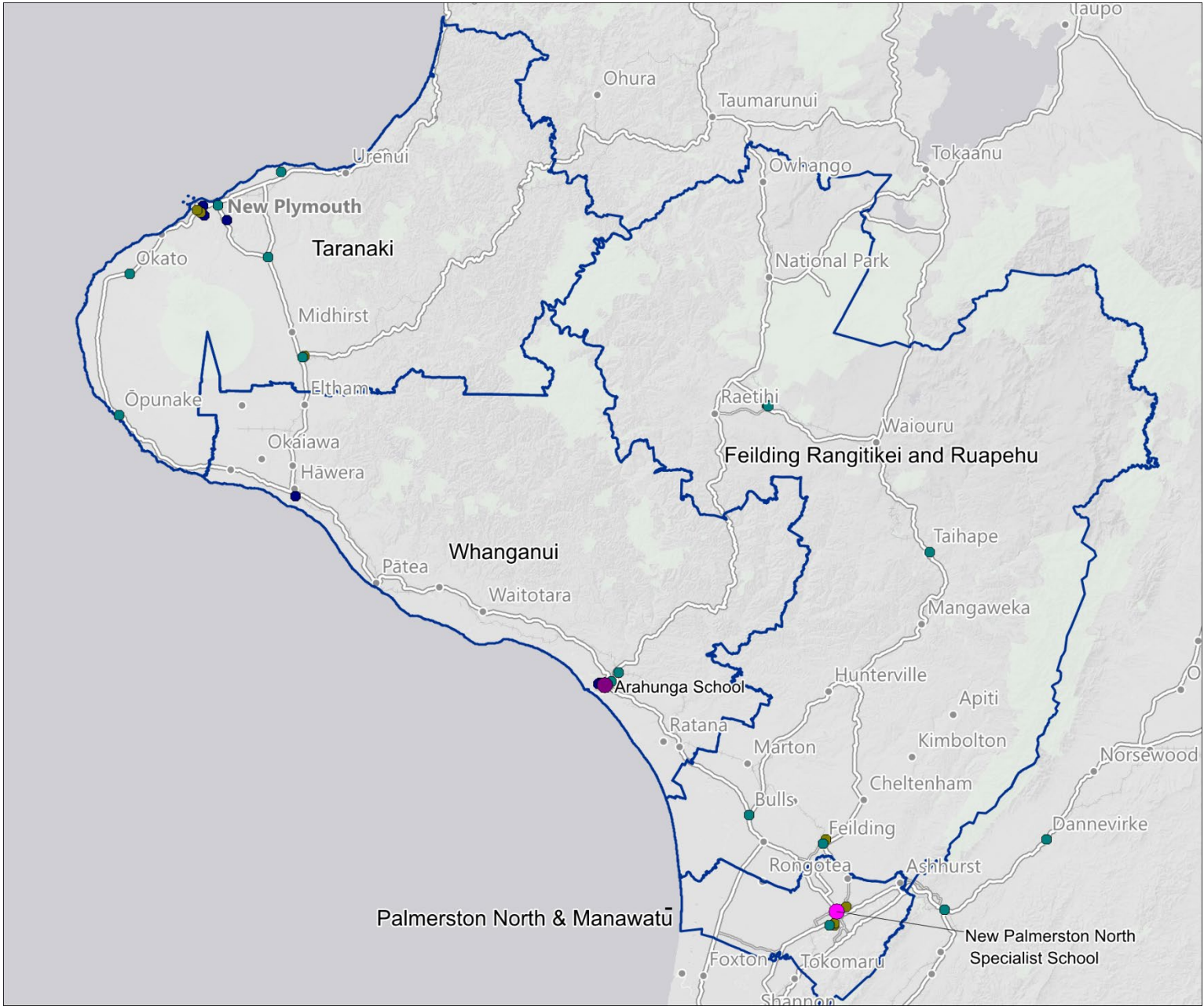


Establish a primary satellite of Kōwhai School in Central Hawke's Bay



Establish a secondary specialist satellite

Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatū Regional Summary



Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatū

Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū has 12% of ORS supported students enrolled at Arahunga School, based in Whanganui – the smallest percentage in the country.

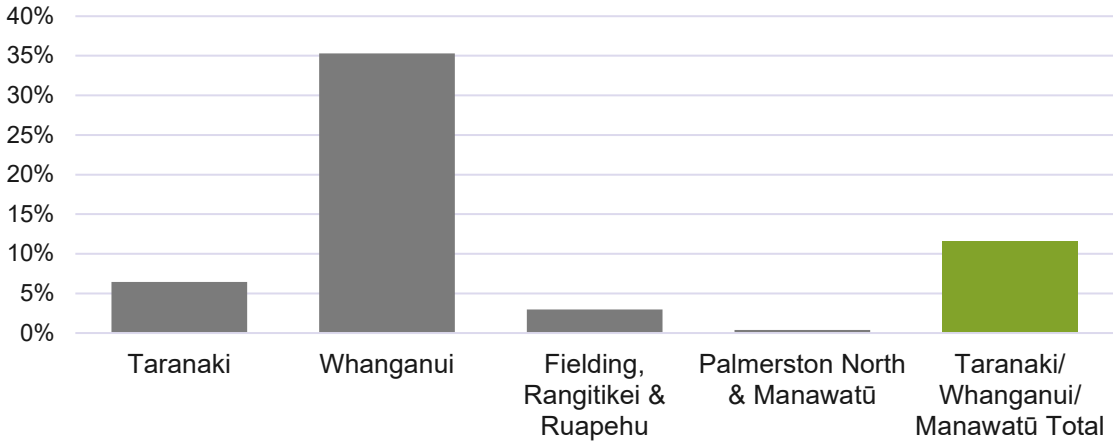
A new specialist school opening in mid 2027 in Palmerston North will address the current lack of specialist provision in Palmerston North/Manawatū. Alongside this, there is an opportunity to re-organise and refocus the existing Arahunga School network to ensure that there are complete student pathways and current gaps in provision are addressed.

The region would also benefit from an additional specialist school and additional fundholder schools, including at kura Kaupapa.

Total of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Taranaki	232	223	276
Whanganui	206	228	282
Fielding, Rangitikei and Ruapehu	91	113	140
Palmerston North & Manawatū	262	267	330
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatū TOTAL	791	831	1,028

Taranaki / Whanganui/ Manawatū – % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Catchment overview

- This catchment includes New Plymouth and the surrounding areas of Ōpunake, Coastal Taranaki, Stratford and Districts, Inglewood and Waitara.
- The numbers of ORS supported students in this catchment have remained stable, however more students are seeking specialist learning support settings.
- The majority (85%) of ORS supported students are concentrated around the urban areas of Stratford, Inglewood, New Plymouth City and New Plymouth East (Bell Block and Waitara).
- With residential growth projected for Stratford and New Plymouth East, there is anticipated growth in the number of ORS supported students, High Health students, and students requiring specialist help for their learning needs.
- The closest specialist school, Arahunga School, is located 160km away in Whanganui. Arahunga School has three satellites hosted by New Plymouth schools: St Joseph's School, Francis Douglas Memorial College, and Mangorei School.
- The satellites operated by Arahunga School are already at capacity and have a number of learners expressing an interest to enrol, should capacity become available.
- Spotswood College is a fundholder school in a fundholder arrangement with Marfell Community School.
- Ko Taku Reo is located at Merrilands School and BLENNZ at New Plymouth Girls' High School, providing services for this catchment, as well as parts of the Whanganui catchment.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Arahunga School	Francis Douglas Memorial College	9
	St Joseph's School (New Plymouth)	5

Student Pathways

Gaps in pathways – limited and disjointed options

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Taranaki	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	18,114	18,255	18,150
ORS supported roll	224	232	287
ORS Kura Kaupapa Māori roll	1	1	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	15	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		6.47%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- New Plymouth City is currently the only area within the catchment that provides a choice of specialist settings. There is a large gap in specialist settings to support the surrounding areas such as Coastal Taranaki, Stratford, Inglewood, Bell Block and Waitara.
- There is an opportunity to further investigate the possibility of establishing a new specialist school in New Plymouth that can provide services throughout the catchment via Specialist Teacher Outreach Services (STOS) or satellites that reflect localised population density and growth.
- If a new specialist school was to progress, the satellite network for the potential new base site could include new specialist teaching spaces (at both primary and secondary settings) located in Waitara, Inglewood, Ōpunake, Coastal Taranaki and Stratford.
- Further work is required to determine the appropriate location for a new specialist school base site and whether land acquisition would be required.
- The build roll for a potential new specialist school could be up to 60 ORS supported students, with the future master plan roll of 100 ORS supported students. Including satellites, we would anticipate a future roll of between 150 – 200 ORS students. This accounts for anticipated population growth, and support to neighbouring catchments.
- A new specialist school presents an opportunity to consider a more collaborative, community focused design for a potential new specialist base school, to enable access to cross agency services that support students with additional learning needs.
- To provide equity and enhance access for whānau Māori, there is an opportunity to further investigate specialist settings in New Plymouth at Kura Kaupapa Māori. We will work with the key stakeholders to understand the need and develop this in partnership with them.
- We will also explore the opportunity to utilise surplus teaching spaces in Stratford and Hāwera for Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ to assist in providing better accessibility to sensory services.

2026

Explore and identify site options for a potential future specialist school base site in New Plymouth

Engage with Kura Kaupapa and key stakeholders to consider options for a new fundholder specialist setting

Investigate potential new Sensory Resource Centre for Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

Engage with schools to host future satellite for proposed New Plymouth specialist school.

New specialist school opens, satellite network established with additional teaching spaces.

Catchment overview

- This catchment includes Whanganui and parts of South Taranaki, Ruapehu and Rangitikei.
- The number of ORS supported students enrolled in specialist settings in this catchment has plateaued.
- The majority (89%) of the ORS supported students residing in this catchment are concentrated around the urban areas of Hāwera and Whanganui.
- There is some residential growth in the urban areas, however we are not expecting there to be a significant increase in the total number of ORS supported students in the network.
- Arahunga School is a specialist school based in Whanganui. They operate five satellites hosted at local schools around this catchment. They also act as the ORS fundholder for two local schools in this catchment and provide Specialist Teacher Outreach Services.
- Both Ko Taku Reo and the BLENNZ Sensory Resource Centre are located in Palmerston North, however they provide outreach services in this catchment.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment

Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Arahunga School	Arahunga School (base)	20
	Transition Hub Whanganui	10
	Whanganui City College	13
	Ramanui School	7
	Carlton School	10
	Rutherford Junior High School	13
	Tawhero School	6

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Whanganui	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	11,434	11,525	11,525
ORS supported roll	191	221	273
ORS Kura Kaupapa Māori roll	4	4	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	81^	78^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		35.29%	

^Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled Arahunga School regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^^Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is an opportunity to refocus the area for which Arahunga School provides specialist settings and learning support services, with the establishment of a new specialist school in Palmerston North, and investigations suggest it would be viable to establish a new specialist school in New Plymouth in the future.
- Arahunga School presently operates five satellite classes within this catchment. We can consider expanding the number of satellites in both Whanganui and in the Rangitikei / Ruapehu catchments and increase capacity.
- Within Whanganui City we will continue with the existing satellites at Carlton School, Tawhero School, Te Kura Waenga O Rutherford | Rutherford Intermediate School and Whanganui City College but consider expanding the number of teaching spaces at primary settings.
- Currently there are no specialist settings in Whanganui East, and there is potential for a new primary level satellite to be established within existing teaching spaces.
- The refurbishment of Whanganui City College provides opportunity to consider additional specialist settings at the site. Further work is required to determine feasibility and scope of this.
- Further work is required to develop the future satellite network of Arahunga School. If a new specialist school is agreed to be established in Taranaki, Arahunga School will have the capacity to provide specialist services through satellites in the Ruapehu District;
- It is anticipated the Ramanui School satellite will continue to serve Hāwera south, and areas north of Hāwera would be serviced by the potential new specialist school in New Plymouth.
- We will explore the possibility of providing a Sensory Resource Centre and satellite classes for both Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ in this catchment.

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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2026



Engage with Whanganui City College on additional opportunities for specialist settings at the site



Establish a new satellite in Whanganui East



Establish a Sensory Resource Centre for BLENNZ & Ko Taku Reo



Expansion of primary satellite in Whanganui (additional 1TS)



Identify host schools for new satellites of Arahunga School in the Ruapehu and Rangitikei catchments.



Establish new satellites for Arahunga School in the Ruapehu and Rangitikei catchments.

2030

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatū – Feilding, Rangitikei & Ruapehu

Catchment overview

- This catchment includes the Feilding, Rangitikei and Ruapehu Districts.
- The number of ORS supported students enrolled in this catchment has remain stable at 1.3% of the total student population. We are not expecting there to be a significant increase in the total number of ORS supported students in this catchment
- The majority (79%) of ORS supported students residing in this catchment are concentrated around the urban areas of Marton, Feilding and Taihape.
- There is some residential growth in Feilding that may contribute to a slight increase in the total number of ORS supported students in the network.
- There is no specialist school provision in this catchment.
- Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ Sensory Resource Centres are located in Palmerston North, however they provide outreach services in this catchment.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways
No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion			
☐	☐	☒	☒
Risk of overcrowding	Anticipated population growth	Travel distance	Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Feilding, Rangitikei and Ruapehu	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	7,478	7,516	7,595
ORS supported roll	103	135	167
ORS Kura Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	4	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		2.96%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There are limited specialist settings in this catchment, with no access to a specialist school or fundholder schools. There is also limited school board operated specialist settings.
- There is an opportunity to refocus the area that Arahunga School (based in Whanganui) provides services to including primary and secondary satellites hosted by schools in the Rangitikei and Ruapehu Districts. (See Whanganui catchment).
- Further work is required to determine where these satellites are best located. It is likely that they will be able to be established within existing teaching spaces.
- There is also a opportunity for the new specialist school based in Palmerston North (see Palmerston North and Manawatū catchment) to have satellites operating in the Feilding and Bulls areas.
- We will also consider options for a sensory resource centre and/or community based classroom for Ko Taku Reo, BLENNZ in both the Ruapehu and Feilding areas. This will reduce travel time for both students and staff, and improve overall access to specialist settings.

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Engage with local schools in Ruapehu/ Rangitikei to explore the feasibility of establishing a fundholder school



Establish a Sensory Resource Centre for BLENNZ & Ko Taku Reo, and a community classroom for Central Regional Health School



Identify host schools for new satellites of Arahunga School in the Ruapehu and Rangitikei catchment



Identify new satellites (2TS) in the Feilding catchment (potential new specialist school Palmerston North)

Catchment overview

- This catchment includes the Palmerston North City and the surrounding areas of the Manawatū catchment.
- The number of ORS supported students enrolled in this catchment has remained stable at 1.4% of the total student population. It is expected there will be a slight increase in the number of ORS supported students given some residential growth planned for within the catchment.
- Almost all (97%) of the ORS supported students residing in this catchment are concentrated around the urban centre of Palmerston North City.
- There is no specialist school provision in this catchment.
- Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ Sensory Resource Centres are located at Awapuni Primary School.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings – local pathways only*

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Palmerston North and Manawatū	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	16,931	17,012	17,030
ORS supported roll	240	258	319
ORS Kura Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	1	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		0.39%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

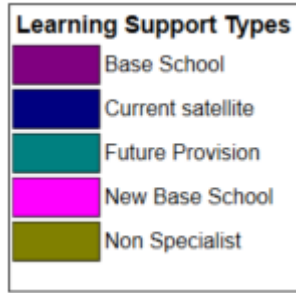
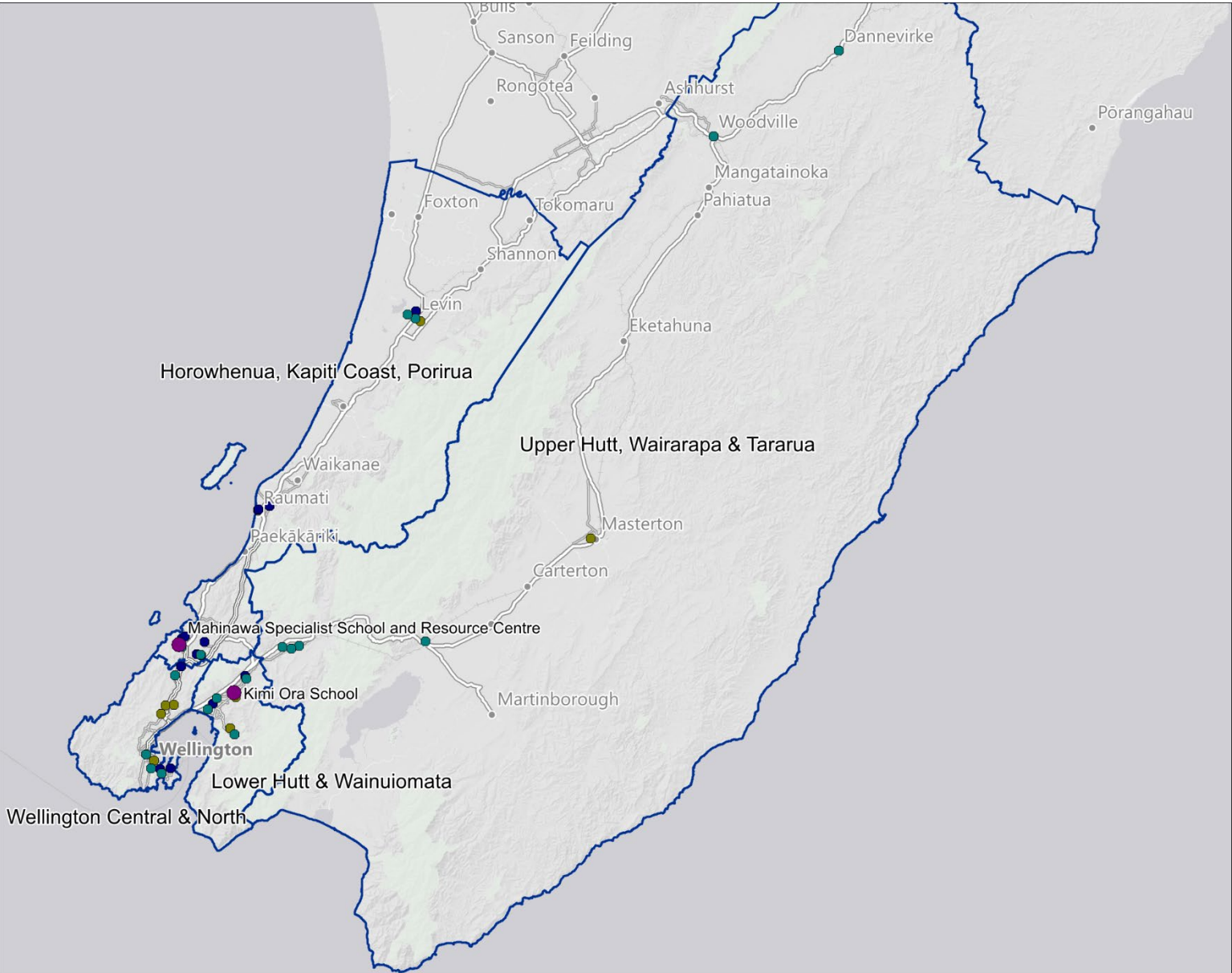
- Specialist settings in this catchment include three fundholder schools: Awatapu School, Freyberg High School and Central Normal School. Arahunga School (specialist school based in Whanganui) holds the ORS funding for West End School.
- There are no official satellites of Arahunga School in Palmerston North.
- The new specialist base school in Palmerston North will provide onsite services and support parental choice throughout the catchment via Specialist Teacher Outreach Services (STOS) or satellites that reflect localised population density and growth.
- Whilst further work is required to determine where best value for money solutions are for these satellite classes (utilising existing capacity), there is demand for satellite classes in Palmerston North City, Fielding, Bulls, Woodville and Dannevirke.
- The satellite network for the new base school will include the use of existing or new specialist teaching spaces (at both primary and secondary settings). Palmerston North Specialist School will also operate a satellite in Wairarapa (Wellington Region) to serve the area.
- To provide equity and enhance access for whānau Māori, there is an opportunity to further investigate a new fundholder school in Palmerston North at Kura Kaupapa Māori. We will work with the key stakeholders to understand the need and develop this in partnership with them.
- We will also consider options for enhanced specialist settings for Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ. This will reduce travel time for both students and staff and improve overall access to specialist settings.

Palmerston North Specialist School

- In January 2026, Education Minister Erica Stanford, announced a new specialist school in Palmerston North. The specialist base school will be located adjacent to Queen Elizabeth College.
- The new base school will provide capacity initially for 36 students.
- Palmerston North Specialist School is anticipated to open mid 2027.
- The planning for the new specialist school will include planning for a satellite network to be hosted by local schools in Palmerston North, Fielding, Bulls and the Woodville/Dannevirke areas.
- Palmerston North Specialist School will also support the Wairarapa area with a satellite host school to be identified.



Wellington Regional Summary



Wellington

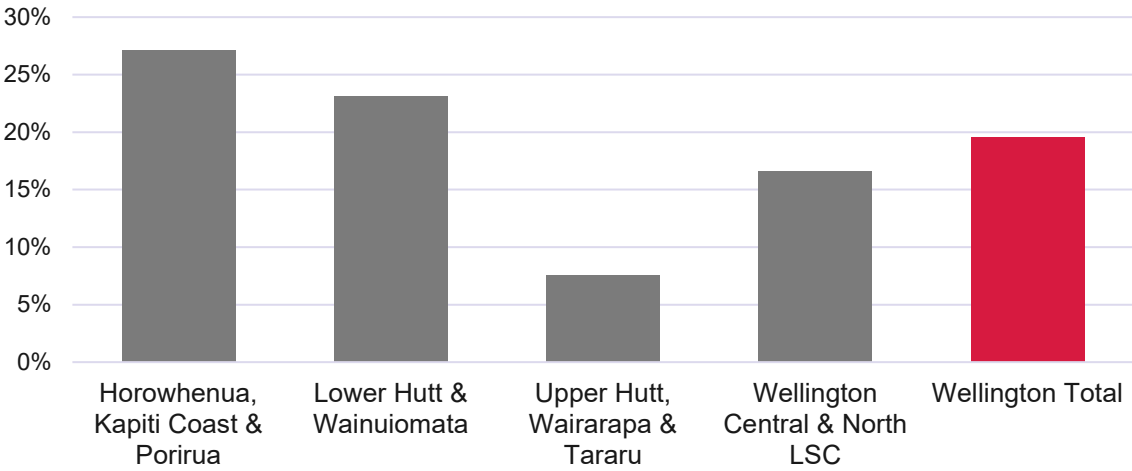
The Wellington region has 20% of ORS supported students attending the two specialist schools located in Porirua and Lower Hutt - Mahinawa Specialist School and Resource Centre, and Kimi Ora School. There are a number of proposed new satellites identified for both schools in order to expand capacity, complete student pathways and improve access to areas of known gaps in provision.

Across the region, there is an increase of students with high and complex needs. Local school specialist settings continue to be explored, including with those schools that have expressed an interested in becoming a fundholder school.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Horowhenua, Kapiti Coast, Porirua	402	419	519
Lower Hutt & Wainuiomata	342	348	431
Upper Hutt, Wairarapa & Tararua	237	250	309
Wellington Central & North	262	276	342
Wellington TOTAL	1,438	1,549	1,600

Wellington – % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Wellington – Horowhenua, Kapiti Coast, Porirua

Catchment overview

- This catchment encompasses schools from Porirua City to Levin.
- While overall demand for specialist settings is anticipated to gradually increase in line with national trends, the anticipated population growth in North Porirua and Levin requires expansion of specialist settings across the entire pathway over the next 5-10 years, as residential development occurs.
- There are several large-scale areas of residential growth within this catchment in Porirua North and in Levin.
- Mahinawa Specialist School services this catchment with a base school and 11 satellites hosted in local schools. Approximately 11% of all ORS supported students living in the catchment attend Mahinawa specialist school. Other ORS supported students travel to attend the neighbouring specialist school.
- Local learning support teams are working with individual schools to provide learning support for students. Across the region and in this catchment, we are seeing an increase of students with high and complex needs but not meeting criteria for ORS funding.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Mahinawa Specialist School and Resource Centre	Mahinawa School (base)	42
	Cannons Creek School	9
	Ngati Toa School	12
	Porirua College	12
	Porirua School	8
	Tairangi School	8
	Titahi Bay School	4
	Drivers Crescent (lease)	15
	Kapiti College	12
	Kapiti School	7
	Levin North School	5
	Raumati Beach School	7

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There are gaps in specialist settings across this catchment and at different parts of the learning pathway, from primary through to transition settings. Some schools currently have a temporary agreement to host a satellite. We will be working with them to formalise the continued hosting of satellites.
- We will look to expand the number of teaching spaces at existing satellites in Porirua to increase the number of student places.
- The need for a number of new satellite teaching spaces has been identified for Mahinawa Specialist School in order to meet growing demand. Further work is required to determine where these satellites will be hosted within the network. This includes:
 - Proposed new two teaching spaces in Porirua North.
 - Proposed new two teaching spaces secondary satellite in Porirua City.
 - Proposed new two teaching spaces intermediate satellite in Horowhenua.
 - Proposed new two teaching spaces secondary satellite in Horowhenua.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Horowhenua, Kapiti Coast, Porirua	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	23,480	23,328	22,490
ORS supported roll	407	435	538
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	2	3	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	110 [^]	118 ^{^^}	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	27.13%		

[^]Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 "number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools" includes all students enrolled at Mahinawa Specialist School, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.

^{^^} Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Work with existing host schools to continue hosting a satellite



Develop a network plan for Levin with a special focus on intermediate school provision



Develop a network plan for Porirua North which emphasises the need for a full specialist pathway



Proposed new intermediate satellite in Horowhenua 2TS



Proposed new secondary satellite in Horowhenua 2TS



Expansion of existing satellite in Porirua



Proposed new secondary satellite in Porirua 2TS



Proposed new satellite in Porirua North 2TS

Catchment overview

- There are gaps in specialist settings across this catchment and at different parts of the learning pathway, from primary through to transition settings.
- Overall demand for specialist settings has been increasing in the catchment. Housing intensification planned for the area is anticipated to increase demand for schooling, including support for ORS learners. This is already apparent in Wainuiomata.
- Kimi Ora School services this catchment with a base school and five satellites hosted in local schools, of which four are located in this catchment. Approximately 23 % of all ORS supported students living in the catchment attend the specialist school.
- There is significant demand for specialist school settings in this catchment, with Kimi Ora School reporting a large number of ORS supported students wishing to enrol. Many schools in this catchment also have a high number of ORS students.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Kimi Ora School	Kimi Ora School (base)	35
	Naenae College	34
	Pomare School	20
	Tupuranga (Woburn Transitional)	6
Funded/ in construction	Taita College	
	Wilford School	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Lower Hutt & Wainuiomata	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	17,633	17,960	17,206
ORS supported roll	282	299	370
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	92^	69^^	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	23.08%		

^Note that 2023 ORS data is total specialist school roll data - this means the 2023 “number of ORS enrolled in specialist schools” includes all students enrolled at Kimi Ora School, regardless of where they live, or which satellite they attend.
^^ Note that 2025 ORS data is geocoded and reflects the number of ORS supported students residing in this catchment and attending any specialist school or satellite.

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There are two construction ready satellite projects in Lower Hutt that have been recently funded:
 - A new two teaching space secondary satellite at Taita College. This satellite will provide a local special school option for the complex and high needs learners currently at local secondary schools.
 - A new two teaching space primary satellite at Wilford School.
- New intermediate satellites are being planned in Lower Hutt. This will provide a complete satellite pathway for ORS supported students enrolled at Kimi Ora School.
- Two proposed new transition education centres in Lower Hutt North will both provide a local learning pathway, to support learners transitioning from school into adult life. This will also free up capacity at the local secondary schools. Further work is required to confirm the location of these.
- We are also looking at increasing primary specialist settings in Wainuiomata, with a new satellite with two teaching spaces.

2026*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation2030

New 2TS satellite at Taita College

Proposed new primary satellite in Wainuiomata

Proposed new intermediate satellite in Lower Hutt

Proposed new transition education facility in Lower Hutt

New 2TS satellite at Wilford School

Proposed new transition education facility in Wainuiomata

Wellington – Upper Hutt, Wairarapa & Tararua

Catchment overview

- This is a large geographic catchment with concentrations of ORS supported learners in Upper Hutt, and smaller dispersed groups of ORS supported learners across the Tararua/ Wairarapa portion of the catchment.
- Gradual population growth is anticipated for the Wairarapa portion of the catchment which is anticipated to increase demand for schooling, including support for ORS learners.
- Across the region and in this catchment we are seeing an increase of students with high and complex needs but not meeting criteria for ORS funding.
- Local learning support teams are working with individual schools to provide learning support for students. Local school provision is continuously being investigated, including having discussions with individual schools that have expressed interest in becoming an ORS Fundholder.
- Wairarapa College currently runs a supported learning centre for those students enrolled at their school who are verified ORS. Many stay on at school until 21 years old as there is no clear pathway to transition from school to vocational pathways.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA
Funded/ in construction	Fergusson Intermediate (Trentham)	

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings – local pathways only

Triggers for expansion			
			
Risk of overcrowding	Anticipated population growth	Travel distance	Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Upper Hutt, Wairarapa & Tararua	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	18,427	18,656	19,044
ORS supported roll	264	291	360
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	1	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	22	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		7.56%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There are currently no specialist settings across the Upper Hutt catchment.
- The satellite project at Fergusson Intermediate has recently been funded in the Upper Hutt catchment.
- A secondary satellite is also proposed for the region, with a host school yet to be confirmed.
- A further primary school satellite is proposed within the Upper Hutt catchment.
- It is acknowledged that there is a lack of specialist settings in the Wairarapa area:
 - We have considered the option for a new specialist school but the number of ORS supported students are currently too few to support the establishment of a new school in this catchment.
 - There is however a need for specialist satellites in the Wairarapa area. Work is underway to identify potential host schools for the satellites, ideally at both primary and secondary levels to complete the student pathway.
- Currently the Wairarapa is within the Kimi Ora catchment. Specialist provisions in the Wairarapa and Tararua area will fall under the catchment of the new specialist school in Palmerston North. The new specialist school in Palmerston North provides opportunities for specialist settings in the area.

2026

 New 2TS satellite at Fergusson Intermediate

 New 2TS secondary satellite in Hutt Valley (host school TBC)

 Proposed new primary satellite in Upper Hutt

 Proposed new transition education facility in Upper Hutt

2030

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

Wellington – Wellington Central & North

Catchment overview

- This catchment encompasses schools from Wellington Central (from the south coast and Miramar Peninsula) to Tawa.
- Housing intensification planned for the area is anticipated to increase demand for schooling, including support for ORS supported learners.
- Approximately 37% of all ORS supported students in the catchment, who are attending a specialist school, travel to attend a specialist school base or satellites in schools outside of this catchment.
- Wellington East Girls College is a fundholder school in a shared fundholder arrangement with Rongotai College. These are the only secondary options available, and currently there is only one primary and one intermediate satellite.
- Ko Taku Reo - Deaf Education New Zealand has provision at both Linden School and Tawa College which supports deaf and hard of hearing students in this catchment and across the region.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Kimi Ora School	Evans Bay Intermediate	20
	Miramar Central School	12
	Linden School	8

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Wellington Central	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	38,321	38,716	35,419
ORS supported roll	278	313	387
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	52	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		16.61%	

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There are gaps in specialist settings across this catchment and at each part of the learning pathway. Providing satellites at sites in this catchment is challenging, where many school sites are small, or split across multiple levels, or on sloping sites.
- We are very interested in growing the satellite network in this catchment to cater for growth and choice. We recognize gaps in Wellington East, Central and South and will be concentrating on these areas in the first instance. In Wellington City, we have explored satellite options however site restrictions and land topography have made this challenging for us to achieve. We will be looking at other secondary options across the City to accommodate this unmet need.
- We are considering primary satellites in the suburbs close to the CBD, and satellites in Wellington South (potentially up to 6 teaching spaces). We are also considering secondary satellites in 3 secondary schools (potentially up to 6 teaching spaces).
- We will consider options and further investigate a site for a potential new specialist school base site to be established in Wellington City as an opportunity to provide increased access to specialist settings for learners. The feasibility of this will be subject to budget, acquiring land for the site, and providing property to meet the needs of learners and staff.
- There is an opportunity to expand the teaching spaces and improve facilities to increase the number of ORS supported students that could be accommodated at Wellington East Girls' College and at Rongotai College.
- We will consider options for transition education facilities. This would free up space for secondary age learners and provide a pathway for the older learners in this part of the network.
- Secondary satellite provision in the Wellington North area will provide a local specialist school option for the complex and high needs learners currently at local secondary schools.
- The need for a number of new satellite teaching spaces has been identified for Mahinawa Specialist School in Wellington North in order to meet growing demand. Further work is required to determine where these satellites will be located within the network. This includes:
 - Proposed new transition education facility
 - Proposed new two teaching space primary satellite
 - Proposed new two teaching space secondary satellite

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

Proposed new primary satellite in Wellington Central (2TS, potentially expanding to 4TS)

Proposed new secondary satellite in Wellington North 2TS

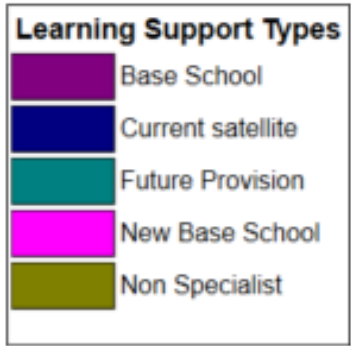
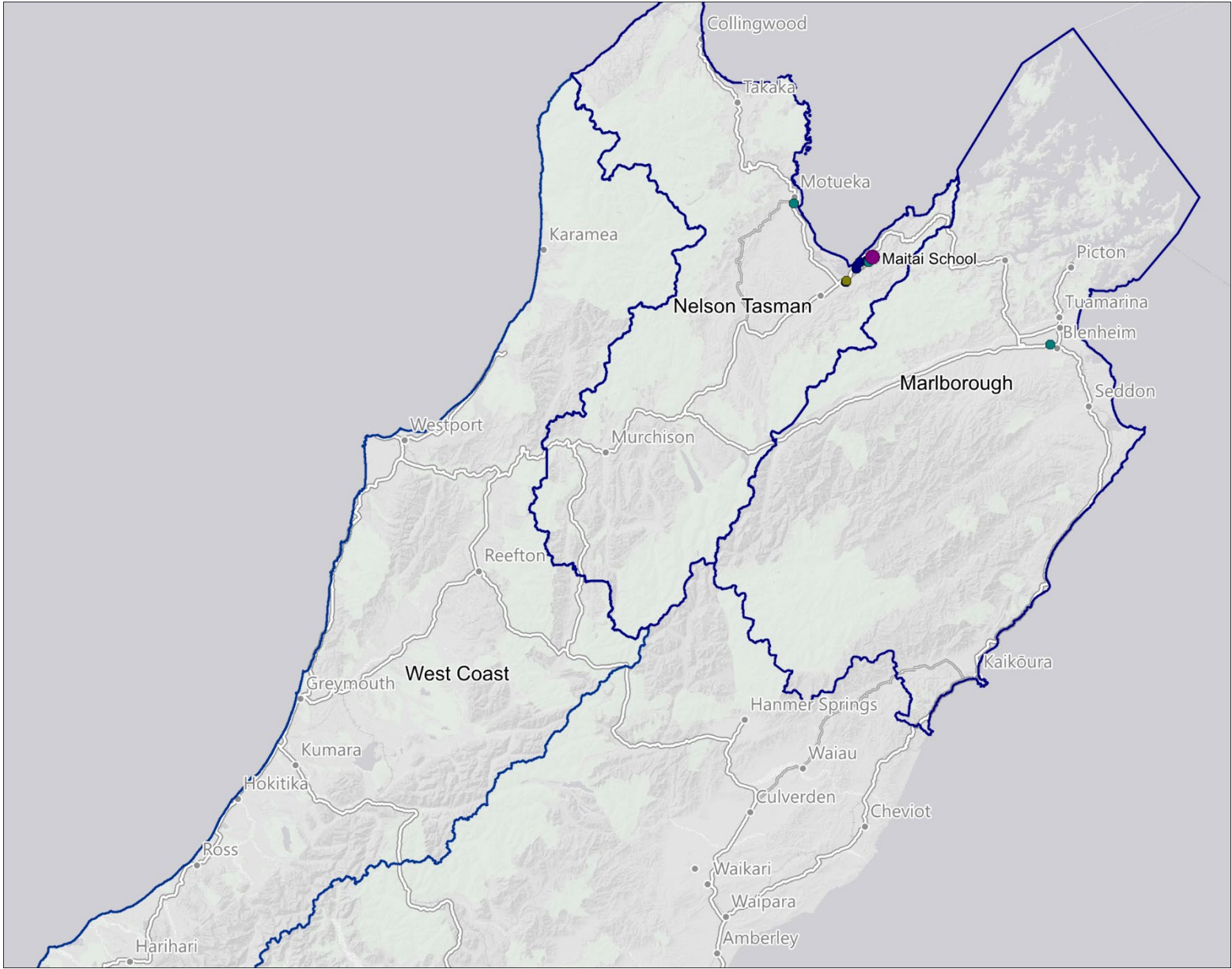
Proposed new primary satellite in Wellington North 2TS

Explore and identify site options for a future specialist school base

Proposed new transition education facility in Wellington North

Potential new specialist school opens 2031

Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast Regional Summary



Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast

The Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast Region has 17% of ORS supported students in the region attending Maitai School in Nelson. Specialist settings are concentrated in Nelson, however there are plans for future satellites to be located in Blenheim.

The region has many areas that are geographically isolated, with small numbers of ORS supported students. More diverse provision options will need to be explored to meet the more isolated areas of need. We are aware students in rural areas travel significant distances to access education.

Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Nelson Tasman	195	205	254
Marlborough	67	69	85
West Coast	55	58	72
Nelson Marlborough West Coast TOTAL	317	336	411

Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast – % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Catchment overview

- The demand for specialist settings is increasing. By 2030, it is anticipated that this catchment will have around 249 ORS supported students.
- The Nelson Tasman catchment has both the urban areas of Nelson City and Richmond, as well as the more rural Tasman District. Tasman District is a large, geographically spread, sparsely populated area, with a disproportionately high number of small schools because the region is mostly rural.
- Across the Nelson Tasman catchment, the school aged population is relatively stable, with some pockets of growth and areas with decline.
- West and South of Richmond is an area of anticipated population growth, due to housing expansion and intensification.
- Tasman District has experienced some of the fastest population and housing growth in the country. Census 2023 results show the population grew by 10.3% compared to the previous census in 2018. Tasman District Council's growth projections show all age groups in Tasman are projected to increase over the next 10 years.
- Nelson Tasman has also experienced high levels of internal migration into the area, Census 2023 shows 8% of the Nelson population and 7.5% of the Tasman population had previously lived in the North Island in 2018.
- The Māori school-aged population is growing significantly, both in numbers and as a proportion of the overall school aged population.
- Maitai School is located in Nelson with satellites in Tāhunanui, Stoke and Richmond. Recently there is more demand from new entrants and younger year levels, compared to previously when many students would transition to Maitai School at either Year 7 or Year 9.

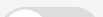
Existing specialist settings in the catchment

Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Maitai School	Maitai School (base school)	18
	Henley School (Nelson)	19
	Tahunanui School	12
	Nayland College	8
Funded/ in construction	Maitai School (base) – expansion	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding	 Anticipated population growth	 Travel distance	 Access to specialist settings
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ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Nelson Tasman	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	16,380	16,375	16,270
ORS supported roll	180	201	249
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	48	56	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	27.86%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- The Maitai School base site is currently being redeveloped and relocated to Salisbury School site in Richmond. Further work has confirmed an additional 2 roll growth teaching spaces are required in the future at the base site.
- A two teaching space satellite of Maitai School opened at Nayland College in Term 1 2026.
- Maitai School will establish a satellite in the Motueka area, this will be hosted by Motueka South School.
- We are investigating options for expansion and/or additional satellites in Waimea.
- Demand for transition options is anticipated to increase as ORS supported students progress through their schooling, either in local schools or specialist settings, and seek options in preparation for transition into community beyond formal schooling. We are working with Maitai School on a plan for a Transitional Education Centre in Nelson.
- There is a need for specialist settings in the Golden Bay and Murchison areas.
- A different approach is required in planning for specialist settings in more rural and/or remote areas such as Golden Bay. A more innovative approach must be considered where distance currently prohibits access to specialist school settings. We are aware students in rural areas travel significant distances to access education.

2026



Redevelopment and relocation of Maitai base school to Salisbury school site in Richmond.



Working with Maitai School on a plan for a Transitional Education Centre in Nelson



New satellite at
Motueka South
School (1TS)



New satellite at Nayland College (2TS)

**Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation*

2030

Catchment overview

- Marlborough is a large, geographically spread, sparsely populated area. There is a disproportionately high number of small schools because the region is mostly rural. Students in rural areas travel significant distances to access education.
- By 2030, it is anticipated this catchment will have approximately 92 ORS supported students.
- There is no day specialist school provision in Marlborough or Kaikōura. Access to day specialist school provision is only available through Maitai School in Nelson.
- The school aged population is anticipated to remain relatively stable. There are pockets of local growth in Blenheim due to housing expansion and intensification.
- Marlborough has the second highest rate of inter-island migration in the country. Census 2023 shows 8.7% of the Marlborough population lived in the North Island in 2018.
- It is anticipated there will be future requirements for specialist settings, from the number of children with additional needs currently in early learning.
- There is currently only local schooling options for ORS supported learners in the catchment. Both Marlborough Boys' and Girls' Colleges run board operated specialist settings.
- Both BLENNZ and Ko Taku Reo have a Sensory Resource Centre in Blenheim.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA
Funded/ in construction	Springlands School	

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Marlborough	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	7,373	7,449	7,121
ORS supported roll	68	74	92
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in Specialist schools	0	0	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	0.00%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is currently no specialist school option in this catchment. Specialist provision options at both primary and secondary are needed to meet the ORS needs in Marlborough and Kaikōura.
- Maitai School will be establishing a primary satellite in Blenheim, to be hosted by Springlands School.
- Further work is required to explore what opportunities exist to strengthen secondary provision in Blenheim.
- Marlborough Boys' College is refurbishing two existing teaching spaces to provide a Board operated specialist setting.
- Marlborough Girls' College currently use an existing teaching space and a Board owned building to provide a Board operated specialist setting.
- Further options requiring investigation include the opportunity to repurpose Ministry owned sites and property. These can be used for specialist school settings, or expand to include development of a hub with both sensory schools.
- In a large geographic area with a small population, expanding satellite provision with property solutions may not be the best way to enhance access. We will investigate how property and non-property solutions might enhance access and identify any opportunities for innovation.
- Further work is required on alternative ways of increasing access to day specialist school provision at primary and secondary levels across the catchment. A more innovative approach must be considered, where distance currently prohibits access to specialist school base site for those who require a base school setting. This includes the more isolated areas of need such as Kaikōura, Marlborough Sounds, Pelorus, Rai Valley, Wairau Valley, Awatere Valley, Flaxbourne and Waikawa/Picton.
- There are plans for Queen Charlotte College in Picton to use an existing teaching space as a space for specialised teaching and a sensory space.
- For Kaikōura, the Nelson Marlborough West Coast region will partner with the Canterbury/Chatham Islands region to identify when a property solution might become feasible across the Kaikōura and Hurunui Districts.

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



New primary satellite in Blenheim, Springlands School



Refurbished teaching spaces at local secondary schools to provide increased access to specialist settings



Work with local schools to identify solutions which might enhance access to specialist settings, including identifying any opportunities for innovation

Catchment overview

- The West Coast catchment includes the Buller, Grey and Westland council areas. This is the largest geographical area in the education region, but has the smallest population size.
- The number of ORS supported students is increasing. By 2030, it is anticipated this catchment will have approximately 73 ORS supported students.
- In most of the West Coast, the school aged population is steady and stable. In the Buller district, this is projected to decline. There are pockets of growth due to housing expansion and intensification in Hokitika and Paroa.
- There are population shifts within the region that have not been previously forecast. Working arrangements, education choices and housing affordability have changed in unanticipated ways following the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in unpredicted increases in enrolments at some schools.
- There is growth in the mining and dairy sectors, and tourism and hospitality are recovering on the West Coast post-pandemic. This is creating jobs and there are high levels of internal migration south to the West Coast. Census 2023 shows 7.5% of the West Coast population had previously lived in the North Island in 2018.
- Geographic diversity and a dispersed population, particularly in the West Coast, makes equitable access to provision difficult.
- Provision for ORS supported students and other students requiring additional support is solely provided through local schools.
- Two schools, Greymouth High School and Westland High School, have board operated specialist settings at secondary level.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

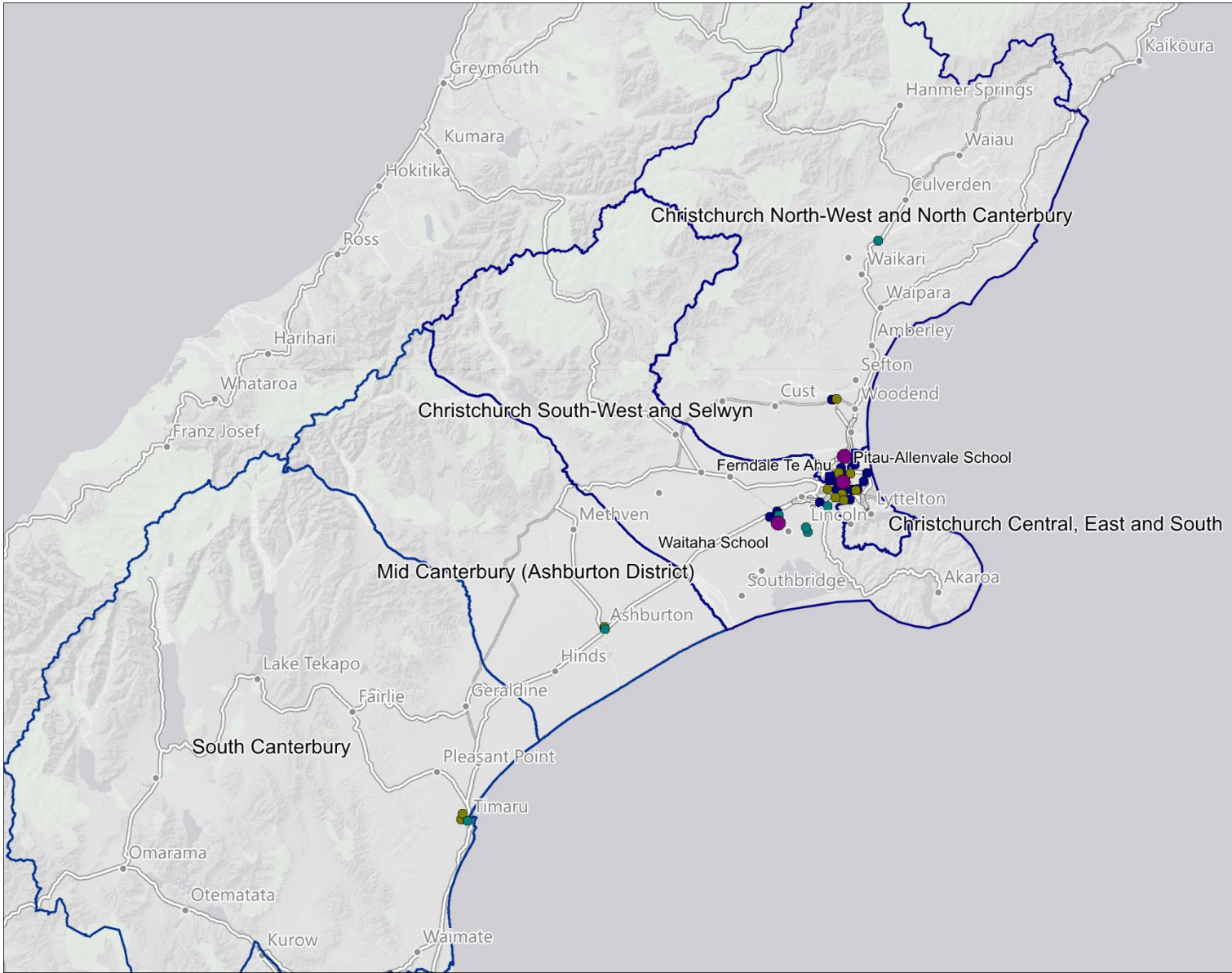
Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
West Coast	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	4,429	4,521	4,259
ORS supported roll	52	59	73
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	0	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	0%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is currently no specialist school provision on the West Coast. The nearest day specialist school provision is Maitai School in Nelson – a three hour drive from Westport, four hours from Greymouth and four-and-a-half hours from Hokitika.
- As the West Coast covers a vast geographical area with many rural and remote communities, it does not have a critical mass of students for typical specialist settings. The numbers of ORS supported students in Buller and Westland Districts are too low to support a typical day specialist school satellite.
- The Grey District would have the minimum numbers required for a satellite, however Greymouth is too far from existing day specialist school base sites to operate a satellite. More innovative approaches are required for remote and/ or rural communities where distance currently prohibits access to specialist settings.
- Through the Learning Support team, conversations will occur with schools and the community to understand their needs and to source potential solutions for the West Coast. Potential co-construction and partnership opportunities will be explored.
- Further work is required to explore how local schools with surplus teaching spaces could be utilised for specialist settings.

Canterbury / Chatham Islands Regional Summary



Canterbury / Chatham Islands

In the Canterbury Region, 32% of ORS supported students attend one of the three specialist schools which are all based in Christchurch: Pitau-Allenvale School, Ferndale Te Ahu and Waitaha School.

There is a focus on ensuring there are complete pathways for ORS supported students to progress through their schooling journey across the region, in both urban and more rural areas. Local school specialist settings continue to be explored, including establishing special programmes, and potential new fundholder schools.

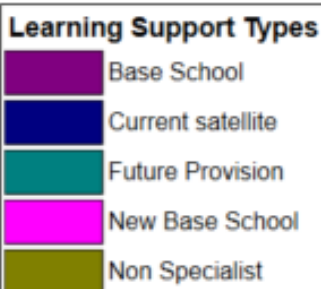
Total number of ORS supported students

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Christchurch North-West & North Canterbury	335	349	432
Christchurch Central, East and South [^]	312	336	416
Christchurch South-West & Selwyn	370	398	493
Mid Canterbury (Ashburton District)	62	67	83
South Canterbury	106	115	142
Canterbury & Chatham Islands TOTAL	1,185	1,265	1,565

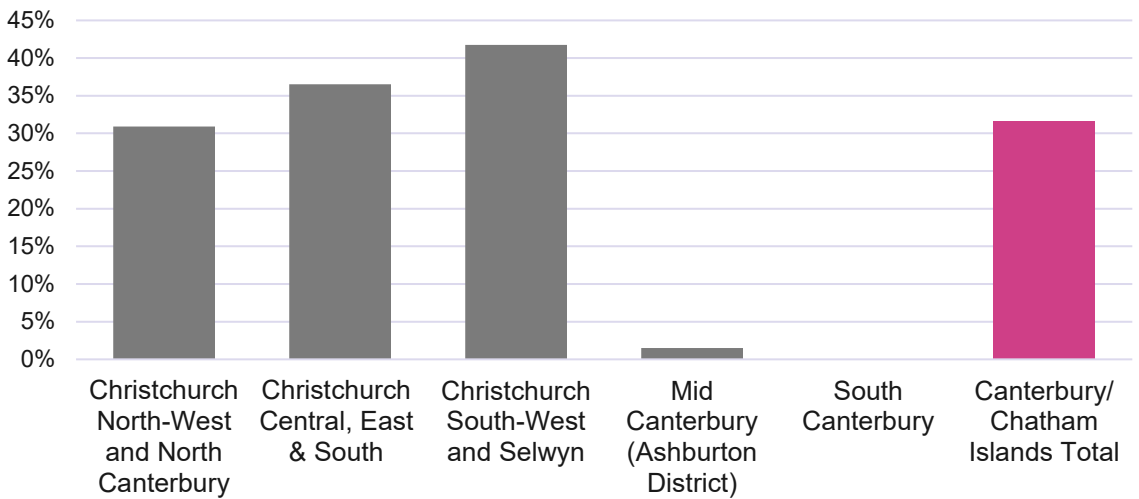
[^] Students enrolled at Ferndale Te Ahu have been included in Christchurch Central, East and South as the specialist school base school will be shifting to this catchment by the start of 2027..

Rēkohu | Wharekauri | Chatham Islands

- Currently there are no ORS supported students within this catchment.
- As required, Ministry of Education practitioners will work alongside Te Kura o Pounamu to provide learning support for ORS supported students, or students with additional learning needs



Canterbury & Chatham Islands - % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Catchment overview

- This learning support catchment consists of suburbs in the North-west of Christchurch and extends north of the Waimakariri River to include the Waimakariri and Hurunui council areas in North Canterbury. This area includes urban areas within the City and major towns, as well as extensive and at times remote rural areas.
- Based on Stats NZ projections (High population projection), the school age population is projected to increase by 9% by 2035 and 17% by 2045.
- At July 2025, there were 314 students supported by ORS funding in this catchment.
- Pītau-Allenvale School operates a base school and two primary satellites in the north-west Christchurch area and one primary satellite in the Waimakariri District.
- Pītau-Allenvale School shares a transition hub with Ferndale Te Ahu, located in the Learning Support Catchment of Christchurch Central, East and South. The current facility is not well-located to effectively support local community access for students in the North-West Christchurch and North Canterbury learning support catchment.
- Pītau-Allenvale School operates a secondary school satellite on a temporary site in the north-west of Christchurch. This signals a gap in provision.
- Residential development is underway and anticipated in several parts of the catchment, particularly in Belfast, Kaiapoi, Rangiora, Woodend/Ravenswood, and Amberley.
- There is demand pressure in this catchment which would benefit from an increase in specialist settings, particularly for secondary aged ORS support students.
- Included within this catchment is one fundholder school and two schools with special programmes, providing additional specialist settings at local schools.
- BLENNZ staff and a number of Ko Taku Reo staff operate from a temporary site in this catchment. This site is largely focused on providing administrative space for these schools.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Pītau – Allenvale School	Pītau – Allenvale School (base)	63
	Ashgrove School	14
	Kendal Campus (ex-school site)	20
	Tetekura Transition (Community based transition hub)	19
	Tuia Burnside Primary School	15

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Chch North-West and North Canterbury	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	27,663	28,097	27,535
ORS supported roll	283	314	389
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	-
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	94	97	-
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	30.89%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- We are considering options for two schools in the catchment to host secondary day specialist school satellites (one in the north-west of Christchurch, and another in the Waimakariri District). Further investigation is required to determine the location for these.
- A secondary specialist school satellite in the north-west of Christchurch would provide a permanent solution and replace the temporary accommodation currently provided for secondary aged students from Pītau-Allenvale School.
- A secondary specialist school satellite in the Waimakariri District would provide a secondary school pathway for students attending the current primary school satellite and reduce extended travel times.
- Investigate options for a satellite in the North Canterbury, Hurunui area. This will require an innovative approach, recognising that it will be located a significant distance away from the base school and students will be travelling from more rural and remote communities.
- Distance barriers to access specialist settings for rural based whānau present a challenge, with changes and constraints of school transport options impacting access.
- There is an identified need for a permanent transition hub to provide access for students residing in the north-west of Christchurch. Options are being considered for a transition hub in the north-west of the city, close to the city centre.
- There is an opportunity to improve access to a specialist transition hub for ORS supported students who attend their local schools. This would provide students an option to pursue a transition pathway in a specialist setting.
- One secondary school in North Canterbury has indicated an interest in becoming a Fundholder School. Engagement will need to occur to reach a suitable solution.

2026

Begin planning for a day specialist school satellite in North-West Christchurch and another in North Canterbury.

Begin planning for a Transition Hub in north-west Christchurch

Engage with West Christchurch secondary schools to consider options for hosting a day specialist school satellite setting

2030

Canterbury / Chatham Islands – Christchurch Central, East & South

Catchment overview

- The Christchurch Central, East and South learning support catchment includes most areas in the centre, east and south of Christchurch City, as well as Lyttleton Harbour. Most areas of this catchment can be classified as urban or suburban in nature.
- Population change will differ between different parts of the catchment. While there is potential for significant intensification of housing in this area, population projections suggest that there may be only limited increases in school aged population.
- At July 2025, there were 356 ORS supported students in this catchment..
- There is ongoing development of medium and high-density housing across Christchurch and outlying areas. There is potential for significant increases in housing density within Christchurch City resulting from changes in plans / policies / legislation by the City Council and Central Government.
- Ferndale Te Ahu (day specialist school) operates three primary satellites, two secondary satellites and a transition hub. A new base site is due to be completed by the end of 2026, located centrally to the satellite provisions.
- Ferndale Te Ahu shares a transition hub with Pītau-Allenvale School, located in the learning support catchment of Christchurch Central, East and South.
- The current facility in Phillipstown (Tētēkura), is not well-located to effectively support local community access for students in the North-West Christchurch and North Canterbury learning support catchment.
- Included within this catchment is one fundholder school and two schools with special programmes, providing additional specialist settings.
- The base setting for Ko Taku Reo is located in the east of the catchment. All three of the Ko Taku Reo satellites are centrally located, with one secondary satellite in the centre of Christchurch, as well as a primary and a secondary satellite in the urban part of the Christchurch South-West and Selwyn Catchment.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Ferndale Te Ahu	Ferndale Te Ahu (base)	37
	Beckenham Te Kura o Pūroto	15
	Haeata Community Campus	17
	Te Huarahi Linwood Avenue School	14
	Marshland School	16
	Waikahu (Shirley Boy's/ Avonside Girl's High Schools)	18
	Transition hub (community based)	22
Funded/ in construction	Ferndale Te Ahu (base) - expansion	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

 Risk of overcrowding

 Anticipated population growth

 Travel distance

 Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is an identified need to find a transition hub solution for Pītau-Allenvale School in the Christchurch North and North Canterbury catchment, to improve student access. The current Transition Hub in Phillipstown (Tētēkura) will then become solely for Ferndale Te Ahu and will increase the number of transition spaces available for students residing in the Christchurch Central, East and South Catchment. It will also improve access for students verified with ORS in local secondary schools to pursue a transition pathway in a specialist setting.
- It has been identified that there is demand for two additional secondary and one primary school satellites in east Christchurch. Localised planning will be required to determine the location for these additional specialist school satellites, and we will conduct further analysis to ensure this planned provision meets the needs of the local communities.
- Additional work is required with day specialist schools to understand and improve pathways for more complex students within a satellite setting.
- Investigate options for expanding the Ferndale Te Ahu base site in Shirley by a further two teaching spaces (in addition to the two funded in Budget 25) to meet the school's stated demand for additional base site provision.
- Investigate and plan for opportunities to utilise additional teaching spaces at existing schools for the purpose of satellite provision.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Christchurch Central, East and South	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	25,676	25,933	24,636
ORS supported roll	353	356	441
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	1	-
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	145	130	-
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	36.52%		

2026

2030

 Two additional teaching spaces delivered at Ferndale Te Ahu base school (B25)

 New transition hub location for Pītau-Allenvale School in Christchurch North

 Engage with local primary and secondary schools to consider options for hosting a day specialist school satellite (Christchurch East, 2 secondary, 1 primary)

Catchment overview

- The Christchurch South-West and Selwyn learning support catchment includes the Selwyn District, the South-west of Christchurch City, and the Akaroa Peninsula.
- This catchment includes several areas of rapid residential and population growth including Halswell, Lincoln and Rolleston. Some parts of this catchment are located a significant distance from main urban centres, with the catchment extending from Arthurs Pass in the west to Akaroa in the east.
- There is significant, large scale residential greenfield growth underway across the Selwyn District, as well as the southwest of Christchurch City. This catchment is expected to continue experiencing significant population growth.
- At July 2025, there were 424 ORS supported students in this catchment.
- The school age population is projected to increase by 15% by 2035 and 22% by 2045 under the High population projection from Stats NZ. To date, growth has exceeded projections, with a large volume of additional housing approved since the latest available population projections were calculated (2023).
- Waitaha School operates a base site in Rolleston with two primary satellites and one secondary satellite. Waitaha School also operate a transition hub in a temporary accommodation on a primary school site. An additional primary satellite in Lincoln is under construction.
- There is also one fundholder secondary school and one school with a special programme in this catchment, providing additional specialist settings.
- Addington Te Kura Taumatua is the ORS fundholder for all school-based Conductive Education centres across the country.
- Ko Taku Reo operate a primary and secondary enrolled school satellite in this catchment, located centrally to the third satellite in Christchurch Central.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment

Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Waitaha School	Waitaha School (base)	53
	West Rolleston School	17
	Knights Stream School – Mingimangi Hautoa	17
	Rolleston College	16
	Community Hub (community based transition hub)	31

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion



Risk of overcrowding



Anticipated population growth



Travel distance



Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- There is an identified need for additional local primary schooling provision in response to residential growth anticipated to occur over the 2026-2035 period. Space for specialist school satellites will be factored into land acquisition and master planning for new schools.
- There is an identified need for a permanent solution for the Specialist School Transition Hub in Rolleston. Waitaha School is currently operating its transition hub from refurbished facilities located on the Rolleston School (primary school) site on a temporary basis. There is a potential opportunity to extend the transition hub provision to ORS supported students currently attending local schools who would like to seek a transition pathway in a specialist school setting.
- There is a need to increase secondary satellite provision within Selwyn District and we will be planning for additional satellites and/or teaching spaces.
- Investigate options for satellites in more of the more rural communities of Selwyn. This will take an innovative approach, recognising that it will be located a significant distance away from the base school and students will be travelling from more rural and remote communities.
- Investigate options for specialist settings in the Lincoln area to complete student pathways.
- Additional work is required with day specialist schools to understand and improve pathways for more complex students within a satellite setting.
- Localised planning will be required to determine the location for additional specialist school satellites in this catchment. To ensure this planned provision meets the needs of the local communities we will need to conduct further analysis.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Christchurch South-West and Selwyn	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	29,984	32,556	33,858
ORS supported roll	356	424	525
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	1	2	-
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	163	177	-
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	41.75%		

2026



Delivery of two teachings space satellite at Ararira Springs (B25)



Seek funding for permanent transition hub facility



Ongoing – Space for specialist settings to be included as part of site search and new school designs.
Growth in this catchment is expected to require additional primary schooling provision, particularly in areas of greenfield residential growth.

2030

Canterbury / Chatham Islands – Mid-Canterbury (Ashburton District)

Catchment overview

- The catchment for Mid Canterbury is large and is closely aligned with the boundaries of the Ashburton District, extending from the Rakaia River to the Rangitata River and inland to Methven, including Mount Somers and Mayfield.
- There is some anticipated growth in school age population, with Stats NZ projecting this to increase by up to 14% by 2035.
- There are several areas of potential residential growth in the catchment, including in Methven, and in the north, south and west of Ashburton.
- There are currently 66 ORS supported students residing within the catchment.
- There are no day specialist schools in the Mid Canterbury catchment. Primary aged students are accommodated in local schools. The special programme, Te Whare Manaaki, operating at Ashburton College has an identified capacity for 25 students aged 13-21 years.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist school settings – local pathways only

Triggers for expansion			
			
Risk of overcrowding	Anticipated population growth	Travel distance	Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Mid Canterbury	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	5,530	5,687	5,619
ORS supported roll	60	67	83
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	1	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	1.49%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Given the large and dispersed geographical nature of this catchment, development of a plan for additional specialist settings would require further investigation to ensure that localised access, transport support and community connection can be maintained. A more innovative approach can be considered where distance currently prohibits access to specialist school setting.
- We are considering options for satellites to be established at a primary school and at a secondary school to meet the needs of the community and provide local access and choice for whānau. Challenges regarding geographic distance and travel for a base school in Christchurch to manage and support a satellite would need to be considered.
- There is currently no day specialist school transition pathway for ORS supported students. Further work is required to consider options on how this can be established.
- Mentoring and tutoring opportunities provided by Waitaha School have had a positive impact and have been an effective support for local schools in the Mid Canterbury region. Formalising this approach and aligning it with Ministry practitioners and services would strengthen capability of the teacher workforce with the long-term outcome of improving equitable outcomes for learners with additional needs across the catchment, including ORS supported students.

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Work with local primary schools to consider options for specialist settings



Work with local secondary schools to consider options for specialist settings

Catchment overview

- The catchment area for South Canterbury is large, covering Timaru, MacKenzie and Waimate District Council areas, from south of the Rangitata River to the Waitaki River and includes Geraldine, Temuka, Timaru, Twizel and Waimate.
- There is some anticipated growth in school age population, with Stats NZ projecting this to increase by 3% by 2035 and 4% by 2045 (High population projection).
- The Timaru District Council has identified potential for significant residential growth in the north of Timaru city. This is likely to result in an increase in the student-aged population and ORS supported learners.
- There are currently 123 ORS supported students residing within the catchment.
- There is no day specialist school in South Canterbury and no fundholder schools providing specialist settings.
- All ORS supported students are learning at local schools. Some schools operate special programmes, of which there are 59 student places across the catchment.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
South Canterbury	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	9,440	9,604	9,529
ORS supported roll	102	119	147
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	0	0	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	0.00%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- It is acknowledged that there are challenges in providing suitable learning settings for ORS supported students in South Canterbury within the existing school network.
- Work is underway to identify options for a potential new specialist school base school in the Timaru area which would provide access and choice for whanau. Challenges regarding geographic distance, recruitment of specialist staff and transport routes to maintain localised access will need to be considered. A more innovative approach can be considered where distance currently prohibits access to a specialist school base site for those who require a base school setting.
- Planning for the use of repurposed or additional space in existing schools for one primary and one secondary specialist school satellite would further enhance access and choice and address some of the transport challenges that are present with a geographically large area.
- The region is experiencing recruiting difficulties of specialist teachers and experienced teacher aides. There is an opportunity to increase teacher workforce capability and connect the specialist Ministry of Education practitioners and Specialist Schools to support and strengthen practice in local settings and provide mentoring and professional learning development opportunities.

2026



Alternative space for BLENNZ and Ko Taku for 12 months while their Oceanview Heights refurbishment is completed (2025)



Work with local schools to consider options for day specialist school settings



Consider options for establishing a day specialist school and satellite provision in the Timaru region

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

70

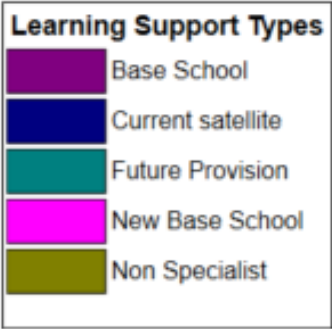
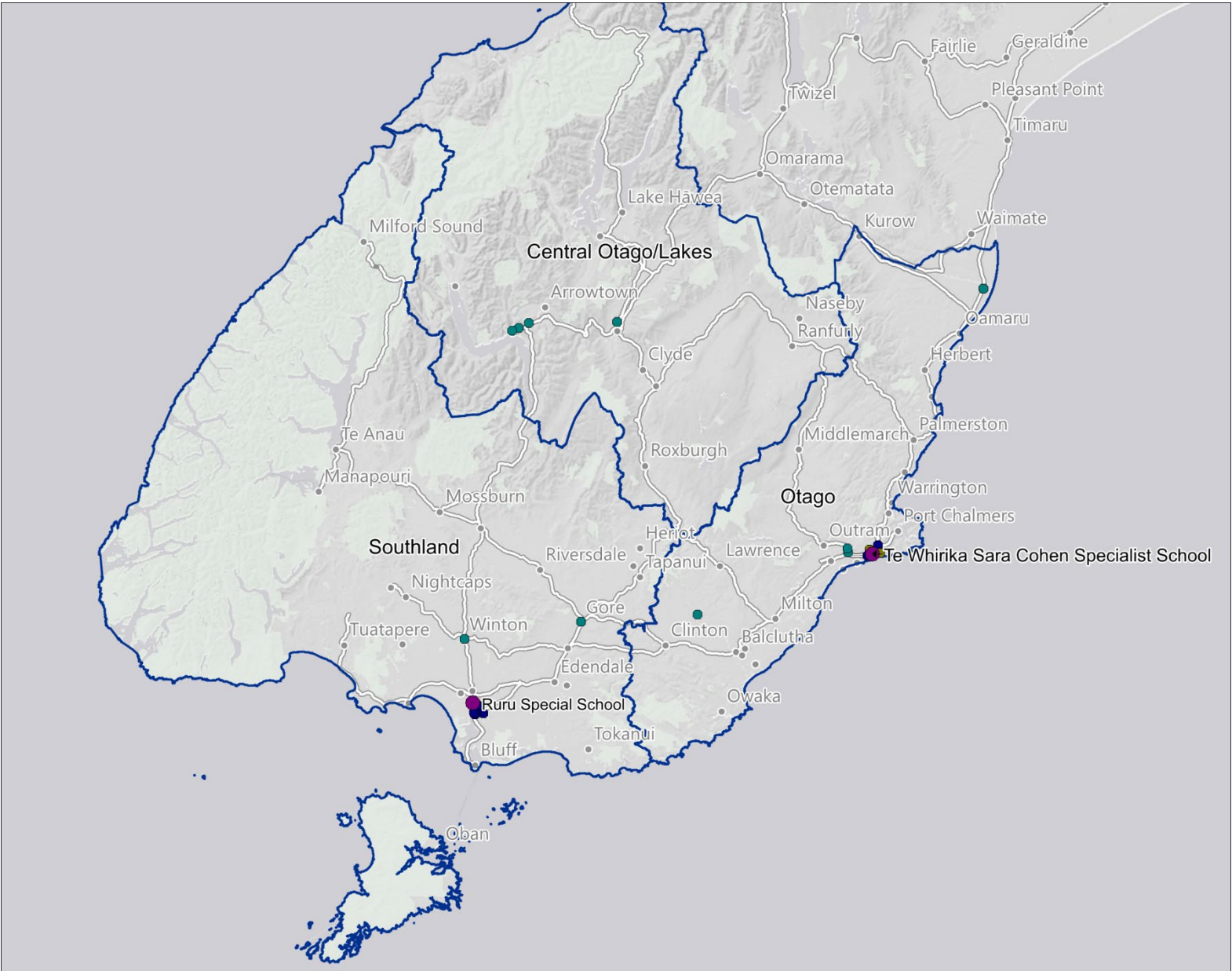
Network Plan for Specialist Settings 2026-2030 – August 2026

[IN-CONFIDENCE - RELEASE EXTERNAL]



Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Otago / Southland Regional Summary



Otago / Southland

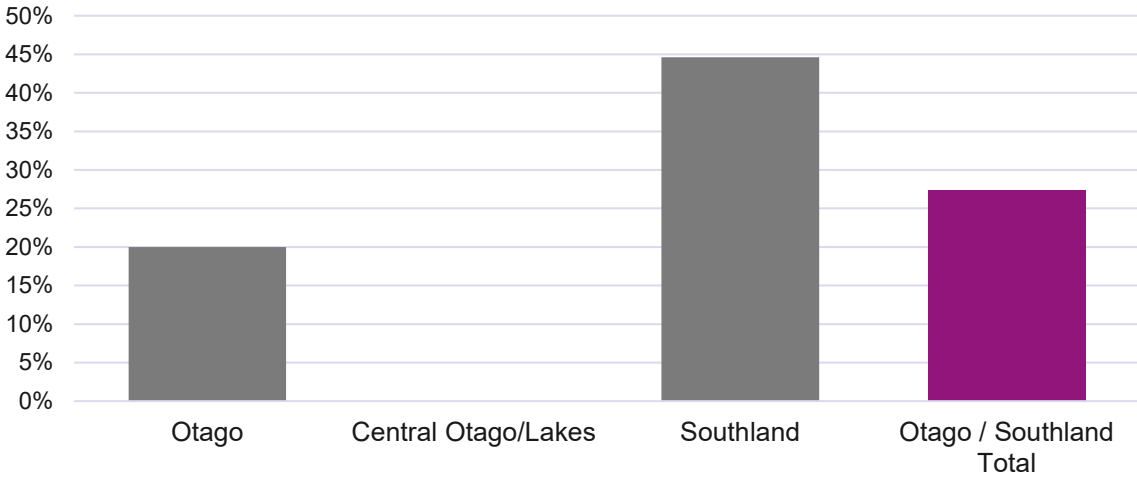
The Otago / Southland Region has 27% of ORS supported students attending the two specialist schools located in Dunedin and Invercargill - Sara Cohen Specialist School and Ruru Specialist School. Expanding the base schools and increasing the number of satellites are opportunities the region has identified to increase capacity and access to both specialist schools.

The region will explore more innovative approaches for specialist settings in more remote and/or rural communities where distance currently prohibits access to specialist settings. Further work is required to determine where specialist settings should be located in the more remote and rural areas of the region.

Total number of ORS supported students by school of enrolment

Learning Support Catchment	2023	2025	2030 projection
Otago	326	329	407
Central Otago/ Lakes	58	66	82
Southland	226	243	301
Otago Southland TOTAL	610	638	790

Otago / Southland – % ORS Students enrolled in Specialist Schools by Learning Support Catchment



Catchment overview

- Demand for specialist settings is anticipated to continue to increase in line with population growth across the catchment. The number of ORS supported students in the Otago catchment is projected to grow by 2030, reaching a total of approximately 402.
- In the short to medium term, residential growth is anticipated in Mosgiel, with intensification within Dunedin City planned over the medium to long term.
- Planned greenfield development in Mosgiel will result in larger student populations, and we anticipate a corresponding increase in ORS supported students in the area.
- Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School has base, primary satellites and transitional provision located in Dunedin city. A number of secondary schools provide a specialist setting for secondary aged ORS supported students.
- Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School is the only day specialist school in the Otago region. 20% of ORS supported students in Otago attend a specialist school, while many more have their education needs met in specialist settings based in local schools.
- There is also a successful secondary learning support model throughout Dunedin city, at Bayfield High School, Taieri College, and Kaikorai Valley College.
- In the Clutha and Waitaki Districts, there are fewer ORS supported students, distributed across large geographic areas.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Sara Cohen Specialist School	Sara Cohen Specialist School (base)	66*
	Bathgate Park School	-
	Concord School	-
	Otago Polytechnic	-
*Note this is total school roll for all student enrolled as of 1 July 2025. A split of numbers of students across satellite and base is not available.		
Funded/ in construction	Sara Cohen Specialist School – base school	

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Otago	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	23,247	23,690	23,787
ORS supported roll	308	325	402
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	60	65	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	20.00%		

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- We will explore establishing additional satellites for Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School located in Mosgiel, in response to anticipated growth in demand.
- There are 40 transition aged learners (18-21 years old) in the Otago catchment. Most of these learners live in Dunedin North and South and are catered for through local school provision. A pilot satellite for Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School is currently underway with 16 student places located at the Otago Polytech site. This will inform the form and function of a permanent centre.
- Outside of the Dunedin/Taieri area, the ORS supported learner population is more dispersed across many small rural communities. A more innovative approach can be considered where distance currently prohibits access to specialist school settings. There is a further opportunity to explore options for new satellites in North Otago. Some schools currently are supported by STOS services provided by Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School.
- There is an opportunity to consider options for transition aged learners in the Waitaki catchment, if new satellites operated by Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School are established in the area.
- We will engage with the sector and local community to understand the desire for additional secondary satellite provision to complete existing satellite pathways in Dunedin.

2026

Expansion of Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School (B25) estimated completion of end 2026

Engagement Dunedin community to understand need to secondary satellites to complete pathways

Engagement with Waitaki and Clutha districts to explore specialist provision options, and to strengthen and provide consistency of practice

Review the Transition Education Centre pilot at Otago Polytech

Potential new primary satellite of Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School in Mosgiel

Proposed additional specialist provision in Waitaki and Clutha dependent on pace of growth and demand

Potential new secondary satellite of Te Whirika Sara Cohen Specialist School in Mosgiel

2030

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

Otago / Southland – Central Otago Lakes

Catchment overview

- Demand for specialist settings is anticipated to continue to increase in line with population growth across the catchment.
- ORS supported students are distributed across the large geographic area of this catchment, with concentrations of learners in the three main centres of Queenstown, Wānaka and Cromwell.
- Currently all 70 ORS supported students are supported within local schools. The majority of learners are enrolled at a local school setting.
- There is no specialist school or satellites in Central Otago Lakes.
- Greenfield development is a key feature of residential growth across the main centres of Queenstown, Wānaka and Cromwell.
- The number of ORS supported students in the Central Otago Lakes catchment is projected to continue to grow to 2030. There is a level of uncertainty around these numbers due to variations in potential population growth.
- In response to changing district plans across the catchment, planning for new schooling will continue to be developed. This will include future proofing provision for ORS supported students.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
NA	NA	NA

Student Pathways

No specialist settings

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Current specialist schools are located in Dunedin and Invercargill. As these are located over 200km away, it is too far away to establish satellites of these specialist schools in this catchment.
- We will explore options for specialist settings in Central Otago. Further work is required to identify where this new specialist provision may be located within the catchment. A variety of options will be explored in the Wakatipu Basin, including but not limited to site co-location, acquisition of a new site, or specialist settings within current local schools. This could also potentially include establishing a new specialist school in Cromwell, and with future satellites in Queenstown, Alexandra and Wānaka.
- Current ORS learner numbers are too low for typical specialist settings. We will explore more innovative approaches for specialist settings in more remote and/ or rural communities where distance currently prohibits access to specialist settings.
- Further work is required on how we can support the choice of whānau to access specialist settings within the local schooling network.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment

Central Otago Lakes	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	10,027	10,544	11,785
ORS supported roll	59	70	87
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	0	0	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	-	0	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school		0.00%	

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030



Monitoring ORS supported student growth and exploring site sharing and standalone property options if and when required.



Working with local schools to prioritise needs for medium and long-term specialist setting planning.

Catchment overview

- The number of ORS supported students in the Southland catchment is projected to grow by 2030, reaching a total of approximately 311.
- There is a combination of specialist school and local settings.
- Ruru Special School has a base site, primary and secondary satellites, and transition provision located in Invercargill city. It is the only specialist school in Invercargill servicing the city and the broader Southland region.
- There are clear pathways for students attending Ruru Special School, as the school caters for Years 1-13+ and the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) is in the catchment.
- The catchment of Ruru Special School includes Southland and Gore, with small, dispersed communities across a large geographic area. ORS supported students face the choice of travelling into Invercargill or attending local schools.
- There is a school Board operated specialist programme at Waihopai School, catering for up to 10 ORS learners.
- The concentration of ORS supported students in Invercargill greater is 61%, with the remainder dispersed across Gore greater at 14% and Southland greater at 19%.
- While some of these learners will choose local school settings, there may be some property modifications required.

Existing specialist settings in the catchment		
Specialist School	Locations within the catchment	Roll numbers (July 2025)
Ruru Specialist School	Ruru Special School (base) (includes Hine and Rangatahi locations)	120
	Donovan School	-
	Salford School	-
	Verdon College	-
	SIT TEC (Community based transition hub)	-

*Note this is total school roll for all student enrolled as of 1 July 2025. A split of numbers of students across satellite and base is not available.

Student Pathways

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Triggers for expansion

Risk of overcrowding

Anticipated population growth

Travel distance

Access to specialist settings

Opportunities to enhance access to specialist settings

- Expanding the current provision of Ruru Special School will improve access to specialist settings for ORS supported with complex needs.
- Ruru Special School in Southland is at capacity, and a property solution of three additional teaching spaces is proposed at their base site to increase specialist provision by 27 student places.
- For transition learners in Southland, an additional teaching space at SIT is proposed, providing an additional 9 specialist student places.
- There is a similar trend to Otago in Southland's rural areas, with a wide dispersion of the ORS supported learner population.
- An additional two satellite teaching spaces are proposed in the Gore greater catchment, and two new satellite spaces in the Southland greater catchment, with the location to be confirmed, potentially Winton.
- The length of current travel time to specialist settings does not adequately provide choice for the region. Further work is required to determine where specialist settings should be located in more remote and rural areas of the catchment.

ORS supported student numbers across the catchment			
Southland	2023	2025	2030
Total student roll	17,169	17,409	16,128
ORS supported roll	232	251	311
ORS Kaupapa Māori roll	2	3	
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	87	112	
% ORS enrolled in specialist school	41.96%		

2026

*Delivery timeframe subject to funding and prioritisation

2030

Proposed expansion of Ruru Specialist School base site

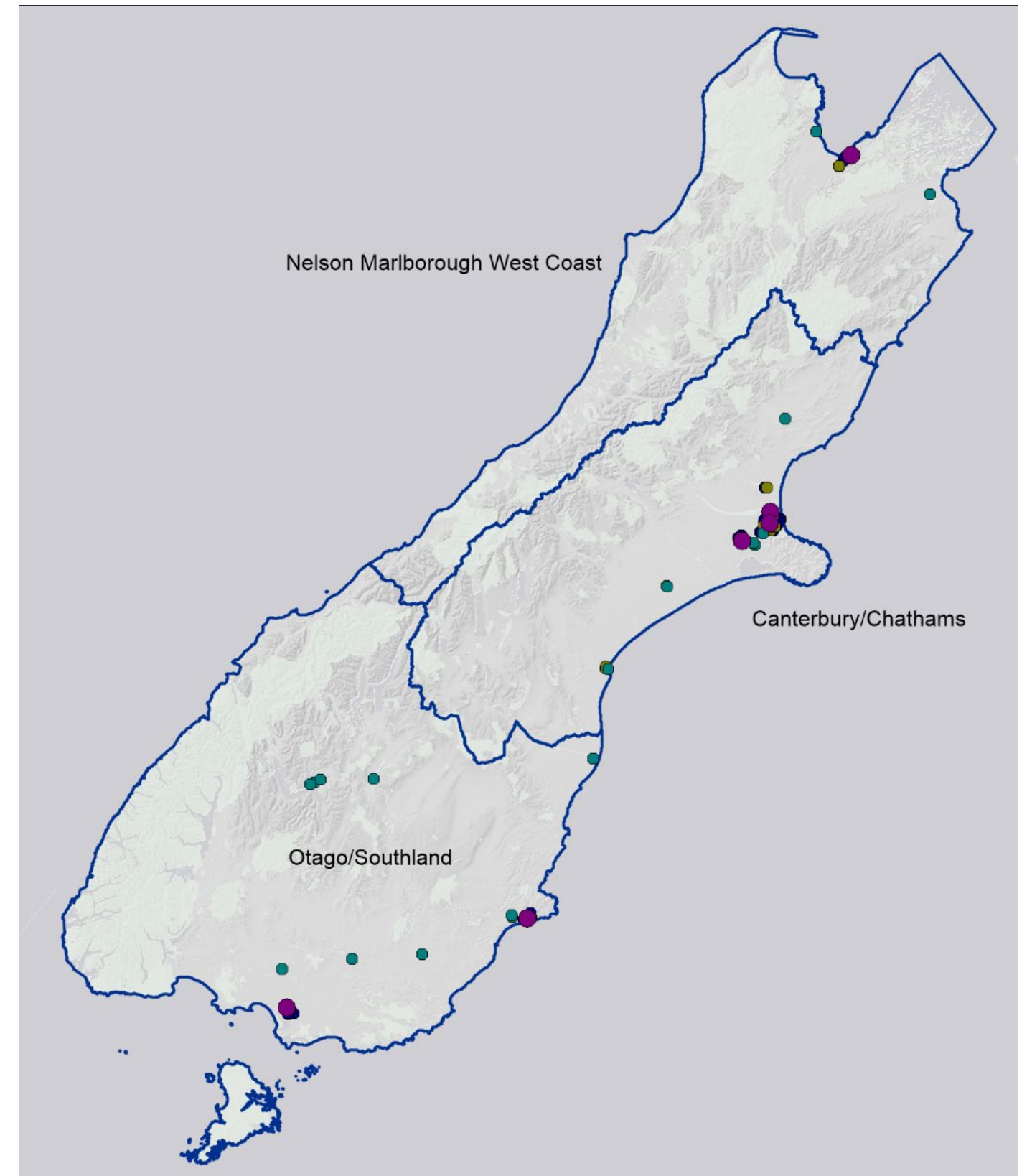
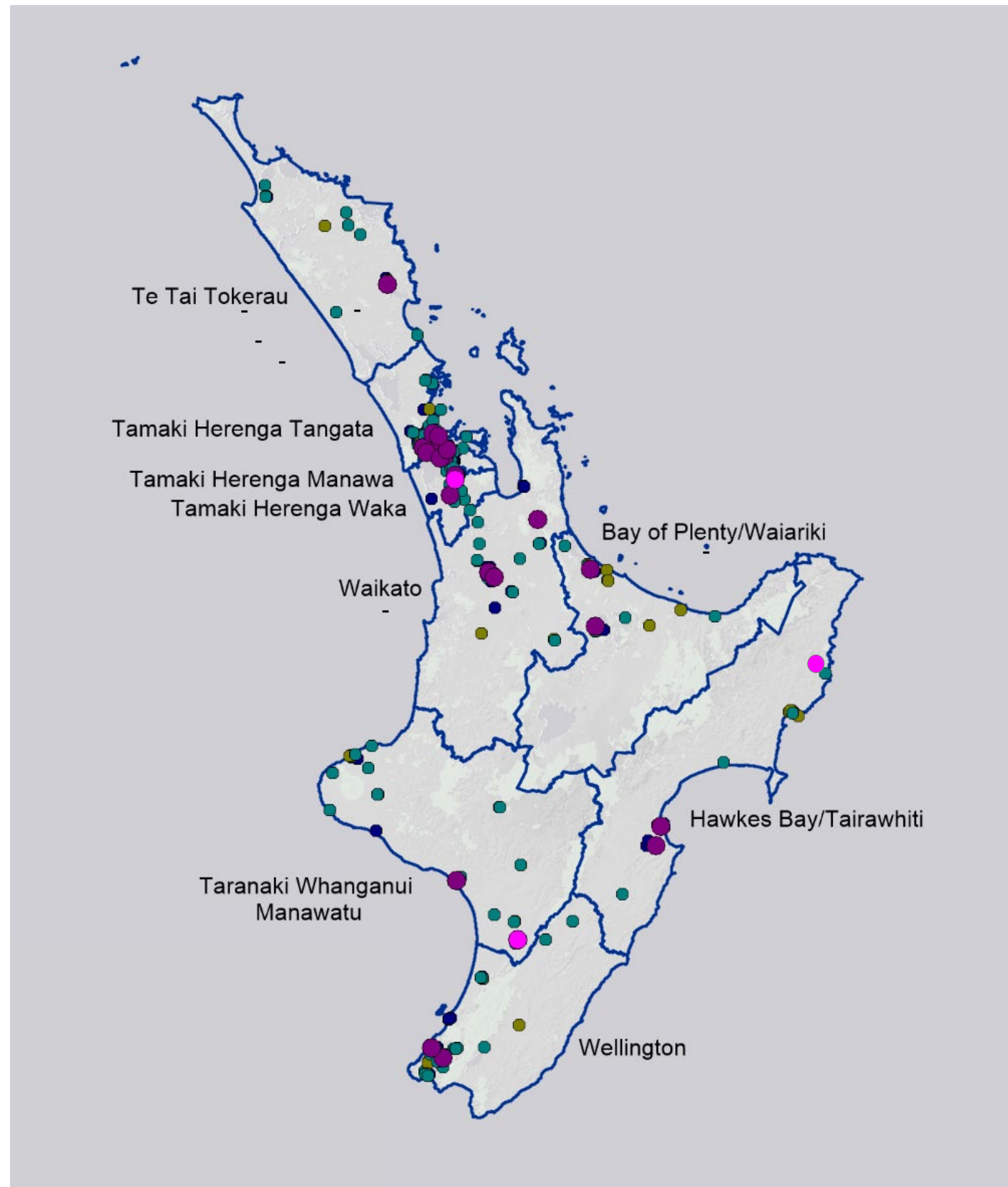
Proposed expansion of Ruru transition education centre at SIT

Proposed expansion of specialist settings within local school settings in Gore

Proposed additional specialist settings in Southland Greater (potentially Winton or Gore)

Appendix 1: Planned potential increase in specialist settings 2026-2030

Summary map identifying current and potential locations for specialist settings - 2026 – 2030



Learning Support Types: ● Base School ● Current Satellite ● Future Provision ● New Base School ● Non Specialist School

Appendix 2: Glossary & Definitions

Types of specialist settings

Type of setting	Description
Day specialist school base school/ base site	The main site or day specialist school where often the students with the most complex and highest learning support needs attend. This is also the main administration hub for the school and the base for therapist, specialist services, outreach teachers are accommodated. The base school is the specialist school site. Students will range from 5-21 years old.
Satellite (off-site class)	Teaching spaces that are located at a local school but operated by a specialist school under an 'off-site agreement'(s117 Education & Training Act 2020). Students are enrolled at a day specialist school, but attend classes at the local school, often in dedicated teaching spaces, whilst also benefiting from amenities and resources the local school offers.
Board operated provision/learning support unit at local school	Local school boards establish a programme for local ORS supported students and other students with learning support needs enrolled at the school. The level of provision varies: some are the equivalent to a specialist school satellite and some act as a learning space to support students who will get most of their day-to-day instruction in usual classroom settings in their local school.
Transition hub/ transition education class	A learning hub operated by specialist school/fundholder school, often located in the community for 18-21 ORS supported learners to prepare them for life beyond schooling.
Special programme	Schools with an enrolment scheme in place can have a special programme (s10 Education & Training Act 2020), where those who meet the criteria for the special programme are first priority for out of zone enrolments. Fundholder schools often have a learning support special programme as part of their enrolment scheme to draw from out of zone students to maintain viability.
Fundholder school	A school which holds and manages the ORS funding for their students. Schools use the funding to employ all specialists, therapists and teacher aides. Some schools combine ORS funds together, or hold ORS funds for other schools in a fundholder arrangement.
Local school	State schools in local communities. Some local schools may have specialist education units, or provide for students with additional needs in their usual classroom settings. All students (regardless of abilities) are eligible to enrol at their local school.
Sensory school	Ko Taku Reo and BLENNZ offer education provision for children who are blind, deafblind, deaf, hard of hearing or have low vision in New Zealand. They also offer outreach services in other schools.
Sensory Resource Centre (SRC)	A centralised hub for itinerant specialist teachers of the deaf and specialist teachers of the blind to have as a space for storing and creating of resources, meeting facilities and administration space during non-contact time.
Regional Health School (RHS)	Provides short term education to support children who are unwell and unable to attend school. Most students remain on the roll of their usual school of enrolment and are dual enrolled with the regional health school. Admission is by referral from a health professional.
Student Support Centre (SSC)	Hubs for students and staff of Regional Health Schools to deliver their services. Includes both classrooms for learning, and administration space for itinerant staff.

Definitions

Term	Acronym	Description
Blind & Low Vision Education Network NZ	BLENNZ	National education services provider for children and young people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision in New Zealand.
Cluster		A group of kura/schools that sometimes share funding for certain services.
FTTE		Full-time teacher equivalent.
Enrolling school		The school that has a student on its roll, even if the student is attending a different school in a satellite unit.
Inclusive education		Inclusive education is founded in the Education and Training Act 2020, which states: "people who have special educational needs (whether because of disability or otherwise) have the same rights to enrol and receive education at state schools as people who do not."
Ko Taku Reo	KTR	National education services provider for deaf and hard of hearing children
Learning support coordinator	LSC	A non-teaching role employed by kura/schools to add capacity and capability to better meet mild to moderate, neurodiverse, or high and complex learning support needs.
Ongoing Resourcing Scheme	ORS	The Ongoing Resourcing Scheme provides funding support for students with the highest ongoing levels of need for specialist support. The scheme enables students to attend school and participate alongside other students. ORS has two levels of need: 'very high needs' and 'high needs'. Unless otherwise stated, data in this document refers to the total of both levels.
ORS Supported student/ ORS verified student		Children who have been verified as eligible for ORS funding
PLD		Professional learning and development
Residential specialist school	RSS	Residential specialist schools offer residential programmes for students with educational needs relating to socialisation, behaviour, and learning.
Special Education Needs Coordinator	SENCO	A staff member (often a teacher, or school leadership) who oversees learning support across the school. Most schools have a SENCO.
Section 37 Agreement	s37	See Specialist Education Agreements.
Specialist Education Agreement	SEA	A Specialist Education Agreement allows students to enrol in a specialist school or regional health school. It also allows students to enrol outside the legal age, in exceptional circumstances.
Specialist school		Refers to day specialist school, sensory school, regional health schools and residential specialist school. Often used interchangeably with day specialist school
Specialised School Transport Assistance	SESTA	School transport assistance to get children and young people with safety and/or mobility needs to get to school. Those eligible for SESTA are provided with a place in a vehicle or a payment to contribute to their travel costs. There is a strong correlation with ORS funding, however ORS does not guarantee SESTA.
Specialist Teacher outreach services	STOS	Specialist schools provide a specialist itinerant teaching service for ORS supported students in their local area. The child can be enrolled at the local school but supported by a teacher from the specialist school.
Specialist staff/ therapists		Refers to specialist learning support practitioners who may be supporting an ORS supported student. Includes specialist teacher, teacher aide and therapists e.g. speech language therapist, child psychologist, occupational therapists etc.
Teaching spaces	TS	Classrooms where students learn at a school

Appendix 3: Context and data constraints

Context

- The Network Plan for Specialist Settings (NPSS) outlines the priorities and opportunities that Education Regions identify for enhancing access to specialist settings.
- The NPSS is based on the current specialist settings available across networks as of September 2025. It does not factor in any future changes that may occur to the type of learning support specialist settings able to be accessed by ORS supported learners or other children and young people with learning support needs.
- The NPSS also does not account for any potential changes to the ORS verification criteria or availability of ORS funding. It assumes the existing ORS settings will remain the same.
- The NPSS is independent of any learning support provision provided by the Ministry of Education learning support teams, and any other externally funded/contracted services for the provision of broader learning support services.
- The NPSS is split firstly by region, and then into smaller Learning Support Catchments. Learning Support Catchments are defined at the discretion of each Education Region. These are for planning purposes only to provide a focus on a specific geographic area within the Region.
- The Learning Support Catchments do not necessarily align with the National Education Growth Plan and National Education Network Plan planning catchments.
- Some day specialist schools and their satellite networks operate within a defined geographical catchment, which may or may not align with the Learning Support catchments.
- This plan does not represent a commitment to funding. Delivery of the property requirements identified in this plan to meet the demand for specialist settings will be subject to national prioritisation and funding availability in Budget 2026 and subsequent Budgets.
- Property requirements and delivery solutions will be worked through with School Property as project scope is confirmed and funding allocated as an outcome of the annual Budget prioritisation processes.
- Maps provided in the NPSS are indicative and for illustrative purposes only. The locations are subject to change.

Data sources and constraints

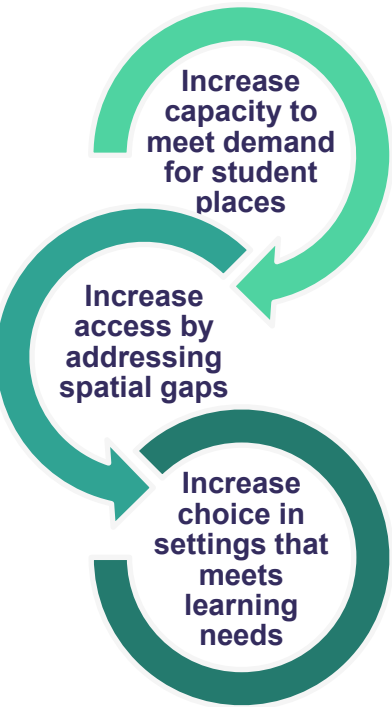
- The data used throughout the plan is based on national analysis and modelling and is current as of September 2025. The data sets have been produced by the Data and Insights Team but modified to suit network requirements. The data draws from a number of data sources including student numbers from school roll returns collected annually and national student databases.
- Data and Insights provides official ORS forecasts annually based on the numbers of children and young people who are verified for ORS funding and receive funding for the financial year. This includes children and young people who are enrolled in state schools, are home schooled, and those attending private or alternative education options.
- The ORS forecasts consider the retention number of ORS funded students continuing to receive funding from the previous years, estimating the number of new students to receive ORS funding, and other national school roll data.
- The individual ORS student data is attributed to the school of enrolment, as this informs ORS funding entitlements for schools. Therefore, ORS forecasts and projections are also based on the number of students per school, per education region, and not where the student resides.

- The total number of students is taken from the annual roll returns provided by schools as of 1 July each year. We have used the actual rolls for 2023 and 2025.
- The total student roll for each Learning Support Catchment is the total sum of the peak roll of students enrolled in the schools within that catchment. Each school within the region has been allocated to a Learning Support Catchment to ensure no overlaps in student data counts.
- The projected 2030 student roll uses the forecast number from the New Zealand Catchment Planning Model. The projections are largely based on the retention of existing students enrolled at the schools and overlaid with population projections from Statistics NZ data. This provides the projected peak number of students anticipated in 2030.
- The number of ORS supported students enrolled in specialist schools accounts for those who are enrolled in the 27 day specialist schools across the country. The level of analysis provided in the NPSS does not consider where the students live, or which satellite they attend.
- In Budget 25 additional funding for increasing the number of students eligible for ORS funding (shifting from a needs base to a growth model) was announced. The number and proportion of ORS supported students is expected to continue to increase in line with total student population and may not be proportional to overall population growth.

Data constraints for Regional Learning Support Catchments

Total Student roll	As the data and projections are at a national level, the individual catchment forecasts for 2030 may not fully account for local council plan changes and any housing developments. There will be area specific population projections that will vary for different parts of the catchment with a range of different scenarios for growth over the 2026-2030 period. These will be confirmed at the point of investment.
ORS supported roll	This is the number of ORS supported students who reside within the catchment. The number will differ from the number of ORS supported students by school of enrolment, as some students may enrol in a school in neighbouring catchment areas. Not all students that are enrolled in a school are able to be geolocated or spatially analysed. The ORS projections for 2030 are based on a continuation of numbers of students receiving ORS funding up from previous years, using the same increases and methodology as the ORS forecasts.
ORS enrolled in specialist schools	The data for 2023 and 2025 is not directly comparable, The data available in 2023 is the total specialist school roll data and includes all the students who were enrolled at the school, and not the geographical location of where the student resides. All students enrolled in a specialist school were therefore attributed to the catchment of the specialist school base school., regardless of where they live or which satellite they attended. Therefore, if there are satellite units located in a neighbouring catchment, the number of ORS supported students attending outside the catchment of the base school would not be captured in this data. This results in some catchments not having a data point in 2023, even though there are satellites located within the catchment. There will only be data in catchments where there is a base school located. In 2025, with data improvements we are able to report the number of ORS supported students by where they reside (geo-coded data), providing a more accurate picture of the number of students attending a specialist school (base/satellite) in each Learning Support catchment geographical area.

Network Plan for Specialist Settings 2026 -2030



The **Network Plan for Specialist Settings 2026-2030** provides a road map for a targeted physical infrastructure response and/or non-property interventions to enhance access to specialist settings across Aotearoa New Zealand over the next five years.

- This plan will support future property investment for learning support roll growth.
- The plan that has been shaped by the 12 Education Regions responding to their own challenges, realities and infrastructure, which has been brought together nationally for the first time

Key Priorities for the Network Plan for Specialist Settings:

- ✓ **Increasing parental choice for specialist settings that best support and meet child's needs**
- ✓ **Responding to immediate pressures and concerns with overcrowding.**
- ✓ **Improving access in areas where there are high numbers of ORS-supported students but specialist settings are limited or unavailable.**
- ✓ **Planning for future anticipated demand from population growth.**

Next steps:

- The release of this plan will initiate conversations with the sector on future network requirements.
- This plan is iterative and will be updated annually.
- All opportunities identified are subject to further confirmation of evidence of demand and is expected to be put forward to be prioritised for funding in future Budgets.
- Separate individual network plans are proposed to be produced for both Sensory and Regional Health Schools.

Increasing demand for specialist settings

- There is an increasing number of students seeking enrolment in day specialist schools, of which, majority are funded through Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS).
- Whilst overall school-aged population is expected to plateau, the number of ORS supported students are projected to increase.
- Between 2023-2025 there has been a 11.2% increase in the number of ORS supported students attending specialist schools. This increased demand equates to an additional requirement of nearly 50 teaching spaces, and is placing pressure on existing capacity
- As of 1 July 2025, 38.1% of all ORS supported students were attending a day specialist school across the country.

National (enrolments)	2023	2025	2030 Projection	Change to 2030
Total student roll	823,468	845,712	839,275	-6,437 (-0.76%)
Total ORS supported roll	11,112	12,129	13,610	+1,481
Specialist schools	4,160	4,609	5,192	+583 (12.65%)
Day Specialist Schools	3,985	4,432	4,992	+561 (12.66%)

Opportunities to increase access to specialist settings

- Up to seven proposed **new specialist schools** to be further investigated and planned for. These are likely to also include a network of satellites
- Over 80 **new specialist school satellites** are proposed to be planned / established/delivered between 2025-2030

- Specialist settings should be included in the **planning and delivery of school expansions and new school builds**, especially in areas where there are currently no specialist settings

- Budget to be sought for 30 projects that are awaiting **additional funding to progress** to the next stage
- Funding required for expanding and delivering new property for **Sensory Schools** at locations of demand

- Consider **expanding/ refurbishing satellites** in 19 areas
- Investigate the **potential relocation and/or expansion of 4 specialist school base sites** to respond to growing demand

- Further investigate, explore options and engage with **schools to potentially host a specialist satellite** in 15 localities/learning support catchment areas.
- Work together with Pacific Language Partners to explore **Māori Medium and Pacific learning support opportunities**

- National consistency in **enrolment practices** for specialist schools to ensure equitable access across the country.

- Develop a process and engage with 10 schools that have **expressed an interest in becoming fundholder schools**.
- Work together with local kura & Māori Education Peak bodies to explore **Māori Medium learning support settings**.

- Explore **Innovative opportunities for specialist settings** in 15 **rural/ remote areas** with limited access to specialist settings.

Property investment

Non-property interventions

Additional opportunities to increase access and enhance specialist settings

- Understand **demand** for specialist settings, by working closely with specialist schools to understand community demand from families who have expressed an interest for enrolling in specialist settings.
- Exploring innovative options and solutions to better service **remote and rural areas**, where distance current prohibits access to specialist settings, and/ or numbers of ORS supported learners are too small within current settings.
- System improvements, including **timely and quality data collection** for planning; and seeking **consistency in size and capacity of teaching spaces** as this ultimately impacts capacity and the number of students that can be accommodated in specialist settings.
- Working together with specialist schools to explore **innovative approaches for specialist settings** to leverage resources to support local schools.
- Establishing **processes for local schools** who have expressed an interest in becoming an **ORS fundholder school**, and/ or **learning support special programme** as part of their enrolment scheme.

Key reasons for Regional opportunities identified in the plan will fall into one, or more, of the below categories:

	Risk of overcrowding
	Anticipated population growth
	Travel distance
	Access to specialist settings

Student Pathways

Student pathways are a key consideration when planning for additional specialist settings. This ensures that as a child progresses through their schooling, there is an age - appropriate setting for them to learn in, alongside their peers.

Some of the opportunities identified by the regions are intended to complete existing student pathways, or address gaps in areas where there may be limited specialist settings currently.

Clear pathways for students

Growing pathways – may not be complete across all parts of the catchment

Gaps in pathways – solutions yet to be determined

No specialist settings