

# National Standards

## HIGHER STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

One in five Kiwi children – a staggering 150,000 – are not succeeding at school.

National has higher aspirations for our children. We think it's unfair to rob them of a future by turning a blind eye to their troubles.

Our National Standards policy will ensure all primary and intermediate schools regularly test their students' progress in reading, writing, and maths, and that this essential information is provided to parents.

We won't require new tests. Many teachers already test their pupils using tools such as "asTTle" and "PATs". National wants all schools to follow their lead and for the tests to include consistent benchmarks of the minimum skills every child should have.

Schools will use national standards to report to parents on the progress their child makes, and how that progress compares with their classmates and children elsewhere in New Zealand.

### What This Means For Parents

National thinks all parents deserve straight answers to straight questions like:

- Is my child reading, writing, and doing maths at the expected level?
- Are they doing better than last year?
- Are they doing as well as others in the class?

Right now, there's no guarantee that parents can get answers to these questions. National's policy will change that.

National has high aspirations for every child and we expect schools and teachers to share those aspirations.

This policy is an essential step towards ensuring every child succeeds at school, and every parent knows exactly how their child is doing.

## NATIONAL'S PLAN

### 1. Clear National Standards

Set national standards in reading, writing, and numeracy. The standards will describe all the things children should be able to do by a particular age or year at school. They will be defined by benchmarks in a range of tests.

### 2. Effective Assessment

Require primary schools to use assessment programmes that compare the progress of their students with other students across the country. Schools will choose from a range of tests, but there won't be national exams.

### 3. Upfront Reporting

Give parents the right to see all assessment information, and to get regular reports about their child's progress towards National Standards. Schools will also have to report each year on the whole school's performance against National Standards.

## OUR PRINCIPLES

- Higher standards in education.
- Building opportunity for all.
- Encouraging ambition.
- Valuing families.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**WATCH** › John Key's [video journal](#)

**READ** › John Key's speech [Encouraging Success: Confronting Failure](#)

**SEE** › Our [web page on Education](#).