



Kahu Taupua

RTLB Cluster 16

Update to Schools – Term Two 2026

Mehemea ka moemoeā ahau, ko ahau anake. Mehemea ka moemoeā tātou, ka taea e tātou. If I dream, I dream alone. If we dream together, we shall achieve. Te Puea Herangi

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We would like to share a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on Friday, 24th April, at Nawton Hall to celebrate the launch of our new name and identity: **Kahu Taupua**.

This milestone was a special occasion for our cluster, made even more meaningful by the presence of our school leaders, colleagues, and whānau. We are incredibly grateful to **Ngāti Maahanga** for their partnership and the guidance that led us to this name.

As **Kahu Taupua**, our commitment to your schools remains unchanged. Our focus continues to be working alongside you to provide the support and foundation our tamariki need to thrive. We greatly value your ongoing collegiality and your willingness to engage with us as we evolve and grow as a service. It remains a privilege to support such dedicated and responsive professionals across our cluster.

As always, we welcome the opportunity for reflection and improvement. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your Liaison RTLB if you would like to discuss any aspect of our mahi or how we can best support your kura.

Staffing

We extend our sincere thanks to Reo Piki Tākerei who we fondly farewell on 1 May. He mihi aroha ki a ia mō te nui me ngā hua i puta i a tātou. We also warmly welcome Judy Jellicoe and Jen Costar back to our Kāhui. Erin Sawyer is currently acting as Cluster Manager until Graeme returns from leave at the end of Week 4.

Service Delivery Agreements (SDAs)

We will be contacting you shortly to discuss our updated SDAs in light of the recently implemented Operating Standards and Procedures. We recommend that schools refrain from independently interpreting the new procedures prior to this conversation so that we ensure our local context is reflected in any changes.

Reminder: Expansion of Early Intervention Services

2026 will be a transition year for the expansion of the early intervention services. During this time, we remain committed to ensuring the needs of mokopuna are met through a collaborative approach with the Ministry of Education. Please note there are changes to

support for Year 0–1 students in 2026. **New** Year 0–1 individual student requests will now be made directly via the Ministry of Education Service Manager. Any current Year 0–1 students already on the RTLB roll will continue to be supported by RTLB.

IYT, IYA-T and other school-wide referrals for these year levels will still be accessed through RTLB. Please contact your liaison RTLB for any further clarification.

Requests for Support (RFS) & Consent Update

We have built on feedback from the schools in our cluster and have updated the Request for Support to better reflect this. This went live over the break.

Key updates:

- A new Class/Teacher request option is now available when submitting a Request for Support.
- There are changes to the information requested for individual student requests to help us better understand the support needed.
- An updated informed consent form is now in place to align with the revised Operating Standards and Procedures.
- Please ensure the new consent form is used for all Requests for Support going forward.

If you have any questions or would like support with the process, please contact your liaison RTLB.

eRTL Database

A reminder that if you need to add a new user to your eRTL please contact your liaison.

Review and Intake Meetings (R&I)

The meetings are held every Thursday. If you wish to have a student considered for the RTLB service, please ensure you have completed the online Request for Support (RFS) following a discussion with your Liaison RTLB. Contact your liaison RTLB regarding any RFS prior to this date.

Learning Support Funding

RTLB can apply for Learning Support Funding at a maximum of \$500.00 + gst per term for two terms. Note: The LSF application is an outcome from the collaborative action plan hui. Learning Support Funding applications are received and considered weekly.

Incredible Years Teacher - Autism (IYT-A)

Junior school teachers are invited to register for IYA-T courses in Hamilton for 2026.

Registration criteria: The teacher needs to have a child in their class aged 5 or 6 who has been diagnosed with autism or displays characteristics consistent with autism. This programme is run over 6 sessions (9am-12.30pm) with two visits between Session 2 and 6. The teacher release payment from MOE is \$900.00 per teacher. Teachers registering should register here: <https://app.forms.education.govt.nz/forms/view/iya001>.

Any further queries, please contact RTLB Joanna Crawshay - jcrawshay@rtlbcluster16.co.nz

Incredible Years for Teachers (IYT)

We have two courses beginning later this month, which are now full. If you would like to add a teacher/s to the waitlist for an IYT course in 2027 please contact RTLB Joanna Crawshay - jcrawshay@rtlbcluster16.co.nz

Gateway

If you have any questions or require information pertaining to Gateway, please contact Practice Leader Leena Herewini - lherewini@rtlbcluster16.co.nz

All the very best for Term 2.

Ngaa mihi

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