

Foundational learning action plan 2026

What is already in place

- › A guaranteed daily hour of Reading, Writing, and Maths across Years 0-8.
- › Clearer teaching expectations through the refreshed English and Mathematics & Statistics learning areas.
- › Professional learning and development to strengthen structured literacy approaches – including writing, spelling and transcription – and strengthen Maths teaching and leadership practice.
- › A mix of universal and targeted supports, including targeted literacy staffing, to strengthen everyday classroom teaching and provide extra help where it is needed.
- › Earlier checks on key reading skills through the Phonics Checks
- › Maths books and resources, which are already in schools, to support more consistent classroom teaching across the country.

KEY

-  Reading
-  Writing
-  Maths

Our Foundational Learning Action Plan comprises the action plans for **Maths — Make it Count**, **Writing — Make it Write** and a new action plan to support **Reading — Read to Succeed**. This consolidated Foundational Learning Action Plan lays out what we are doing to strengthen foundational learning from 2026.

Classroom resources

- › Structured literacy decodable books and readers for older readers who need additional support to strengthen their reading. 
- › Writing workbooks for Year 4-5 students aimed at strengthening writing instruction and practice as writing demands become more complex. 
- › Expanding use of the digital writing tool to all students in Years 6-8 to build writing fluency and capability. 
- › Hands-on Maths equipment for every Year 0-8 classroom to support high quality Maths teaching of the New Zealand Curriculum. 

Professional learning & resources for teachers

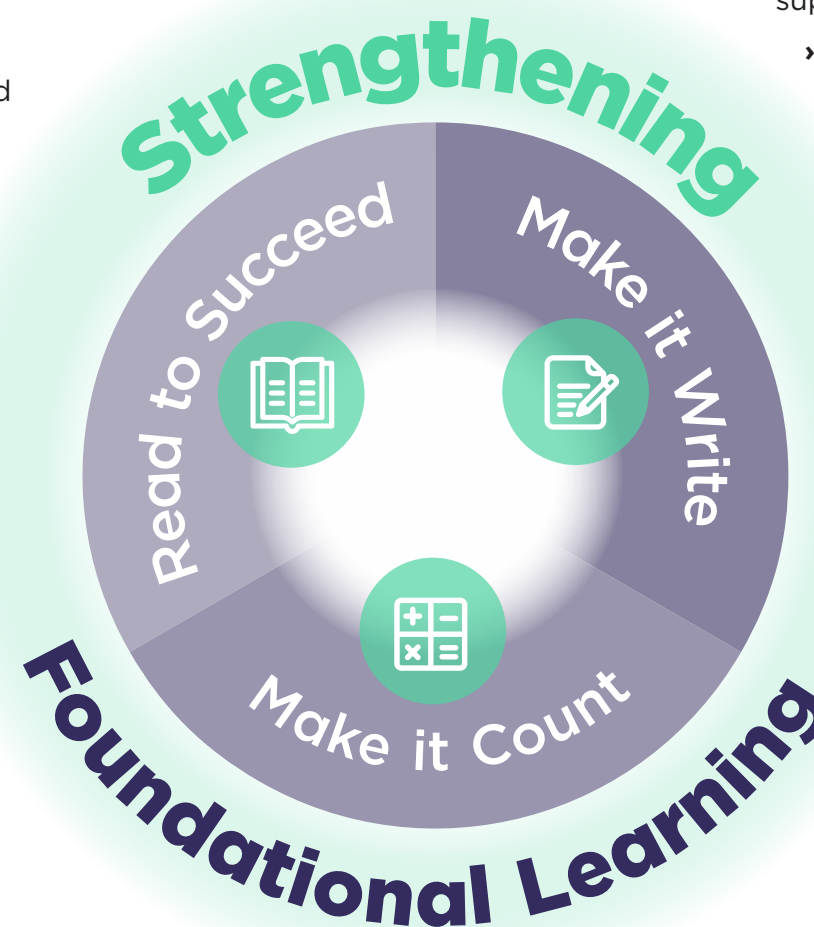
- › An Effective Literacy Teaching Package, which will provide videos and full facilitation packages to support newly trained Literacy Curriculum Leads¹ – helping them to consolidate, embed and sustain effective structured literacy approaches in schools and kura.  
- › The establishment and trial of maths hubs to strengthen local support and capability. 
- › Professional learning for high-impact explicit teaching, which will support stronger teaching practice in Writing.  
- › Professional learning in smarter data use for school and kura leaders, supporting better decisions about progress, needs, and response.   

Targeted supports for learners

- › An Accelerated Literacy Support Package, which will provide 12-week teaching programmes to support accelerated learning from Years 3-10 in Reading and Writing.  
- › Additional targeted Maths staffing to strengthen support for students most in need. 
- › Expanding the Maths Acceleration programme so more students can access targeted catch up support. 

Consistent assessment & monitoring

- › An End of Year 2 Literacy Check to ensure the early identification of students who need targeted support in reading and writing.  
- › A times table and division check to provide clearer signals of developing fluency in key number knowledge. 



Further information

More information for Foundational Learning Action Plan from 2026 can be found: www.education.govt.nz

¹ This refers to the literacy lead in schools and kura—this is not a new role.