

Isolation Index 2023 Fact Sheet

What is the Isolation Index?

We know that more isolated schools and kura face higher costs for certain things, for example getting in tradespeople or if they need to get something shipped. We provide them with additional funding to help with those additional costs.

Since 2001, we've used the Isolation Index to identify which schools and kura are the most isolated. The Isolation Index tells us how isolated each school and kura is by measuring how far away they are from towns/cities of three different sizes where they typically access most goods and services.

How does it work/what has changed?

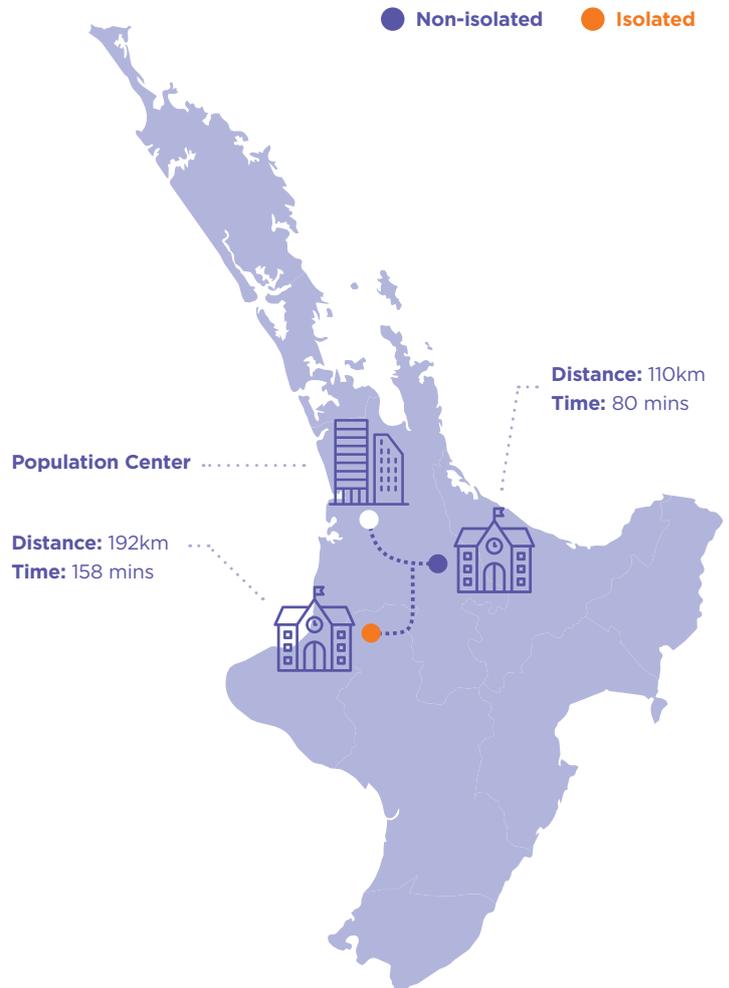
The Isolation Index previously used data from 2001 and measured isolation purely based on distance. We've updated it with the latest data, added travel time as a measure (as we can now do this reliably) and reduced the largest town/city size that we measure a school's distance and travel time from. This means we are measuring better and targeting more precisely where isolation is most felt.

We're also removing the per-student component from Targeted Funding for Isolation which is additional funding we give to isolated schools. We heard from schools and kura that the smaller their size, the more it compounds isolation. Schools now will receive funding based on their level of isolation alone.

What the changes mean

Schools have a new Isolation Index number between 0.01 and 6.63 (excludes the three schools on the Chatham Islands). A higher number means a school is more isolated.

Schools and kura with a number of 1.27 or higher will be eligible for Targeted Funding for Isolation and a top up for some property related funding (5 Year Agreement Funding and the Property Maintenance Grant).



Old Isolation Method



2001 population data
2001 road data

Based on distance only

Scale – 0.01 - 7.1

Mean – 0.91

Median – 0.71

Minimum Resourcing Threshold – 1.65

New Isolation Method



2018 population data
2020 road data

Measured on the fastest route over navigable public roads. This will be updated after each census

Travel Time
Distance

An average of the actual speed when driving between locations using the same roads as the distance calculation.

Scale – 0.01 - 6.63

Mean – 0.75

Median – 0.41

Minimum Resourcing Threshold – 1.27

Note that changes to the Isolation Index mean the scale has also changed. A schools' old and new numbers Isolation index numbers are not comparable.

Have questions? Email: equity.index@education.govt.nz

Read more about the Isolation Index
<https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/equity-index/faq-isolation-index-changes/>