

Labour has always believed in the power of education to transform lives. The enlightened values of the very first Labour government, that every person, rich or poor, has the right to an education that enables them to fulfil their potential and that it is the role of the government to ensure sufficient focus and investment to make this possible, still drive our education policies today. Universal access to free, quality, public education is a fundamental Labour value.

A Quality Teaching Profession

Labour will ensure schools are properly supported to take on beginning teachers.

Labour will support the New Zealand Teachers Council to take a leadership role in setting professional standards for teachers.

Labour will support teachers, schools and kura kaupapa Maori to successfully introduce the New Zealand curriculum and Te Marautanga.

Labour will expand professional development and paid sabbatical opportunities for teachers.

Labour will continue to ensure the successful implementation of Ka Hikitia (the Māori education strategy), and support professional development programmes such as Te Kotahitanga and other educational programmes that support a more personalised, community-orientated approach to the education of our tamariki.

Labour will encourage greater Pacific participation, retention and achievement at all levels of the education system.

Labour will develop a more sustainable funding approach for organisations working to assist teachers to effectively support pupils with specific learning needs.

Labour will ensure schools can get help with administration tasks so that principals can focus more on students and on providing educational leadership in schools.

Labour will develop a bonded bridging development programme to assist foreign-trained teachers to gain registration and employment in New Zealand.

Schools Plus

Labour will require a **personalised education plan** to be developed for every high school student to guide their learning.

Labour will provide **more secondary teachers and other staff** to improve careers guidance and increase the support available for young people in school and out in the community to remain engaged in learning.

Labour will make **Youth Apprenticeships** available to all secondary schools and increase the range of other education and training pathways available to students.

Labour will strengthen **alternative education and other out-of-school learning options** to ensure young people are supported to improve their educational achievement.

Labour will introduce an **education and training leaving age** of 17 years in 2011 and 18 years in 2014.

School funding

Labour will continue to **increase operational grants** for all state and state-integrated schools.

Labour will enable schools to use their five-year property agreements to **invest in computer and interactive learning technology**.

Labour will adjust the staffing rules to ensure that **all schools have a minimum of two teaching staff**.

Labour will address **low pay issues for the non-teaching workforce in schools**.

Special Education

Labour will strengthen **special education support** by investing resources in special education funds for children with **moderate to high needs**, working with schools to ensure effective and accountable use of the **special education grant**, and supporting the development of **special education clusters** to improve services to students with moderate needs.

Safe Learning Environments

Labour will provide guidelines, resources and best-practice examples for schools on **combating bullying**.

Labour will provide schools with additional resources to **effectively manage disruptive behaviour**.