

## **Education Report: The Rise UP Academy: Application to Increase Class Level and Maximum Roll.**

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### **Executive Summary**

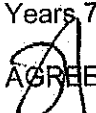

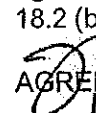
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1. The Rise UP Trust, sponsor of the Rise UP Academy has applied for a change of class from a Year 1-6 contributing school (with a maximum roll of 100) to a Year 1 to 10 composite school with an adjustment to the maximum roll to 200 students. Your approval is sought on this application.
2. The Rise UP Trust was approved to open a Year 1-8 Partnership School on 16 September 2013 with an establishment roll of 50 and a maximum roll of 100 students. Prior to opening the Trust decided to limit its provision to Years 1-6. The school opened on 7 February 2014 in Mangere, South Auckland.
3. The Ministry recommends you approve the extension to Years 7 and 8 and adjust the maximum roll to 200 students. This recommendation is made based on the following considerations:
  - The school has had a favourable readiness report from ERO.
  - The school has demonstrated early favourable achievement results.
  - The Ministry is confident that the school is well placed to exceed the minimum performance standards relating to student achievement.
  - The Sponsor intends to modify the leased property to accommodate an additional 100 students and this can be completed as the school gradually increases over the next three years.
  - Based on predicted enrolment numbers and where the school is currently drawing students from, we expect the impact on the schools in Mangere and Mangere East to be minimal.
  - The net cost to cater for an additional 100 students and adjust the class level to include Year 7 and 8 can be covered by the small provision that was set aside in the four year Partnership Schools budget.
4. The Ministry recommends you decline the extension to Years 9 and 10. This recommendation is made based on the following considerations:
  - The Trust need to further develop their Education Plan for Years 9 and 10.
  - The Trust need to develop plans for accommodating Years 9 and 10 on their leased site.
  - The school should meet their targeted roll of 100 students in 2015, which includes incorporating Years 7 and 8 to the school.
5. This paper also seeks your agreement to add the four new Sponsors and clause 18.2 (b, c and e) to the existing Memorandum of Appointment which enables the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support to administer the Partnership School Agreements on your behalf.

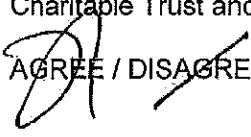
## Recommendations

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We recommend that you:

- a. **note** that the Rise UP Trust has applied for a change of class from a Year 1-6 contributing school (with a maximum roll of 100) to a Year 1-10 composite school with a maximum roll of 200;
- b. **note** the Ministry of Education recommends you approve the extension to Years 7 and 8 and to adjust the maximum roll to 200 students, but decline an extension to Years 9 and 10;
- c. **agree** that the Rise UP Trust's request to extend the class level to include Years 7 and 8 and to increase the maximum roll from 100 to 200;  
 ~~AGREE / DISAGREE~~
- d. **agree** that the Rise UP Trust's request to further extend the class levels to include Years 9 and 10 be declined;  
 ~~AGREE / DISAGREE~~
- e. **sign** the attached New Zealand Gazette notice that details the change of class;
- f. **sign** the attached letter to the Sponsor informing it of your decision;
- g. **sign** the attached contract variation that records the changes to the Agreement to:
  - a. increase the provision of class years to include Years 7 and 8, and the associated performance standards
  - b. increase to the maximum roll
- h. **agree** to include the four new Partnership Schools and the inclusion of clause 18.2 (b, c and e) to the Memorandum of Appointment;  
 ~~AGREE / DISAGREE~~
- i. **sign** the attached Memorandum of Appointments to include the four new Partnership Schools and the inclusion of clause 18.2 (b, c and e); and

- j. **sign** the attached New Zealand Gazette notices for Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust and Advance Training Centres Limited.

  
AGREE / DISAGREE



Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

Encls

NOTED



Hon Hekia Parata  
Minister of Education

David Seymour  
Under-Secretary to the  
Minister of Education

9.12.14

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## **Education Report: The Rise UP Academy: Application to Increase Class Level and Maximum Roll.**

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### **Purpose of Report**

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1. The Rise UP Trust, sponsor of the Rise UP Academy has applied for a change of class from a Year 1-6 contributing school (with a maximum roll of 100) to a Year 1 to 10 composite school with an adjustment to the maximum roll to 200 students. Your approval is sought on this application.
2. This report provides you with information about the application to assist in your decision. The Ministry recommends you approve the extension to Years 7 and 8 and adjust the maximum roll to 200 students, but decline an extension to Years 9 and 10.

### **Background – The Rise UP Academy**

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3. The Rise UP Trust was approved to open a Year 1-8 Partnership School on 16 September 2013 with an establishment roll of 50 and a maximum roll of 100 students. The school opened on 7 February 2014 in Mangere, South Auckland.
4. The Rise UP Trust and Villa Education Trust (South Auckland Middle School) were originally intending to operate their schools as complementary entities (Rise UP: Years 1-6 and Villa: Years 7-10) [METIS 799745 refers].
5. The Rise UP Academy was subsequently gazetted as a Year 1-6 primary school, on their request [METIS 810310 refers].
6. Through the negotiation process Villa Education Trust took responsibility for securing facilities for themselves and the Rise UP Trust in close proximity to each other in South Auckland. However, this did not occur and instead each Trust individually secured property approx 12km away from each other. The distance between the two schools has meant that the original intention to operate as complementary entities has not occurred.
7. The Rise UP Trust is now seeking a change of class from a Year 1-6 contributing school (with a maximum roll of 100) to a Year 1 to 10 composite school with a proposed maximum roll of 200.
8. The Sponsor's proposal is based on its desire to retain children for longer to ensure the foundations laid are not unravelled when the students transition to another school. The Sponsor wants to ensure that all their children are well prepared for the transition to secondary education.

### **Partnership Schools Agreement**

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#### **Maximum Roll Increase**

9. Sponsors can initiate a review of their maximum roll under clause 7.1(c) of the Partnership Schools Agreement at their second quarter review.

10. The Rise UP Trust raised its intention at the second quarter review, as required by the Agreement, and has worked with the Ministry to progress this intention. As per the Agreement, any variation to adjust the maximum roll should have been confirmed no later than September. This process has taken longer than anticipated given this is the first application of this nature under the Partnership Schools Agreement.
11. Clause 7.1(c) is one of the powers and duties you have agreed to be administered by the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support [METIS 878319 refers]. This appointment does not abrogate your powers and you may still exercise the assigned powers under the Agreement.
12. We request that you make the final determination on the maximum roll application rather than the appointed person (Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support) in this instance as you are also being asked to approve a change in class level, which is a change that cannot be delegated. The two applications are intrinsically related and should not be considered in isolation.

#### **Change in Class Levels**

13. The class level for each Partnership School is set in the Establishment Gazette Notice. These notices are required to formally approve the sponsors and to establish the school.
14. As part of the Rise UP Trust's application to increase their maximum roll, they have also requested a change in class level from a contributing Year 1-6 school to a composite Year 1-10 school. There are no specific clauses set out in the Partnership Schools Agreement that cover the change in class level.
15. If you approve a change in class and to increase the maximum roll, you will be required to sign a contract variation for the maximum roll change and a Gazette notice for the change in class level.

#### **Analysis of the Application**

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##### **Educational Achievement**

16. The Rise UP Academy was reviewed by the Education Review Office (ERO) between September 2013 and June 2014. ERO completed a readiness review that was designed to provide assurance to the Ministry that the Sponsor was prepared to operate effectively as a school once it opened [METIS 868887 refers].
17. ERO reported that The Rise UP Academy was fit for purpose and had good engagement with its students. The key findings from ERO include:
  - i. data indicated high levels of student attendance at the school
  - ii. governance and management roles are clearly defined and good processes are in place to sustain effective governance and good school management systems have been established
  - iii. warm, respectful relationships between staff and students and purposeful learning were evident in the classroom
  - iv. the Trust has been successful in attracting teachers who are engaged in the local community.

18. ERO also identified areas for further development, these include:
- i. teachers' understanding of the use of assessment processes to identify individual learning needs
  - ii. teachers' capacity to report on student achievement in relation to National Standards
  - iii. ongoing monitoring of how well the school promotes a safe physical environment
  - iv. provision of specialist resources for science, reading and art.
19. The Sponsor has constructed a plan that address the points raised by ERO and is working through these.
20. ERO is also currently undertaking a New School Assurance Review for the school which is designed to provide public assurance as to whether the school has effective processes and planning to provide quality education for its community. This review is anticipated to be completed in November 2014.
21. The Rise UP Academy's mid-year achievement data reported to the Ministry (as required by clause 18.3(a) of their Agreement) shows the sponsor is well placed to meet its contractual obligations in relation to the performance standard for student achievement. From the mid-year achievement data the school has self-identified the need to invest further in writing, particularly for their Year 4-6 students and has developed plans to address this.

**Property**

22. The school has established in leased grounds from the Providence Presbyterian Church. The lease equals the term of the Partnership School Agreement, including the renewal terms. The Sponsor intends to modify its existing premise to accommodate the additional 100 students.

**Projected Roll Growth**

23. The current roll at the Rise UP Academy is 48 (50 is the contracted establishment roll) and the Trust has applied to adjust the maximum roll to 200, growing incrementally over the next four years.
24. The Cabinet Guideline is that a primary school's roll should be at least 100 students within the first three years of approval [EHC Min (01) 7/5]. The Sponsor has been able to provide evidence to the Ministry through quarterly reporting that operating its school with a maximum roll of 100 is unsustainable. The school needs to grow its roll to continue to remain economically viable.

25. The table below shows the Sponsor's revised proposed incremental growth across Years 1-8 over the next five years:

Year Level	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	11	26	20	25	25	25
2	7	12	25	25	25	25
3	8	10	20	25	25	25
4	14	12	20	25	25	25
5	6	14	20	25	25	25
6	4	10	20	25	25	25
7		16	20	25	25	25
8			20	25	25	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>

26. The Sponsor has received up to 40 enquiries about enrolments for 2015 and it has 25 new enrolments across Years 1-6 for 2015. It is confident of achieving its proposed roll of 100 students in 2015.

#### **Network**

27. The Rise UP Academy currently draws its students from a much wider catchment area than the immediate Mangere area which is consistent with the fact that Partnership Schools are schools-of-choice. Half of the current roll is drawn from Mangere (24%) and Mangere East (26%) and half from across Manurewa Papatoetoe, Clover Park, Favona, Wiri, North Park and Weymouth.
28. Schools in the Mangere and Mangere East areas are the schools that are most likely to be affected by this proposal. Mangere and Mangere East area has a range of schools; state, state integrated, independent and now a Partnership School.
29. Many of the surrounding schools are full primary schools and many students choose to remain at their primary school for Years 7 and 8. This pattern is expected to continue if the Rise UP Trust is given approval to provide for Years 7 and 8. The school that is most likely to be affected by the change is Sir Douglas Bader Intermediate, the only intermediate school in the area.
30. It is difficult to estimate what, if any impact this proposal would actually have on Sir Douglas Bader Intermediate. The existence of other Year 7 and 8 options in the local network (the full primary schools) has tended to limit the numbers of students in the area that choose to attend the Intermediate. The roll of this school is currently on a downward trend, but has seen fluctuations over the past 10-15 years. The Intermediate currently has the most surplus capacity in the Mangere network of schools.
31. Based on the Rise UP Academy's predicted enrolment numbers and where they are currently drawing their population from, we estimate that of a total predicated roll of 165 in 2016, 40 in Years 7 and 8, nine Year 7 and 8 students will come from the Mangere area. Consequently, we expect the impact on the schools in Mangere and Mangere East to be minimal.

### Consultation

32. If you approve the application from the Rise UP Trust, the Ministry will notify the state schools surrounding the Rise UP Academy of the changes to the roll and class level. There is no requirement in the legislation that the Ministry or Minister consults with state schools when considering applications of this nature, nor is it appropriate as these schools are managed through a contractual agreement.
33. The Trust have consulted with whānau within its schooling community with 92% of whānau responding and 87.5% providing support for the school to extend to Years 7 and 8 in 2015.

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### Ministry Recommendation

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35. The Ministry recommends that you approve the change the class level to include Years 7 and 8 and adjust the maximum roll from 100 to 200 students.
36. The application from the Rise UP Trust to open a Partnership School in 2014 was originally approved to be taken forward to contract discussions on the basis of a Year 1-8 school [CAB Min (13) 24/15 refers]. The Trust has identified and evidenced an increasing demand for their schooling type and to provide for Year 7 and 8 students.
37. Whilst it is still early into the term of the contract for the school to demonstrate accelerated and sustained student achievement results, the school has had a favourable report from ERO and has demonstrated early favourable achievement results<sup>1</sup>. The Ministry is confident that the school is well placed to exceed the minimum performance standards relating to student achievement.

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<sup>1</sup> The achievement data submitted by the Rise UP Trust is still to be substantiated and verified, but the early results look positive.



38. We do not recommend extending the class level to include Years 9 and 10 at this stage as this part of the proposal requires further planning and development. Our recommendation has been discussed with the Trust and we have suggested that the Trust resubmit their application in 2015 to extend to Years 9 and 10 for the start of 2016. This would provide the Trust an opportunity to:
- develop their Education Plan for Years 9 and 10
  - develop plans for accommodating Years 9 and 10
  - meet their targeted roll of 100 students in 2015.
39. We recommend that the Rise UP Trust's maximum roll be adjusted from 100 to 200 students and the class level be adjusted to include Years 7 and 8.
40. If you approve this recommendation, we request you sign the attached:
- i. New Zealand Gazette Notice that details the change of class
  - ii. letter to the Sponsor informing it of your decision
  - iii. contract variation that records the changes to the Rise UP Agreement to:
    - increase the provision of class years to include Years 7 and 8, and the associated performance standards;
    - increase to the maximum roll.

#### Updating the Memorandum of Appointment

41. On 19 August 2014 you agreed to appoint the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support, under clause 34.1(a) of the Partnership Schools Agreement to administer those agreements on your behalf [METIS 878319 refers].
42. On 11 September 2014, you approved and signed agreements with four Sponsors to open Partnership Schools in February 2015 [METIS 883895]. We now seek to have those agreements added to the Memorandum of Appointment which enables the Deputy Secretary, Sector Enablement and Support to administer those agreements on your behalf.
43. The powers and duties table contained in the Memorandum of Appointment has also been updated to include clause 18.2(b, c and e). This will allow the appointed person to receive reports (quarterly and annual reports) from the Sponsors, review and approve them on your behalf.
44. In making any decisions under this appointment, there will continue to be a practice of 'no surprises' for the Minister.

## Gazette Notices

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45. On 10 September 2014 you approved the following variations to Partnership School Agreements [METIS 868887 refers]:

**Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Charitable Trust**

- i. Change of the school name from Te Kura Hourua ki Whangaruru to Te Pumanawa O Te Wairua.

**Advance Training Centres Limited**

- ii. Change of the Sponsor name from Advance Training Centres Limited to Advance Training Group.

46. For these variations to take effect they are required to be notified in the New Zealand Gazette. We request you sign the attached Gazette Notices.