

School Rights

Right to education

- From the age of 5 students have the right to free, full time enrolment in state school. This includes children with disabilities or other additional learning needs.
- The board has an objective to ensure that the school is inclusive of students with differing needs

Attendance and enrolment

- Between the age of 6-16 children must be enrolled in education
- Boards are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that students attend school when it is open.
- A student's attendance hours may be reduced temporarily if a transition or well-being plan is determined to be in their best interest.
- A student's hours of attendance cannot be limited unless you and the school agree on a well-being or transition plan.

Standdowns, suspensions and exclusions

- A student cannot be stood down for more than 5 school days in one term
- A student cannot be stood down for more than 10 school days in one year
- If a student (under the age of 16) is excluded from school, the principal must try to arrange for the student to attend another school
- When a student is stood down or suspended from a State school, the principal must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the student has the guidance and counselling that are reasonable and practicable in all the circumstances of the stand-down or suspension.

- If a student's suspension is subject to conditions, the principal must take all reasonable steps to ensure that an appropriate educational programme is provided to the student
- If a student has been suspended from a State school, the student, a parent of the student, and their representatives are entitled to attend at least 1 meeting of the board and speak at that meeting
- Parents must immediately be informed of a stand down or suspension, the reasons for the decision and the period of time for which the stand down will remain in place.
- Students cannot be sent home for problems with their uniform unless they have continually gotten in trouble for it and have been stood down or suspended. However they can be punished at school.

Wellbeing and guidance

- Students are entitled to receive guidance and counselling
- Students year 7 and above are entitled to receive career education and guidance
- Parents are to be informed of anything that prevents or slows a students progress in school, and of anything harming the students relationships with teachers or other students.
- Students are requires to surrender items that are deemed a danger to the safety of any person, or which is detrimental to the learning environment.

Te Reo Māori

- Students can sit NZQA exams fully or partially in Te Reo Māori if they wish. They just need to let their teachers know so it can be arranged.

How to deal with issues:

- If a crime is committed such as assault or harassment, you should report it to the school first even if you decide to report it to the police.
- If you have a complaint you can first take it to the dean, it can be further escalated to the principal. From there if it is still not resolved it can go to the board. If you are unhappy with a decision the board has made, you can take it to the ombudsman who can investigate whether the board has acted fairly.
- If you feel you are being discriminated against, you can take it up with the school. If that does not resolve things, you can escalate it to the board. You can further escalate to the Human rights commissioner.
- If there is an issue with education, learning, enrolment, or safety, you can seek support from Ministry of Education.
- If you need help with legal issues involving young people, you can seek support from YouthLaw or you can get initial legal advice or information from Community Law.
- The Students Rights Service also has a free phone line

The link below contains all the contact information for the above services:

<https://communitylaw.org.nz/community-law-manual/schools-kura-chapter-9-raising-concerns-and-making-complaints/raising-concerns-and-making-complaints/making-a-complaint-to-an-outside-organisation/>

For more information:

- This link covers a range of topics of rights and legal information regarding school and young people:
<https://communitylaw.org.nz/community-law-manual/schools-kura-chapter-1-te-tiriti-o-waitangi-in-schools/te-tiriti-o-waitangi-in-schools/>
- The Education and Training Act 2020:
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0038/latest/LMS170676.html>
- Whaikaha: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/support-and-services/education-and-employment/education>
- Ministry of Education:
<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/>