




# Types of schools and year levels

The network of New Zealand schools is made up of different types and structures to be able to offer every child and young person the opportunities they need to learn and achieve.

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE	MAIN AUDIENCE	OTHER
Inform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents, Caregivers, and Whānau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boards</li> <li>Administrators</li> </ul>

Parents, caregivers, and whānau should understand what type of schools are available for their children, including how they are governed and funded.

## Years and levels

There are 13 'years' in the New Zealand school system, beginning at primary school. Primary school covers Year 0–8 if it's a 'full' primary school, or Year 0–6 if it is a 'contributing' primary school. Year 0 students are new entrants that start primary school in the second half of the year, and move into Year 1 the following year. Usually, an intermediate school receives children from a contributing primary school for Year 7 and 8. Although sometimes there are 'junior high schools' which offer Year 7–10, or composite schools offering Year 7–13.

After finishing primary or intermediate school, children attend secondary school to complete their final school years (Year 9–13). They can leave secondary school before reaching Year 13, but usually not until after their 16th birthday.

The national curriculum is not strictly tied to year, level, or age. Curriculum levels represent a stage of learning because each student's rate of learning is different. Students will progress from one level to the next when they are ready to, and when they have achieved the skills, knowledge and understanding required for each level. This means that teachers teach students at multiple levels in their classes.

## School types and structures

TYPE	LEVEL	LEARNING	DESCRIPTION	GOVERNANCE	SCHOOL PROPERTY	PROPERTY FUNDED BY
State	Range between	Teach the national	The majority of schools in New	Board	We manage property in	Entirely funded by

TYPE	LEVEL	LEARNING	DESCRIPTION	GOVERNANCE	SCHOOL PROPERTY	PROPERTY FUNDED BY
	Year 0–13	curriculum	Zealand. Government-owned and fully state funded, and mostly co-educational.		partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	the government – 5YA and funding specifically for expansion projects.
State-integrated	Range between Year 0–13	Teach the national curriculum according to the principles of their own special character	Mostly schools that started as private schools and have become part of the state system – a state school with a special character which might be a particular religion, philosophy or set of values.	Board	Land and buildings are owned by proprietors (usually a church or other trust board) not the government. Proprietors are responsible for property maintenance, improvements and construction projects, and maintaining the school's special character.	Receive some government funding to maintain and upgrade property, and schools charge attendance dues to meet remaining property costs.
Designated character	Range between Year 0–13	Teach the national curriculum and follow an approach specific to their character. This might be a particular iwi tradition, language or culture, or a particular educational philosophy	State schools designated under section 204 of the Education and Training Act that have their own unique character with their own set of aims, purposes and objectives reflecting their own values. Examples include Māori medium schools affiliated to a particular iwi. <a href="https://www.school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Two">2 [ /school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Two]</a>	Board	We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	Entirely funded by the government – 5YA and funding specifically for expansion projects.
Kura Kaupapa Māori <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kura</li> <li>• Wharekura</li> </ul>	Year 0–8, Year 9–13, or Year 0–13	Teach in te reo Māori, and learning is based on Māori	A specific type of designated character school where teaching and learning is mainly in te reo	Board	We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate	Entirely funded by the government – 5YA and funding

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		culture and values, and within a particular philosophy called Te Aho Matua.	(the Māori language) and the school operates in accordance with Te Aho Matua as its philosophy. <sup>3</sup> [ <a href="https://www.education.govt.nz/school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Three">/school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Three</a> ]		some property responsibilities to project managers.	specifically for expansion projects.
Private (also referred to as independent)	Range between Year 0-13	Choose an appropriate curriculum	A non-state school that can apply to be registered with us and that must meet certain standards to be registered. May be either co-educational or single-sex. There are differences between private schools and state schools, usually in terms of their legal structure and how they are governed and funded.	Often a Trust Board, but can employ any governance structure they choose.	Independently-owned, so managers provide and maintain school land and buildings.	Receive some government funding to run the school but mainly fund themselves with their own resources.
Area	Year 0-13	Teach the national curriculum	A state school that offers primary, intermediate and secondary education in one school, usually located in a rural or small population area.	Board	We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	Entirely funded by the government - 5YA and funding specifically for expansion projects.
Composite	Range between Year 0-13	Teach the national curriculum	A school that offers some combination of primary, intermediate and secondary education at one school (e.g. A Year 7-10 junior high). A composite school may be state, state integrated or a designated character school.	Board	We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	Entirely funded by the government - 5YA and funding specifically for expansion projects.
Restricted composite (also referred to as	Year 7-10	Teach the national curriculum	Focus on middle school education	Board	Boards and the Ministry manage	State-owned and property entirely

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Junior High, Junior College Middle School)			for students in Year 7-10.		property at state schools in partnership. Some boards might delegate some property work responsibilities to project managers.	funded by the government - 5YA and funding, specifically for expansion projects.
Day Specialist	Range between Year 0- 13	Teach the national curriculum	A state school providing specialist education and support for students with specific physical, behavioural, sensory or intellectual needs. Enrolments are only accepted through a 'section 9' agreement, and learning can be delivered in base or satellite classrooms, or an Intensive Wrap Around Service (IWS). <sup>4</sup> [ <a href="https://www.schools.govt.nz/school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Four">/school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Four</a> ]	Board	We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	Entirely funded by the government - 5YA and funding specifically for expansion projects.
Residential Specialist and Sensory	Range between Year 0- 13		A school providing 24-hour specialist education and support for students with physical, behavioural, sensory or intellectual needs. Enrolments are only accepted through a 'section 9' agreement, and learning can be delivered in base or satellite classrooms, or an Intensive Wrap Around Service (IWS). <sup>5</sup>	Board	We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	Entirely funded by the government - 5YA and funding specifically for expansion projects.

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Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu	Year 0-13	Teach the national curriculum	<p><a href="#">[/school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#Five]</a></p> <p>Te Kura used to be called The Correspondence School. It offers a range of learning options for students who might live remotely or too far from their closest school, live overseas, have medical or special learning requirements, or want to study a specific subject not offered by their school.</p>	Board	N/A	Entirely funded by the government, with staff in communities around the country, and regional offices in Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch.
Regional health	Range between Year 0-13	Teach the national curriculum, with teaching provided in a hospital school or home setting, or in a regional health facility.	Learning opportunities for students who are experiencing significant health issues, and who might be in hospital, recovering at home or gradually returning to school. There are three regional health schools in New Zealand covering the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch areas.		We manage property in partnership with boards. Some boards might delegate some property responsibilities to project managers.	
Teen Parent Unit (TPU)	Year 9-13	Teach the national curriculum	A learning environment provided by some state secondary schools for pregnant or young parent students.	Board	As per the school	
Home schooling	Ages 6-16	We consider applications for home schooling. Approval	An option for parents, caregivers and whānau who want to educate their child at home, which is only			

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		requires evidence that the regularity and quality of the learning will be at least the same as received at a registered school or class, clinic or service for children with special learning needs.	available if we grant an exemption from the requirement to enrol at school. An annual grant to help with the cost of learning materials is available, or teaching services can be purchased from Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu.			

## Boarding schools and hostels

Some schools operate boarding facilities, or hostels, to accommodate students who need to live on campus during term time. Boarding schools charge boarding fees, and must comply with the requirements of the Education (Hostels) Regulations 2005<sup>1</sup> [[/school/new-zealands-network-of-schools/about/types-of-schools-and-year-levels/#One](#)]. Some state-integrated schools with boarding facilities are owned by proprietors, and they must also comply with the Regulations.

School hostels are not specifically attached to any school. They are always operated as private businesses, and where they are being run by a school's Board of Trustees, they remain a separate legal entity to the school. The Government does not fund hostels – our role is solely as the Licensing Authority that regulates them.

## Trades academies

While not part of the schooling network, trades academies aim to get young students engaged in education and equip tomorrow's workforce with relevant skills by linking with the wider industry training system.

## Further information

[Running a hostel](#) [[/school/property-and-transport/school-facilities/running-a-hostel/](#)] [[school/running-a-school/running-a-hostel/](#)]

[Trades Academies](#) [[/school/student-support/supporting-transitions/trades-academies/](#)] (external link) [<http://education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/trades-academies/>]

**Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Education (Hostels) Regulations 2005

<sup>2</sup> Education and Training Act 2020, s204 Designated character schools

<sup>3</sup> Education and Training Act 2020, s204 Designated character schools, s205 Process for establishing designated character schools, and ss201-203 Kura Kaupapa Māori

<sup>4</sup> Education and Training Act 2020, s37(1) Special education

<sup>5</sup> Education and Training Act 2020, s37(1) Special education

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