

Reporting to Parents & Whānau, and SMART – What's Changing in 2026

Webinar Q&A

1. What is the relevance of the new reporting to Boards, and why are you providing so much detail?

The new reporting expectations are a substantial change to the approach taken when reporting to parents and whānau.

It's important that school boards understand the changes and how they impact their communities.

These changes also affect the wider school progress and achievement data provided to Boards, so they need to understand both the data they are receiving and what else to ask for if needed.

2. If a child is exceeding for their year level, is there a risk with this new assessment methodology that they will not be extended further in their learning?

There is a risk that these kids who are exceeding will be bored – I have already heard this is happening for some bright children.

We have information available for teachers on the Ministry's Tāhūrangi website about how they can extend and enrich students who may be exceeding, while still working within their curriculum year level.

3. What are the 5 descriptors?

The 5 descriptors are Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient, and Exceeding.

These are included for the report as an overall assessment of progress, as well as progress in each of the elements or strands of reading, writing and maths.

4. Do you have any examples of how whole school data could be presented to the Board?

Our advice is for schools to discuss with their boards what information their boards would like to receive.

We haven't provided an example of what this will look like, as it may be different for each school.

5. Just to clarify, when a child who is unable to meet year-level progress for various reasons (dyslexia, Global delay, etc.) reports, are they based on IEP goals and not year-level goals?

Our advice is that schools can report either against the curriculum or IEP goals, after discussion with parents about what information they want to receive.

However, for overall school reporting, the children's progress against the curriculum will still need to be reported for the accuracy of overall school data.

6. Is SMART an acronym?

Yes - it's the Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool.

7. What is e-asTTle?

[e-asTTle](#) is an assessment tool.

8. Are there plans to phase out e-asTTle + PAT in favour of SMART, or will these choices be retained?

e-asTTle will be phased out at the end of 2026. PATs are developed by NZCER, not the Ministry.

9. Aren't PAT and e-asTTle summative rather than formative?

PATs are formative assessments; e-asTTle can be used as a formative or a summative assessment, depending on how the teacher applies it in the classroom.

10. Have PATs and e-asTTle been recalibrated to the new curriculum?

A mapping table has been developed for e-asTTle.

NZCER have developed interim mapping to the new progress descriptors for PATs, but these will be updated later in the year to reflect the work done on the SMART tool.

11. How is the writing assessed? Is this an AI tool?

Writing has both short and long questions.

For the long-form writing answer, AI will provide a suggested score, which a teacher must review against the rubric. AI never marks on its own.

12. Would you suggest schools run Parent Info evenings to explain the changes to parents and to prepare them for what to expect?

It is up to each school how they keep their parent community informed.

This would normally be something your principal and staff may decide to do, but you may like to discuss this with your presiding member to see how the board can support staff to inform parents.

13. If a student is only emerging or developing at their end-of-year assessment, will they then progress into the next year level, where they may fall further behind, or is it recommended that those students be held back a year?

Students should continue to move with their year group.

If the teacher is concerned that they are significantly behind, there are acceleration programmes that schools can use to help them to catch up, and continued review in class is useful as well.

14. Where can I go for more information?

Ministry of Education



[Tāhūrangi Website](#)

[Parent Portal](#)



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