

School investment package

The problem

A significant portion of school buildings in New Zealand are old and need modernising.

Around 68% of New Zealand schools have an average building age over 40 years old and 40% have an average building age that is over 50 years old

Schools spend a significant portion of their property budget on addressing health and safety and essential infrastructure, often deferring modernisation and upgrade work.

This package will allow schools to complete projects sooner, speeding up the provision of improved learning environments for children.

Our school investment package

We will allocate around \$400 million to improve the condition of school property in New Zealand through this investment package.

All state schools opened before 2015 (around 2,050 schools), regardless of size, are eligible to receive a one-off capital contribution next year to spend on school property.

This investment is the biggest capital injection for school maintenance funding in at least 25 years.

Schools will get \$693 per student up to a maximum of \$400,000. Schools will receive a minimum of \$50,000, regardless of their roll size. The amount a school can receive will be determined by their roll size. We are using the 2019 July roll.

For most schools this will represent an average funding increase of 40% over a five year period.

Special schools will receive a flat rate of \$200,000, regardless of roll size, to reflect these schools are usually small but face high property costs associated with special education provision.

25-30% of schools are small and isolated, meaning the package will assist in stimulating regional economies as schools will be able to use their existing contractor relationships and local providers to deliver the works.

Funding will be spent on property projects to be delivered over the next 12-24 months.

Projects will vary from school to school, but examples of planned works may include:

- Updating and modernising existing classrooms;
- Opening up classroom space to make it more flexible and usable;
- Replacing rather than repairing roofing and guttering;
- Putting in more energy efficient heating for schools (e.g. removing coal boilers);
- Resurfacing outdoor courts and paved areas;
- Upgrading the school's storm water drainage systems;
- Upgrading resource rooms, staff rooms or administration areas.

Integrated schools who are funded through operational funding, schools built through a Public Private Partnership, or schools in leased accommodation are excluded.

