

Alternative constitutions for combined boards

When combining the boards of four or more schools, the Minister of Education can now require the new board to have an alternative constitution. This will ensure the board is not too large and unwieldy to operate effectively.

Source: Ministry of Education factsheet

Do all combined boards governing four or more schools require an alternative constitution?

No. The Minister must have reasonable cause to believe that this is in the best interest of the schools.

If the Minister requires a combined board to have an alternative constitution, what say do the school communities have?

The schools' communities will be consulted with to ensure that the alternative constitution is representative of all members.

Can an individual board still request an alternative constitution?

Yes, it can. This is through section 156AC.

Are boards within Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako required to have an alternative constitution?

As schools continue to collaborate and interact with other schools in their Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako, it may be relevant for the boards to consider whether to have a combined board to govern all the schools.

If so, and there are four or more school boards involved, an alternative constitution may be required by the Minister.

Where do I find this in the Education Act?

Section 110A.

When do the changes take effect?

These provisions took effect from 19 May 2017.

Where do I get advice?

NZSTA will continue to update and advise you through factsheets, newsletters, and our website.

You can call **0800 782 435** or email actupdates@nzsta.org.nz.