

National Standards & Reporting to Parents (5/6/09)

At this time the Government through the Ministry of Education is consulting with education sectors and parents to introduce in 2010 National Standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Each Standard will state the expected level of achievement for each child in comparison with children of the same age and level across the country. Further, the intention is to introduce a reporting system to parents that is clear and direct that uses plain language and identifies their children's current level of achievement in comparison with the Standards. Further the school will indicate how it will support children if their achievement is below the Standard and how parents can work at home to support their children. This will also mean that parents will be able to liaise more closely with the teacher to support the learning taking place at school.

The National Standards will link to The New Zealand Curriculum, and are intended to ensure that the children attain strong Reading, Writing and Mathematical skills for Years 1-8. It will be important that all schools use a consistent approach to describe the progress that is being made by each child.

While schools will be able to use their current assessment tools such as PAT, e-asTTle, ICAS, NUMPA, and Schonell Spelling together with a range of sampling surveys, the Ministry of Education is currently determining how to align these existing assessment tools to the proposed National Standards. The intention is for schools to have the flexibility to use their existing methods for assessment, along with nationally referenced assessment tools. At present the Ministry's Plan is to report on milestones after a child's 6th birthday and at the end of Years 4 and 8.

The Government is seeking feedback on their draft documents, and this can be done by completing a Feedback Form either on-line, or by posting a response to the Ministry of Education. Education sector feedback is being requested at this time, and separate feedback is being sought from parents and families. So how do you find information about the draft material and the feedback process? Go to the Ministry of Education website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.minedu.govt.nz/national_standards"](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/national_standards) www.minedu.govt.nz/nationalstandards to request the Parent Pack. Alternatively, you can borrow from the school office, a pack to view this material.

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