

Office of Hon Erica Stanford

Minister of Education
Minister of Immigration
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response
to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in
State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions



18 DEC 2025

Chris Abercrombie
Te Amorangi | President
New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association | Te Wehengarua

Ref: GEMS-45802

Shannon-Mae Read
Executive Member | Middle Leaders Advisory Committee Chair

By email to cmcnicol@ppta.org.nz

Tēnā kōrua

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2025 about the pace of curriculum and assessment change and its impact on middle leaders in secondary and area schools.

I acknowledge the important role that middle leaders play in guiding and supporting teachers every day. Their leadership is essential to effective teaching and learning, and I appreciate you taking the time to advocate on their behalf.

I know that schools are navigating a period of significant change, while remaining focused on meeting the needs of the children in front of them. I appreciate the time and effort required to implement curriculum reform, and I'm deeply grateful for the dedication of teachers and school leaders as they adapt.

As you know, we're driven by a clear need to lift student achievement. To do this, we're focused on balancing timely implementation, so students benefit sooner, with the professional learning, resources and support leaders and teachers need to embed these changes well over time. Change on this scale is a gradual process, and we're committed to supporting schools every step of the way. Our focus is on steady progress, not perfection.

In 2026, only English and Mathematics & Statistics, and Te Reo Rangatira and Pāngarau, for Years 0-10 will be required. Drafts of the remaining learning areas for Years 0-10 are available for feedback until 24 April 2026. We've listened to the sector and are slowing the pace of implementation for these learning areas, extending the timeline by a further year to allow for a full four years of implementation from 2025 through to 2028. The updated timeline can be found at tahurangi.education.govt.nz/draft_curriculum_years0to10.

I want all teachers and leaders to be supported through these changes. The Ministry of Education is prioritising the development of a range of tools and supporting resources to help school leaders and teachers plan for teaching the updated curriculum. These tools and resources will begin to be available from December 2025 and the range of supports will continue to expand over time, with improvements and additions informed by feedback from teachers. Information will be published on Tāhūrangi as it becomes available.

The draft Years 11-13 curricula will be available in Term 1 next year inviting wider feedback and support familiarisation and readiness. However, there will be no formal requirement to use this content until 2028 for Year 11, 2029 for Year 12 and 2030 for Year 13.

Schools can also find the resource pack provided at the Curriculum Roadshow for Leaders at newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/curriculum-roadshow-for-leaders/5637298326.p.

Teacher-only day and curriculum day materials will be part of resources available to support leaders in curriculum implementation in 2026. The Government has also approved four curriculum half-days for each of the 2026 and 2027 school years. More information can be found at tahurangi.education.govt.nz/curriculumdays.

I encourage schools to stay connected with their regional Te Mahau teams and curriculum advisors, who remain key contacts for support and guidance as they navigate these changes.

Thank you for highlighting what's needed to ensure middle leaders succeed, particularly in relation to curriculum and qualification changes. I'm committed to finding ways to strengthen implementation and provide support for the sector, and your feedback and insights have been shared with the Ministry for consideration.

I appreciate your continued engagement and wish you both all the very best.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Stanford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education