



Fact Sheet: Teaching the Basics Brilliantly update

16 October 2025

Priority 1: Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning.

Priority 2: Implementing evidence-based instruction in early literacy and mathematics.

Priority 3: Implementing consistent modes of monitoring student progress and achievement.

Priority 6: Using data and evidence to drive consistent improvement in achievement.

Teaching the Basics Brilliantly aims to lift student outcomes in Reading, Writing, Maths, Pānui, Tuhituhi and Pāngarau by introducing a clear curriculum, consistent ways of teaching, as well as more effective ways of monitoring student progression and achievement.

To raise achievement, we are strengthening the National Curriculum and providing a range of supports and services so that 80% of Year 8 students are at, or above, the expected curriculum level for their age in reading, writing and maths by December 2030.

This update includes:

- The release dates for the national curriculum for Years 0-10 – the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (TMoA)
- Changes to the implementation timeline for Years 0-8
- Assessment and Aromatawai requirements for 2026
- New teaching and learning resources for Years 9-10 Maths and Pāngarau

Release dates for the national curriculum Years 0-10

- The final curriculum content for Years 0-10 English and Te Reo Rangatira and Years 0-10 Mathematics and Statistics and Pāngarau will be available on Tāhūrangi from Monday October 20, 2025.
- For the New Zealand Curriculum, the remaining draft curriculum framework and learning areas for Years 0-10 will also be available for consultation from Tuesday, October 28, 2025 on Tāhūrangi.
- For Te Marautanga o Aotearoa, the remaining draft curriculum framework and wāhanga ako for Years 0-10 will begin to be available on Tāhūrangi from Tuesday October 28, 2025.

Changes to the phased roll out of the curriculum

We have heard from the sector that to do things well, we need to slow down the pace of change across the curriculum work programme. We have listened and the Minister has agreed to changes to the curriculum timeline to help schools and kura carry on with the great work they are doing strengthening the teaching of Reading, Writing, Maths, Pānui, Tuhituhi and Pāngarau in Years 1-8.

We have rephased implementation of learning areas and wāhanga ako for Year 0-8 so that they are introduced in stages as shown in the diagram.

The full curriculum will still be required to be used with Year 9 and 10 students from the start of 2027, so that they are well placed when the new senior secondary curriculum is introduced from 2028.

Timelines for English and Te Reo Rangatira, Mathematics and Statistics, and Pāngarau remain the same, and will be required through to Year 10 from the start of 2026.

The Refreshed National Curriculum

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
English and Te Reo Rangatira 0-6 and Mathematics and Statistics and Pāngarau 0-8 required to be used	English and Te Reo Rangatira 0-10 and Mathematics and Statistics and Pāngarau 0-10 required to be used All learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks available. Encouraged use of all Year 9 content	Full curriculum required to be used for Years 9-10 For Years 0-8 use requirements are extended to include Science and Pūtaiao, Social Sciences and Te Ao Māori, Health & Physical Education and Waiora	All Years 0-11 learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks required to be used	All Years 0-12 learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks required to be used	All Years 0-13 learning areas, wāhanga ako and curriculum frameworks required to be used
English 0-6 Te Reo Rangatira 0-6 Mathematics and Statistics 0-8 Pāngarau 0-8	English 0-10 Te Reo Rangatira 0-10 Mathematics and Statistics 0-10 Pāngarau 0-10	English 0-10 Te Reo Rangatira 0-10 Mathematics and Statistics 0-10 Pāngarau 0-10 Science 0-10 Pūtaiao 0-10 Social Sciences 0-10 Te Ao Māori 0-10 Health & Physical Education 0-10 Waiora 0-10 The Arts 9-10 Toi Ihiihi 9-10 Technology 9-10 Hangarau 9-10 Learning Languages 9-10 Ngā Reo 9-10 Te Reo Pākehā 9-10	English 0-11 Te Reo Rangatira 0-11 Mathematics and Statistics 0-11 Pāngarau 0-11 Science 0-11 Pūtaiao 0-11 Social Sciences 0-11 Te Ao Māori 0-11 Health & Physical Education 0-11 Waiora 0-11 The Arts 0-11 Toi Ihiihi 0-11 Technology 0-11 Hangarau 0-11 Learning Languages 0-11 Ngā Reo 0-11 Te Reo Pākehā 0-11	English 0-12 Te Reo Rangatira 0-12 Mathematics and Statistics 0-12 Pāngarau 0-12 Science 0-12 Pūtaiao 0-12 Social Sciences 0-12 Te Ao Māori 0-12 Health & Physical Education 0-12 Waiora 0-12 The Arts 0-12 Toi Ihiihi 0-12 Technology 0-12 Hangarau 0-12 Learning Languages 0-12 Ngā Reo 0-12 Te Reo Pākehā 0-12	English 0-13 Te Reo Rangatira 0-13 Mathematics and Statistics 0-13 Pāngarau 0-13 Science 0-13 Pūtaiao 0-13 Social Sciences 0-13 Te Ao Māori 0-13 Health & Physical Education 0-13 Waiora 0-13 The Arts 0-13 Toi Ihiihi 0-13 Technology 0-13 Hangarau 0-13 Learning Languages 0-13 Ngā Reo 0-13 Te Reo Pākehā 0-13

* Colour referencing from the learning area and wāhanga ako colours

Assessment and aromatawai requirements

With the release of the final curriculum content for Years 0-10 English and Te Reo Rangatira and Years 0-10 Mathematics and Statistics and Pāngarau, requirements for assessment and aromatawai are being introduced from 2026. This will support consistency in the monitoring of student progress against the curriculum and help students who need additional support to be identified early so that the appropriate support can be put in place.

From the start of 2026:

- The use of the Phonics Check and Hihira Weteoro will be required.
- Twice-yearly assessment of Year 3-8 students in Reading or Pānui, Writing or Tuhituhi, and Maths or Pāngarau using specified tools will be required. The specified tools are:
 - SMART (the new Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool), which will be available for use from the start of 2026 – TMOA or NZC
 - PATs (Progressive Achievement Tests) – NZC
 - e-asTTle, for 2026 only – TMOA or NZC.
- Common descriptors for assessing student progress against the national curriculum will be required to support consistency in how teachers make and communicate informed decisions about students' progress against the curriculum. We consulted with you on these throughout the year.

Details of these requirements are included within the Years 0-10 English and Te Reo Rangatira and Years 0-10 Mathematics and Statistics and Pāngarau curricula.

The Minister has agreed to bespoke arrangements in relation to these requirements for kaupapa Māori education. The Ministry of Education will follow up with relevant settings with more information on these.

From Term 1, 2026 PLD and resources will be available to support assessment and aromatawai practices including the use of the new SMART tool.

More supports for Maths and Pāngarau learning area and wāhanga ako Years 9-10

From Term 1, 2026, Year 9-10 teachers will be provided with PLD and resources to support the implementation of the revised curriculum. This provides the same level of support we provided to Years 0-8.

The resources will provide teachers with digital materials that include lesson plans, teaching materials, and student practice materials.