

Vote for a well-resourced public education system where all tamariki thrive!

**NZEI
TE RIU ROA**

Political Parties' Track Records on Education

	Labour-led Coalition (2017-2023)	National-led Coalition (2023-2026)
Class sizes	Reduced year 4-8 from 1:29 to 1:28 in 2023; reduced new entrant class sizes from 1:23 to 1:15 in 2008.	No reductions in class sizes.
Teacher aide support for tamariki	Teacher Aides achieved pay increases of 19-30% under their pay equity settlement. Sector-backed report on changes to the funding system for TAs commissioned - but not acted on.	Increased teacher aide-funded hours in Budget 2025. Scrapped pay equity reviews for Teacher Aides; refused to implement funding system changes. Below CPI increases in school operational grants that fund Teacher Aide pay.
School lunches	Introduced Ka Ora, Ka Ako school lunch programme in 2019.	Reduced funding and moved to a primarily for-profit corporate model.
Upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in education	Introduced Aotearoa NZ's Histories and Te Takanga o te Wā in 2022 and developed Te Matāiaho, placing Te Tiriti as the foundation for the NZ Curriculum. Developed indigenous curriculum model 'Te Tirewa' for Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Updated the Education Act in 2020 to require boards to give effect to Te Tiriti and referenced human rights and Bill of Rights Act. Continued and resourced Tau Mai te Reo – education contribution to Maihi Karauna. Developed suite of te reo, histories and kaupapa resourcing initiatives including Te Ahu o Te Reo to bolster teacher capability in te reo me nga tikanga.	"Restored balance" in Aotearoa NZ's Histories in NZC to limit local history. Diminished Te Tiriti in NZC. Scrapped boards' obligation to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Plans further law changes to remove Te Tiriti from the Education Act. Scrapped Te Ahu o Te Reo and Resource Teachers: Māori.
Support quality ECE	Phased in pay parity from 2020. 100% qualified teacher funding rates reinstated in 2021. Early Learning Action Plan introduced to make progress on ratios, quality, and sector planning.	Pay parity attacked - removed entirely for new teachers, fixed-term teachers, and relievers. Regulation and Funding Review seeks to undermine quality funding, teacher qualifications, and enable greater profit.

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Value educators	16K+ New Zealanders including educators contributed to 'Education Conversations: Kōrero Mātauranga' to inform the vision for NZ Education. A series of reports were then prepared by Global Research for the Ministry of Education which informed the initial refresh/redesign of the NZ Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. Writing and testing work undertaken closely with educators, subject matter experts, and subject associations (2019-2023).	Fundamental change to curriculum framework without consultation. Unpredictable, constrained, unnecessary pace of curriculum change with insufficient consultation processes. Prescriptive & unreasonable pedagogical change. Shifted Standards of Teaching profession from independent Teaching Council into direct Ministerial control. Created Ministerial power to unilaterally change curriculum. Disestablished specialist Resource Teachers: Literacy and Resource Teachers: Māori (RTLits and RT Māori).
Pay educators fairly	Introduced pay parity for ECE teachers, phased in from 2020. Pay equity claim for ECE teachers initiated and extended to all teachers, progress made on claim, but no commitment to fund. Fair Pay Agreements introduced and ECE FPA initiated. Significant pay increases resulting from the Kua Tae Te Wa campaign in 2019 and the public sector pay adjustment and bargaining in 2022-2023.	Pay equity laws gutted. FPA law repealed. Pathways to improved pay and recognition of value of teachers gone. Pay parity for ECE teachers undermined — removed entirely for new teachers, fixed-term teachers, and relievers. Pay freezes/offers of 1% to educators in 2025. Improved by collective action to 2.5% but underwhelming in a cost of living crisis.
Privatisation of education	Re-integrated charter schools into the state schooling system.	Strong advocacy of charter schools. Closed tender processes for offshore tech and publishing companies to produce assessment and curriculum material. Further contracting out of learning support specialist services and teacher PLD. ECE funding review supports profit over quality in ECE – and proposes scrapping funding which enables services to have higher numbers of qualified teachers and the pay parity scheme for ECE teachers which is critical for the retention of experienced and qualified teachers.

***Data compiled from official policy documents and independent sector reports.**

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