



2026 School Onsite Training Programme

Factsheet for Schools and Kura

Overview

The School Onsite Training Programme gives schools and kura an opportunity to play an active role in the training and development of our future teachers.

It is a chance to host, guide and benefit from having student teachers onsite for a full year. Schools and kura get to help student teachers gain practical teaching experience as they keep studying towards their teaching qualification.

We all want student teachers to feel well prepared as they finish their initial teacher education and commence their teaching careers. Through the School Onsite Training Programme (SOTP), there is an increased practical experience which supports student teachers to feel confident and prepared when they start their first year as a provisionally certificated teacher.

Many SOTP participants end up successfully employed as beginning teachers in their host schools. This suggests that, through this programme, schools and kura can find and support people in their communities who display potential to become great teachers.

Becoming a host school

The 2026 SOTP cycle offers 465 funded places for primary and secondary schools, including kaupapa Māori and Māori medium kura. Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers are expected to lead the submission of applications on behalf of their host schools.

If you want to be a host school, please contact your partner ITE provider so they can consider including you in their application form. Please note that charter schools are ineligible to participate in hosting Ministry-funded SOTP student teachers.

If you don't have a partner ITE provider, see the list of providers on the [Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand website](#). Get in touch with ITE providers whose programme is best suited to your needs so you can start establishing rapport.

Requirements for host schools

Primary schools

- Demonstrate a solid understanding of the science of learning and its application in school.
- Demonstrate school-wide commitment to professional learning and development (PLD) in maths and structured literacy.
- Availability of an experienced mentor teacher (4 years or more teaching experience) who has undertaken PLD in structured literacy and structured mathematics.

Secondary schools

- Good understanding of the science of learning and its application in school.
- Availability of an experienced mentor teacher (4 years or more teaching experience).

Schools that are included in ITE providers' application will be assessed based on the criteria above. Each school will be scored and ranked accordingly to identify who will receive allocation for 2026 SOTP funded places.

The Ministry of Education will communicate with ITE providers regarding application results. It is the ITE providers' responsibility to share this information with their partner schools.

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.