Vote Education

**Budget 2018**

**Big boost for Learning Support**

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**Highlights**

Budget 2018 includes four-year operating funding boosts of:

* $133.5 million to the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme which means, from next year, **ORS can fund an additional 995 students** who are verified as meeting the existing criteria
* $30.2 million to **Sensory Schools and NZ Sign Language to support around 2,900 deaf and hard of hearing students, and about 1,500 low vision students**
* $59.3 million for **Teacher Aide Funding Rates to schools to support around 18,000 students**
* $4.8 million to **Te Kahu Toi Intensive Wraparound Services** **for an additional 30 eligible students per year**, increasing delivery to 365 students from July 2018
* $21.5 million operating boost to help with demand pressures for **early intervention services** and halve the current waiting list
* $34.5 million for the **English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes** to help schools teach English to students with migrant backgrounds and help them access the curriculum.

The Government has announced a $283.8 million operating boost for learning support initiatives to help all children and young people reach their potential in education.

It is prioritising new spending to remove barriers to children and young people’s access to education and learning, putting their needs back at the centre of the education system. Some of the highlights of Budget 2018 include:

From 2018/2019, an additional 1,900 young children will receive **early intervention** **support** each year.

The **Sensory Schools and New Zealand Sign Language** initiative will support 2,900 deaf and hard of hearing children and young people, and about 1,500 low vision children and young people.

There is a progressive rise in the **Teacher Aide Funding Rate.** It goes up from $16.06 to $17 an hour from 1 July 2018, to $18 an hour in 2019/20, to $19 an hour in 2020/21 and then to $20 per hour in 2021/22. In the coming financial year it is anticipated the Ministry will provide funding to schools for teacher aide support for approximately 18,000 students.

**Te Kahu Tōī, Intensive Wraparound Service** will expand delivery of wraparound services for an additional 30 eligible students a year, increasing delivery to 365 students from July 2018.

**The Ongoing Resourcing Scheme** receivesthe biggest boost in more than a decade. ORS provides vital support for school students with the highest and most complex additional learning needs. The additional funding meets an increase in demand – there has been no change in policy around eligibility.

**English for Speakers of Other Languages** In 2017, 43,400 students received ESOL funding. Forecasts are for continued growth to reach 55,000 by 2022.