



Fixing the Basics. Building the Future.

National's plan for Kiwi kids



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From Monday 26 October, Kiwis will be able to vote on New Zealand's future.

National has a plan to help you secure your future, whether you're a young person starting out, a parent raising your family, or in your retirement.

This election, there is a clear choice between sticking with National's plan for a more secure future, no matter the stage of your life, with a growing economy, less debt, more jobs and higher wages.

Or going back to Labour – propped up by the Greens, Te Pati Maori and TOP – who will undo the progress New Zealand has made over the last three years, leaving you to pay for it through at least nine new taxes costing households \$2,263 each year.

Under our plan for Kiwi kids, every child will get the best possible start in life. By sticking to National's plan, we will deliver a future where children get the education they need to set them up for success; and an economy that has been responsibly managed so they are not burdened with our debt.

Labour will undo the progress we have made in education by removing the requirement to teach one hour a day of reading, writing and maths, scrapping twice yearly assessments in Primary Schools, and undoing NCEA changes.



What we've delivered to date

Improved childhood immunisation. Lifted immunisation rates to 92 per cent from 77 per cent.

Strong foundations. An hour a day of reading, writing and mathematics; structured literacy and a new mathematics curriculum.

Practical classroom resources. More than one million mathematics books and resources, alongside decodable readers, teacher guides and curriculum support.

Clear information for parents. 20- and 40-week phonics checks and twice-yearly assessment in reading, writing and mathematics for Years 3–8.

Support where it's needed. Nearly \$750 million for the largest expansion of learning support in a generation, alongside targeted literacy and mathematics intervention.

Better places to learn. Around \$2.7 billion across three Budgets for school property, with nearly 1,600 additional classrooms and learning spaces fully funded.

Focused classrooms. Cell phones banned during the school day. An end to open plan classrooms and a renewed focus on attendance and learning.

Better vocational education. National has restructured the vocational education system to give regions and industry a greater role in training decisions, so young people can train for real jobs relevant to their community.

A focus on improving child safety by implementing all of the recommendations in the Dame Karen Poutasi Review.

The results so far

The latest Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) data, shows a significant improvement in mathematics, and improvements in reading comprehension and vocabulary.

The results show primary and intermediate students made the equivalent of four months' additional progress in mathematics between 2024 and 2026, signalling a turnaround in achievement.

The results also show statistically significant improvements in reading comprehension and vocabulary, equivalent to approximately one month's additional progress in each area over the last year.

After a prolonged period of declining reading results, we are finally seeing a statistically significant improvement.





Our 2026 election policies for Kiwi kids

- **\$1,500 Baby Boost and automatic enrolment in KiwiSaver.** From 1 July 2027, National will enrol every child born into KiwiSaver at birth and give them a \$1,500 Baby Boost payment to kickstart their retirement savings, which will see them benefit from decades of compounding returns.
- **End screen use in ECE and tightly limit it in primary schools (years 1-3).** Technology still has a place in education, but it should enhance learning, not become the default way children learn. We will also place a renewed emphasis on handwriting because it is an important part of learning to read and write.
- **Require ECEs to report on children's progress against developmental milestones** so you can see how your child is progressing.
- **Introduce a *School Start Check*** at ECE before children transition to primary school.
- **Clearer developmental milestones** throughout ECE and report this progress to parents.
- **Keep teaching the basics brilliantly.** One hour of reading, writing and maths every day; the core learning areas to help raise achievement and give every young New Zealander the opportunity to succeed.
- **Accelerated Maths.** National will expand the Year 7-10 Maths Acceleration Programme by an additional 40,000 students to reach 128,000 students across three years.
- **Replace NCEA with a new national qualification system.** We are replacing NCEA, beginning in 2028, with new qualifications backed by a clear senior secondary curriculum and stronger subject-based assessment.
- **Lifting the school leaving age.** National will require students to stay at school until they complete Year 11 or turn 16, whichever is later.
- **Consistent school dates.** National will set consistent school start and finish dates. Parents have told us how frustrating different dates can be, leaving families juggling childcare and taking extra leave from work.
- **Ban under-16s from social media.** To protect children from online harm.
- **More warm dry classrooms.** Installing acoustic panels, ceiling insulation bales, and carpet with built-in underlay across schools nationwide to improve warmth and noise reduction.
- **Learning support coordinators in all schools and more teacher aides.** Delivering the most substantial boost to learning support in a generation with substantial increases to teacher aide hours and providing Learning Support Co-ordinators for all schools with Year 1-8 students.
- **Expand trades training.** To help young people move into apprenticeships, employment and other structured pathways from education into employment.

Fixing the Basics. Building the Future. Party Vote National.