



# Building Skills and Knowledge

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

MAY 2011

SHARE YOUR VIEWS  
HEAR JOHN'S NEWS

[www.johnkey.co.nz](http://www.johnkey.co.nz)

**National**  
[www.national.org.nz](http://www.national.org.nz)



## Lifting achievement

National believes every child deserves the best possible start to life. We're investing more in education, and putting children at the heart of our education system – where they belong.



### National Standards in literacy and numeracy

We've introduced **National Standards** in primary and intermediate schools. These are signposts that show what children in Years 1-8 should be able to achieve in reading, writing, and maths, and by when. They are designed to identify children falling behind, and ensure parents get plain-language reports on their child's progress.

- **\$36m to support children** who need extra help in reading, writing, and maths.
- **50 experts** to work with schools and teachers, to help raise the bar in education.
- **Teacher support** focused on helping teachers and principals lift student achievement.



### Boosting trades and skills

**The Youth Guarantee** offers 16- and 17-year-olds the opportunity to study for free at polytechs, wananga, and private training establishments.

- **2500 places** each year from 2011.
- **500 more places** than in 2010.

**Trades Academies** offer vocational programmes for young people who want to learn practical skills while at school.

- **8 trades academies** open this year, 4 more in 2012, with 5 more to follow.
- **4000 students** per year will get practical skills by 2014.



### More funding for early childhood education

We're increasing spending on early childhood education (ECE) to \$1.4 billion. We've established an **ECE taskforce** to review spending and propose innovative ideas about learning.

- **\$91.8m** to increase participation for children who are likely to miss out but who would benefit the most.



### More tertiary education places

We're working towards a more accountable, higher performing tertiary education sector. We're focused on getting better value for every dollar spent, and providing more places at universities and polytechs.

- **Almost 3000 extra university places** over two years.
- **More than 186,000 core places** at universities and polytechnics in 2011.
- **That's 11,600 more core places** at universities and polytechnics than in 2008.

## NEXT STEPS: BUDGET 2011

**\$12.2 BILLION** total education spending in 2011/12, the most ever.

**\$1.4 BILLION** extra for **schools and early childhood education** over 4 years.

**\$550 MILLION** extra for **early childhood education** over 4 years, to allow more families to access quality services where they are needed most.

**\$3.3 MILLION** extra for community-based initiatives to **increase digital literacy**.

### Keeping student loans interest free

By making changes to encourage personal responsibility, get better value for taxpayers, and make the scheme sustainable.