

Poipoia te kākano

Information for Schools

July 2026

Poipoia te kākano is an online learning programme for teacher aides. It supports teacher aides who work with Year 1 ākonga | learners.

This learning programme gives teacher aides who support Year 1 learners additional tools and skills to keep students engaged and help keep the classroom running smoothly.

Schools | Kura can apply for funding to reimburse teacher aide's time spent completing the programme, up to a maximum of 14 hours, whether the learning is done during or outside of work hours. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted or 30 June 2028 (whichever comes first).

Funding application dates:

2026/2027 funding round: 29 July 2026 to 30 April 2027

2027/2028 funding round: 26 July 2027 to 30 April 2028

Schools can apply for funding to cover teacher aides' time for participating in the learning programme. Applications are only required if a school wishes to access this funding.

Note that teacher aides can access in the programme free of charge whether the school applies for reimbursement funding.

More information, including the application form, is available on our website: [Teacher Aide Professional Learning and Development | Education Workforce](#)

Who can apply

State or state integrated primary or area school | kura can apply for funding for reimbursement if their teacher aide:

- spends at least some of their working hours supporting Year 1 learners with behaviours linked to unmet needs.

By applying, your school | kura confirms that the teacher aide(s) named in the application meet the eligibility criteria for funding for this learning programme.

Before you apply

Before applying, please ensure:

- the teacher aide(s) meet the eligibility criteria
- the application is submitted before the teacher aides(s) begin the programme.

Please note:

- the school must pay a teacher aide's learning time before reimbursement is claimed
- reimbursement is capped at 14 hours per teacher aide
- funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reimbursement information

Schools are expected to pay teacher aides for time spent completing the programme at their regular wage rate, including any applicable employment on-costs. Where professional learning is completed outside normal work hours, payment arrangements should be made in accordance with the [Collective Agreement](#).

If schools wish to apply for reimbursement funding, this application **must** be submitted before the teacher aide begins the Poipoia te kākano programme.

Approval of an application reserves funding for the eligible teacher aide, subject to completion of the programme and submission of a reimbursement claim.

The total time it takes to complete the learning programme is up to 14 hours. Therefore, teacher aides can only request time reimbursement for up to 14 hours, and schools will only be reimbursed up to 14 hours for each teacher aide taking part in the programme.

Reimbursement process

1. School applies for funding before the teacher aide begins the programme.
2. Teacher aide completes the Poipoia te Kākano programme.
3. School pays the teacher aide for their learning time (up to 14 hours).
4. School submits a reimbursement request after programme completion.
5. The Ministry reimburses approved claims through Pourato.

For teacher aides participating in the 2026/27 funding round, reimbursement requests must be submitted by **31 May 2027**. For teacher aides participating in the 2027/28 funding round, reimbursement requests must be submitted by **31 May 2028**.

Contact us

If you have any questions, we're here to help. Email: workforce.pld@education.govt.nz



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

