



# CONVERSATION GUIDE

## TALKING ABOUT TEACHER SUPPLY CRISIS

This five-step guide will help you frame conversations in a way that supports effective messaging when it comes to our Standing for Public Education campaign. This structure can also be applied to letter writing, social media posts, speeches, and media interviews.



### LEAD WITH A VISION

Start from a place of shared values by leading with a broad statement about what you value in public education that is threatened by the teacher supply crisis. This should be something that is mutually agreeable. *Examples:-*

*‘Every secondary student deserves a fully qualified and passionate specialist teacher in all their classes.’*

*‘Teachers help build school communities and create opportunities for their students.’*



### INQUIRE AND OBSERVE

Ask them about their perspective and check their understanding of the teacher supply crisis. Be patient and don't interrupt.

If they ask questions, answer them. Agree where you can without compromising your position. Receive their thoughts and don't jump to challenge their point of view. *Examples:-*

*‘Why do you think teachers are leaving the profession?’*

*‘I agree that other professions have tough working conditions too’*



### DESCRIBE BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

Return to the key issues with teacher supply, and how they challenge your shared values. Clarify your position without minimizing theirs. *Examples:-*

VALUE	BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES
<i>Life-balance</i>	<i>Teachers are choosing to leave the profession because of the extra workload that is placed on them through the underfunding of resources for students and the constant change of curriculum and assessment methods.</i>
<i>Fairness</i>	<i>We are more than 800 secondary teachers short of full staffing, meaning some students are being taught by teachers who do not specialise in their subject.</i>



## SOLUTIONS AND DECISION MAKERS

There is a key point in all conversations about public education: **State schools must be properly resourced to provide quality education for all students.**

Name the people who can make this happen - the government generally, but specifically the Minister of Education Erica Stanford and Ass. Minister of Education David Seymour.

VALUE	SOLUTION
<i>Life-balance</i>	<i>Minister Stanford must fund additional pastoral and mental health care resources for secondary students, so that this workload does not fall to teachers.</i>
<i>Fairness</i>	<i>The government must value teachers by paying them fairly, to allow them to stay in the profession.</i>



## END ON A POSITIVE

Bring it back to the vision, and end with hope for something better. You're not expected to change anyone's mind in one conversation. You're just to give them a new perspective to think critically about why teachers are campaigning for better pay and conditions. Keep lines of communication open if they want to come back and talk to you about it more.