

# INDICATION OF INTEREST

in applying to operate a  
Partnership School | Kura Hourua opening in 2014

**TAURANGA ALPHA ACADEMY**

ISSUED 14 DECEMBER 2012  
DUE 1 FEBRUARY 2013

Please send the completed document and direct all questions to  
[chair@partnershipschools.education.govt.nz](mailto:chair@partnershipschools.education.govt.nz)

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The Education Amendment Bill sets out the legal framework for Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua and is currently being considered by the Education and Science Select Committee. The Select Committee is due to report back to Parliament by 18 April 2013.

The application process for Partnership Schools | Kura Hourua is subject to the passage of the Education Amendment Bill through the House of Representatives.

Information supplied in this indication of interest will be subject to the Official Information Act and may be scrutinised by a Select Committee or external agencies (e.g. Office of the Auditor General). All parties submitting an indication of interest should assume that the full content of their submission will be released in due course.

## SCHOOL CONTACTS AND PROFILE

In completing this Indication of Interest please single click on the shaded text box and type in your text.

### Proposed School

**Name** Tauranga Alpha Academy

### Proposed Sponsor

*Sponsor is the formal term for the entity that contracts with the Crown to operate a Partnership School / Kura Hourua. The sponsor of a Partnership School has to be a "body," such as a board, trust, company, or other legal entity.*

*The sponsor is able to delegate any of their responsibilities to a third party, for example they may nominate a person to manage the school from day to day, but they are ultimately responsible for the contract with the Crown.*

*Despite the name, the sponsor is not necessarily required to provide funding for the school, although they may do so.*

**Name**

### Primary Contact

*Identify the person who will be the primary point of contact for your team. This individual will serve as the contact for all communications, scheduling, and notices regarding your indication of interest.*

**Name** S 9(2)(a) OIA

**Mailing Address** S 9(2)(a) OIA

**Phone: Day** S 9(2)(a) OIA

**Cell phone:** S 9(2)(a) OIA

**Email** S 9(2)(a) OIA

**Fax** N/A

### School Profile

**School Type (e.g. primary, middle, secondary, bilingual, immersion)** Middle to Secondary

**Proposed location** Tauranga

**Year levels in first year of operation** Year 7

**Year levels at full enrolment** Year 7 to Year 13



## A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND GOALS

### 1. Purpose

Why do you propose to open this school?

Having worked within the education system for over a decade and currently networking with all major social service agencies within Tauranga plus forming solid relationships with NETS and MoE there is the reoccurring fact that the numbers of alienated school aged children within Tauranga is growing by the year with the common reason behind this including the fact that mainstream just doesn't suit everyone, problems arising from the students homes that are not being currently addressed nor supported, and the real need for a type of student learning that is focused on the students interests rather than learning-for-the-sake-of-learning. I also believe that many students, predominately from low socio-economic communities are not being able to fairly access higher learning opportunities that should be available irrespective of their background, behavioural issues or family status.

There are also benefits with having a school that continues on from Intermediate and through to High School. From experience and from the many students I have interviewed there is the common belief that the transition from Intermediate to High School can be very hard and often students can become 'lost' within a larger school and this can consequently lead to problems such as disinterest, drop in confidence etc. By maintaining our younger students, and with the same students and teacher all the way through the entirety of their learning it is thought that students will stay engaged, become more confident and able learners leading them to better opportunities in study, employment and life.

Describe the school's distinctive mission/vision and how will it enable student engagement and achievement.

*"Equal opportunities in a real-life learning environment for all."*

The Tauranga Alpha Academy is determined to become one of the finest learning environments in the country by providing students with an authentic learning programme with strong focuses on Literacy and Numeracy, the Performing Arts and, High Performance Sports Programme run by proven professionals and adequately trained contract subject specialists.

Students become despondent when they compare their personal circumstances or inadequacies with those more able or financially equipped for better opportunities. This, is pure academic injustice. The current programme that I run in Tauranga allows all my students the opportunity to develop a positive love of learning since they learn how important learning is to creating better opportunities in life. Students become engaging and confident learners if they can have the opportunity to gain skills around their interests rather than being told to just do what is expected – this is not equality learning and the Tauranga Alpha Academy will focus its energy on making sure that a community of learners is created through developed and respectful relationships between students and teachers and the idea that each teacher follow their initial year 7 class all the way through to year 13.

We will also focus on appreciating and accepting diverse cultures and learning styles making sure that all students have access to world class academics, programmes and facilitators.

## 2. Goals

What are the school's performance goals and how will these be measured?

It is important to mention at this stage that Tauranga Alpha Academy will operate on the belief that old-school methods work best. If there is a strong ethos and structure around respect and students respecting themselves and those around them that simply through this I believe that students will gain a better sense of self-worth and hence will be more equipped to succeed academically due to the strong community nature of the school.

Our goals will be focused around students obtaining adequate Numeracy and Literacy levels, all students completing yearly projects to demonstrate their personal growth and all students to participate in the schools Performing Arts and Sports Programme. We aim to see 100% of students completing years 7 to 13 then to successfully transition into higher learning such as University or Polytechnic. We expect all students to complete at least NCEA levels 1 and 2 and we also aim to see high attendance and participation rates from our students.

These goals will be measured in the first instance through comparisons from initial pre-enrolment testing covering each students Numeracy and Literacy levels (as indicated within Individual Learning Plans) through to follow up scores through standardised testing to monitor each students development.

To measure all other academic requirements this will be monitored sufficiently by all teaching staff plus class facilitators who will determine if goals set within each students ILP have been met.

The advantage of Tauranga Alpha Academy measuring abilities is based on the premise that each class facilitator/ teacher will stay with their group of 15 students from year 7 through to year 13. This will enable teachers to adequately gauge and data graph precise and factual progress with each student rather than just focusing on passed on data from say a previous teacher.

### Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for a statements of purpose and goals which:

- are clear, focused and compelling
- are likely to produce high-quality outcomes
- express clear guiding principles, and
- are the driving force behind all other components of the IOI.

It needs to be clear to reviewers that the school's proposed educational, operations and business plans are all aligned in support of the purpose, mission/vision and goals.

Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, and relevant and time bound.



## B EDUCATIONAL PLAN

### 1 Proposed Student Population and Educational Need

Describe the proposed student population and their educational needs.

Tauranga Alpha Academy will not just focus purely on at-risk students or those deemed alienated from mainstream. Rather, our student population will be made up with those students whereby mainstream is just not working out for them and where there is a clear need and desire to provide a more "individualised" approach rather than segregated learning. The student populations' educational needs will be no different from those in mainstream, which is – the desire to learn and develop as an individual within a positive and encouraging learning community and how to be a part of that community. The difference, in terms of presentation/ programme delivery is that all students will receive an authentic learning plan that each student will have responsibility over and more closely monitored 1:1 supervision.

It would be expected though that many of our students will be in the lower Numeracy and Literacy and social skills category.

Describe any challenges to learning that the proposed student population may face.

Low reading and writing skills, lack of basic maths knowledge, behavioural issues, family issues, communication problems, lack of social skills and life skills, low confidence and motivation, loss of hope or desire to learn, inability to focus and a lack of self-worth.

#### Evaluation

Reviewers will be looking for statements that demonstrate:

- a knowledge of the educational and other needs of the proposed student population and the area in which the school will be located, and
- a clear intention to target and attract the Government's priority learners, including Māori, Pasifika, learners from low socio-economic backgrounds and learners with special education needs.

### 2 Learning Environment, Teaching and Curriculum

Provide an overview of the essential elements of the education programme of the proposed school, including key teaching practices and evaluation and assessment strategies.

It would be initially hoped that we can access academic material and programming from Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu until such time that we can develop our own academic material and as such gain approval through NZQA.

Describe the curriculum that your school will use. If this is not the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) or Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (TMOA) please describe how this aligns with the key elements of one of these documents.

NZC