

2026 School Onsite Training Programme

Factsheet for Initial Teacher Education Providers

Background

The School Onsite Training Programme provides funding for places in school-based Initial Teacher Education programmes.

It gives student teachers the opportunity to gain teaching experience in a host school while studying towards their teaching qualification.

The 2026 School Onsite Training Programme (SOTP) cycle offers 465 funded places for primary and secondary schools, including kaupapa Māori and Māori medium kura.

The Ministry will be assessing applications from Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers through a panel to ensure their programme is aligned with the Government's wider education priorities.

Successful ITE providers will receive funding from the Ministry for their allocated funded places. It is the ITE providers' responsibility to distribute this funding to student teachers and host schools participating in their SOTP.

Contracts overview for ITE providers

2026 SOTP funding components per student teacher:

- a bursary worth \$19,930 to support the student teacher's education
- a contribution of \$2,000 to the host school.

Key responsibilities of ITE providers:

- marketing and promotion of their programmes and SOTP-funded places
- providing programme governance
- programme monitoring and reporting
- ongoing learning and development for student teachers
- enrolling students in an approved ITE programme leading to teacher registration
- acting as a go-between for the Ministry and participating schools
- collecting data and meeting the Ministry's reporting requirements.

Funding eligibility requirements

To be considered for the 2026 SOTP funding, ITE providers must have an **approved 1-year graduate or post-graduate ITE programme** that:

- will lead to teacher registration
- is focused on primary or secondary education.

Additional requirements for ITE providers this funding cycle include:

- Demonstration of their understanding and integration of work-based pedagogy in their programme design and delivery, including:
 - confirmation of school partner involvement in course design and delivery
 - evidence of how the SOTP delivers differentiated wraparound support and structure for student teachers.
- Proof that their assessment includes authentic evidence generated through practice, including on-site assessment involving mentor teachers and other school staff where appropriate.
- Having clear agreements with schools, addressing how student teachers will be supported onsite by appropriately experienced mentor teachers within a whole-school approach.
- Confirmation that they offer opportunities for mentor teachers to engage in learning and development to improve their ability to support student teachers, working with host schools to ensure it is relevant and accessible.
- Having clear agreements with schools on how they work together to select student teachers, where appropriate.
- For primary school ITE programme only: Demonstration that their programme includes an explicit focus on preparing teachers to teach to the new curriculum, including key focus areas of structured literacy, structured mathematics, and the science of learning and use of explicit instruction.

For more information

Please visit the [Education Workforce website](#) to learn more about SOTP.

You can email info.sotp@education.govt.nz if you have questions.