

Establishing designated character schools

Designated character schools include: designated character schools also designated as Kura Kaupapa Māori, schools based on religious or educational philosophies and former partnership schools | kura hourua that have transitioned to become designated character schools.

The changes include the following:

- The Act now explicitly recognises the role of diversity in the provision of schooling, including the provision of Māori medium education
- There is now a single process for setting up designated charter schools
- The Act no longer limits gauging demand for the school to requiring evidence that the parents of at least 21 potential students want the school to be established
- The Minister is now able to name a body that has a special affiliation with a designated character school or has responsibility for the different character of the school

The change does not apply to Kura Kaupapa Māori designated character schools. This is because Te Rūnanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori are already the kaitiaki | guardian of Te Aho Matua, the philosophy that all Kura Kaupapa Māori must operate under.

What does this mean for designated character schools that are already established?

There is no change for schools that are already established.

Where do I find more about designated schools in the Act

Part 12 Establishment of schools, sections 145AAA, 155, 155A-F, 156 and 156AA

When do the changes take effect?

Most provisions took effect from 19 May 2017.

The Education Amendment Act 2018 made a further change to the process for establishing designated character schools in section 156AA.

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.