



Boards of trustees' roles and responsibilities - a new schedule 6



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

These are the 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 – in an updated [Schedule 6](#)
- The Act includes a definition of “school community” and now clearly defines the board as the governing body of the school responsible for setting the school’s policies the board’s objectives in governing the school clearly link its primary objective of raising student achievement to ensuring the school is a physically and emotionally safe place for all students and staff, and is inclusive and caters for students with differing needs
- There is a more explicit obligation on boards to 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 planning and reporting framework established in the Act.

What is found in Schedule 6?

Schedule 6 is in five parts:

- [Clause 1](#) Interpretation, including a definition for “school community”
- [Clauses \(2\)-\(3\)](#) Status and name of board
- [Clauses \(4\)-\(24\)](#) Powers and functions of boards
- [Clauses \(25\)-\(38\)](#) Financial and property matters and application of Crown Entities Act 2004
- [Clauses \(39\)-\(41\)](#) 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 policies in their governance framework.

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.

Update May 2019

The [Education Amendment Act 2019](#) extends the date for implementing the new planning and reporting framework by three years, until 2023.

Schedule [6\(7\)-\(12\)](#), which outlines the board’s roles and responsibilities in the new planning and reporting framework, will also not come into effect until 2023.

Consultation on new planning and reporting regulations, due in 2019, is now postponed.

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