

# Summary:

## Consultation on regulations for home-based educator qualifications

**In 2018 the Government undertook the Review of Home-based Early Childhood Education (the Review), to ensure the sector delivers quality education and care for children. The Review consulted on proposals including for home-based educators to hold a Level 4 ECE qualification. At present educators in the sector are not required to be qualified.**

The sector, educators, service providers, visiting teachers/coordinators, parents, whānau, and others provided feedback on this proposal. Most supported the proposal. Government then agreed to move towards a qualified home-based ECE workforce, with all educators holding or be working toward, a Level 4 ECE or other recognised qualification.

To achieve this, in July 2020 the Government agreed to progressively introduce the requirements so educators and services had time to adjust. The changes applied to services on the quality funding rate from 1 January 2021, and will apply to services on the standard funding rate from 1 January 2022.

To implement the changes for the standard funding rate over the next four years, we need to amend the [Education \(Early Childhood Services\) Regulations 2008](#). These percentages will apply to all services on the standard rate from 1 January 2022 (see table below).

	1 Jan 22	1 Jan 23	1 Jan 24	1 Jan 25
<b>Standard funding rate:</b> Minimum percentages of qualified educators set through regulatory changes	10%	30%	60%	80%*

*\* From 1 January 2025 there will be a single funding rate for all services instead of standard and quality rates.*

### What are we consulting on?

We are consulting on draft regulations that would implement the minimum percentages of qualified educators for all home-based ECE services, which will apply through the minimum standard funding rate.

Because the draft regulations are for public consultation, they will not necessarily reflect how the changes are ultimately drafted. Before the regulatory changes are implemented, we will consider your views following this consultation.

## What changes to qualifications are we regulating for?

To be considered qualified educators in home-based services would have to hold:

- » a Level 4 or higher ECE qualification; or
- » a Level 3 ECE qualification completed prior to 1 January 2022; or
- » Te Ara Tuarua (the level 5 kōhanga reo qualification) or higher; or
- » a primary teaching qualification.

Qualifications must also be listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework or be recognised by the Teaching Council for the purposes of registration.

From 1 January 2025, unqualified educators must be training towards a recognised qualification for up to 2 years, or in an induction period of up to 6 months.

## What changes for qualified educators are we regulating for?

All home-based services would then have to meet the new minimum percentages:

	1 Jan 22	1 Jan 23	1 Jan 24	1 Jan 25
<b>Standard funding rate:</b>				
Minimum percentages of qualified educators set through regulatory changes	10%	30%	60%	80%

We also need to set some rules about how the percentages are counted, and which educators can be counted towards them.

We are proposing that only those educators who provide education and care each week are counted. We are also proposing the percentages use a headcount and that they apply week-by-week. This would mean that the percentage would count an educator working five days a week the same as an educator working one day a week.

New record keeping to assist in establishing compliance with these changes would also be required. Home-based services would be required to maintain a list of educators and evidence of their qualifications for each licence.

### Want more information?

For a copy of the full discussion document on regulations for home-based educator qualifications go to [education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz). If you want to provide feedback on the regulations, you can also complete a survey at [consultation.education.govt.nz](https://www.consultation.education.govt.nz).

You can also send a more detailed written submission to either [Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz](mailto:Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz) or this postal address:

Early Learning Regulatory Review  
 Ministry of Education  
 PO Box 1666  
 Wellington 6140

The Ministry of Education requires feedback by **24 September 2021**.

If you have any questions about making a submission, or would like more information, please email [Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz](mailto:Earlylearning.Regulatoryreview@education.govt.nz)