

Clarifying boards of trustees' roles and responsibilities

Boards of trustees are the governing bodies of our schools, and play a central role in the educational achievement of our children and young people. The Act now provides clarity on the key roles and responsibilities of boards in school governance, and sets these out in one place.

Source: Ministry of Education factsheet

There are three changes to the Act that make boards' roles and responsibilities clearer:

- The requirements of the board are now situated in one place in the Act – [Schedule 6](#)
- The Act now clearly defines the board as the governing body of the school responsible for setting the school's policies
- There is a more explicit obligation on boards to focus on student well-being and act consistently with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Will this create more work for the board?

The Act strengthens the board's role rather than changing requirements and should not result in more work for the board. Its aim is to further focus the board's work on raising student achievement, reflecting the new strategic direction framework established in the Act.

What is found in Schedule 6?

Schedule 6 is in four parts:

- Part 1 Status and name of board
- Part 2 Powers and functions of boards

- Part 3 Financial and property matters and application of Crown Entities Act 2004
- Part 4 Meetings and procedure

What do boards need to do?

Boards of trustees should familiarise themselves with Schedule 6 to confirm their understanding of the roles and responsibilities. This may result in a review of policy.

Where do I find this in the Education Act?

Schedule 6.

When do the changes take effect?

Most provisions took effect from 19 May 2017.

Provisions relating to boards' responsibilities for planning and reporting (clauses 7-12) now take effect on 1 January 2020.

Consultation has started on planning and reporting regulations and these are expected to come into effect at about the same time.

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.