**Almost 775,000 Kiwi kids heading to school this week**

Education Minister Chris Hipkins sends his best wishes to the many thousands of Kiwi kids who are off to school this week.

“Almost 775,000 students are heading to school and I hope they are all looking forward to a new or first year of learning, friendships and developing new skills,” Mr Hipkins said.

“For more than 10,000 five-year-olds and their parents it will be an even more exciting time as our youngest students go through the school gates for the first time. They’ll meet their first school teacher, learn about school routines and make new friends.

“Over the next four terms more than 50,000 new five-year-olds will also start school. Almost all of them will have attended early childhood education.

“They will begin learning to read and write and learn about the arts, maths, health, science, social sciences and technology.

“Parents looking for practical advice about how to prepare for the big day can find back-to-school tips on the [Ministry of Education’s website](http://parents.education.govt.nz/back-to-school-tips),” Mr Hipkins said.

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|  |  | | | | | | | | |  |
| **Projected Number of New Entrants and total enrolments, by Regional Council, 2018** | | | | | | | |  |  | |
| **Regional Council** | | **Year 1 Entire School Year** | **Year 1 Beginning of School Year** | **Year 1-13 Beginning of School Year** | **July 2017 Actual Roll\*** | **July 2016 Actual Roll\*** |  | | | |
| **Northland Region** | | 2,530 | 420 | 30,400 | 30,199 | 29,702 |  | | | |
| **Auckland Region** | | 22,250 | 3,710 | 258,900 | 265,616 | 262,665 |  | | | |
| **Waikato Region** | | 6,590 | 1,100 | 79,300 | 79,127 | 77,352 |  | | | |
| **Bay of Plenty Region** | | 4,280 | 710 | 54,300 | 53,395 | 52,558 |  | | | |
| **Gisborne Region** | | 760 | 130 | 9,600 | 9,349 | 9,344 |  | | | |
| **Hawkes Bay Region** | | 2,390 | 400 | 30,700 | 30,316 | 29,751 |  | | | |
| **Taranaki Region** | | 1,690 | 280 | 20,900 | 20,436 | 20,139 |  | | | |
| **Manawatu-Wanganui Region** | | 3,240 | 540 | 40,400 | 39,800 | 39,297 |  | | | |
| **Wellington Region** | | 6,420 | 1,070 | 80,200 | 81,134 | 80,261 |  | | | |
| **Marlborough Region** | | 560 | 90 | 6,900 | 6,724 | 6,652 |  | | | |
| **Nelson Region** | | 630 | 110 | 8,600 | 8,595 | 8,503 |  | | | |
| **Tasman Region** | | 620 | 100 | 8,100 | 8,053 | 7,892 |  | | | |
| **West Coast Region** | | 380 | 60 | 4,500 | 4,531 | 4,571 |  | | | |
| **Canterbury Region** | | 7,290 | 1,210 | 91,800 | 93,725 | 92,089 |  | | | |
| **Otago Region** | | 2,480 | 410 | 32,800 | 32,097 | 31,416 |  | | | |
| **Chatham Is. County** | | 10 | 0 | 100 | 74 | 79 |  | | | |
| **Southland Region** | | 1,360 | 230 | 16,800 | 16,544 | 16,488 |  | | | |
| **Total\*** | | **63,480** | **10,580** | **774,300** | **779,715** | **768,759** |  | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

\*Excludes International Fee-Paying students, Alternative Education Students, Correspondence students, and students at schools with campuses in multiple regions.

Note the regional estimates may not sum to the total due to rounding