

# Establishing enduring objectives for the education system

The Education Act 1989 now provides a set of enduring objectives, sets the strategic direction for the education system and makes clear what a good education should look like for our children and young people. The objectives will inform government priorities for early childhood and compulsory schooling sectors through a statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP).

The new objectives for the education system are:

- helping each child and young person attain educational achievement to the best of their potential
- promoting the development of:
  - o resilience, determination, confidence, and creative and critical thinking
  - o good social skills and the ability to form good relationships
  - o participation in community life and fulfilment of civic and social responsibilities
  - o preparedness for work
- instilling an appreciation of the importance of:
  - o the inclusion within society of different groups and persons with different personal characteristics
  - o the diversity of society
  - o cultural knowledge, identity and the different official languages
  - o the Treaty of Waitangi and te reo Māori

## What does the board need to do now?

- Develop a general, yet deliberate, awareness of the new objectives
- As part of an ongoing cycle: consult, decide, monitor, review and report on how these objectives are, or will be, implemented across the teaching and learning programmes of your school | kura

## What is the difference between these and the goals in the national curriculum statements?

- These objectives set the direction for the New Zealand education system
- The national curriculum statements set the direction and guide the delivery of education in early childhood, ngā kōhanga reo schools and kura
- The objectives and goals are distinctive yet complementary

## How are these linked to the new NELP?

The objectives will inform the government when setting educational priorities through the NELP statements.

## Where do I find this in the Education Act?

Section 1A(3).

## 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](mailto:actupdates@nzsta.org.nz).