



Education Report: Revised Package of Investments to Re-engage Students in Auckland

To	Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
cc	Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Education Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education		
Date:	22 October 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1274797
Drafter:	Richard Joblin	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Susan Howan	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	Yes / No

Purpose of Report

- The paper responds to your feedback on earlier proposals to support urgent and immediate efforts to identify, connect engage and re-engage students in education in Auckland and seeks agreement to:
 - seven initiatives to support urgent and immediate efforts to re-engage disadvantaged students in education in Auckland (totalling \$14.947 million in 2021/22 only);
 - changes within Vote Education to fund these initiatives.

Summary

- On 6 October 2021, Cabinet Business Committee agreed to delegate the Ministers of Finance and Education, in consultation with the Associate Minister of Education, the power to make fiscally neutral adjustments within non-departmental appropriations in Vote Education (up to \$15 million) to support urgent measures to re-engage students in education following COVID-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4 in Auckland [CBC-21-MIN-0115 refers].
- We have begun implementation of additional counselling support to improve the wellbeing of students, with a particular focus on those enrolled in years 6-9, decile 1-3 schools, Māori

and Pacific ākonga (\$1.5 million). The counselling costs are being met from within the Counselling in Schools allocation (\$1.5 million)

- We recommend the following four initiatives as a package of immediate support for the identification, connection and re-engagement of students in education in Auckland in Term 4 2021 and to support them to stay engaged in 2022:
 - targeted support to Māori and Pacific providers to support them to respond to the immediate and urgent needs of Māori and Pacific students (all ages from 0) within their whānau, to meet their needs and enable them to re-engage in learning (\$6.0 million);
 - a Rapid Resurgence Fund to provide flexible support to schools and kura with the greatest needs to reach out and reengage ākonga (all Years) in schooling and to support them to stay engaged (\$3 million)
 - support for students with identified moderate to high learning needs (Years 0-13) who are attending school, including learners with disabilities to support their reengagement in schooling (\$1 million);
 - redeploying Te Kura 400 to support at-risk secondary students in Auckland to re-engage in learning, with a focus on Māori and Pacific ākonga (\$2.217 million);
 - additional capacity in Attendance Services to support rapid responses for ākonga referred by schools and kura, or who have become non-enrolled during lockdown (\$600,000).
- In addition we recommend for early 2022:
 - scaling up of Check and Connect to provide additional mentors for at risk students referred by schools and kura to support them to remain engaged in learning (\$630,000).
- This package provides immediate support in Term 4 to identify and connect ākonga to learning, as well as components that will continue into 2022 to maintain engagement. Through this approach we aim to both re-engage ākonga in learning and sustain their engagement into 2022.
- The following savings have been identified that can be reprioritised in 2021/22 to support these efforts to re-engage students in education in Auckland:
 - Learning Support Coordinators redirected to in class support (\$1.5 million);
 - Food in Schools (\$3.7 million);
 - Learning Support Co-ordinators (\$2.7 million);
 - Primary Education (\$2 million);
 - COVID-19 Support Scheme for Schools (\$3.6 million).
- Once the proposed initiatives and consequential baseline adjustments are agreed the Ministry will begin implementation to allow support to commence in Term Four 2021.
- The Ministry is also developing a targeted communications approach for engagement in learning including the return to face to face learning in Auckland, that addresses wider parental and student concerns related to health and safety of that return and student concerns about achievement and assessment pressures in Term 4 2021.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

- a **note** that, in response to the need for urgent measures to re-engage students in education following Alert Levels 4 and 3 in Auckland, Cabinet Business Committee.
- i. authorised the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Jan Tinetti) to approve fiscally neutral adjustments of up to \$15 million from 2021/22 non-departmental appropriations within Vote Education to support work to re-engage students in education following the current Alert Levels 4 and 3 in Auckland.
 - ii. agreed that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
 - iii. noted that the Ministry of Education will provide regular financial and implementation reporting to joint Ministers [CBC-21-MIN-0115 refers];

Noted

Hon Grant Robertson

Noted

Hon Chris Hipkins

Noted

Hon Jan Tinetti

- b **note** that the Ministry of Education is providing counselling support to meet the urgent wellbeing needs of students in years 6-9, enrolled in decile 1-3 schools in Auckland at a cost of \$1.5 million in 2021/22 only with the costs being met by redirecting funding within Counselling in Schools [CAB-20-MIN-0305 refers];

Noted

Hon Grant Robertson

Noted

Hon Chris Hipkins

Noted

Hon Jan Tinetti

Identifying, connecting and re-engaging students in education in Auckland

- c **agree** to a programme of targeted support to re-engage Māori and Pacific students within their whānau into education by responding to their immediate and urgent needs at a cost of \$3 million for Māori and \$3 million for Pacific (a total cost of \$6 million) in 2021/22 only;

Agreed/Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

- d **agree** to establish a fund to provide Rapid Resurgence Funding, flexible support targeted to schools and kura with the greatest needs to connect and reengage ākonga (Years 0-13) and support them to stay engaged at a cost of \$3 million in 2021/22 only;

Agreed/Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

- e **agree** to provide additional support for students with identified moderate to high learning needs in Auckland (including learners with disabilities) at a cost of \$1 million in 2021/22;

Agreed Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

- f **agree** to redeploying Te Kura 400 to support at-risk secondary students in Auckland to stay engaged or to re-engage in learning, at the cost of \$2.217 million in 2021/22 only;

Agreed Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

- g **agree** to fund additional capacity in Attendance Services to support rapid responses for ākonga referred by schools and kura or who have become non-enrolled during lockdown at a cost of \$0.6 million in 2021/22 only;

Agreed Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

Supporting students to remain engaged

- h **agree** to fund scaling up of Check and Connect provide additional mentors to support at risk students referred by school and kura remain engaged in learning at a cost of \$0.63 million in 2021/22 only;

Agreed Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

Funding these initiatives

- i **agree** to reprioritise the following savings from 2021/22 to fund these initiatives (recommendations c-h above):
- iv. Food in Schools [(CAB-19-MIN-0329 refers], \$3.700 million from one-off savings in 2021/22 from savings in food costs during the COVID 19 lockdown Alert Level;
 - v. Learning Support Co-ordinators [CAB-18-MIN-0526 refers], \$3.200 million from one-off savings in 2021/22 from Learning Support Coordinators salary underspend as a result of coordinators being appointed at average salary costs lower than expected and budgeted;
 - vi. Primary Education, \$2.000 million from underspends and school roll changes;
 - vii. COVID-19 Support Scheme for Schools [SWC-21-MIN-0092 refers], \$3.600 million in one off savings in 2021/22 from schools being in a better financial position than initially anticipated;
 - viii. Learning Support Coordinators, redirect \$1.000 million in 2021/22 only from salary underspend to fund support for students with identified moderate to high learning needs in Auckland;

Agreed/Not Agreed

Hon Grant Robertson

Agree/Not Agree

Hon Chris Hipkins

Agree/Not Agreed

Hon Jan Tinetti

- j **approve** the following fiscally neutral changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decisions in recommendations c-h above, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt:

Vote Education Minister of Education	\$m - increase / (decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Outcomes for Target Student Groups MCA:					
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
School Lunch Programme	(3.700)	-	-	-	-
Learning Support and Alternative Education	7.083	-	-	-	-
Primary and Secondary Education MCA:					
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
Secondary Education	1.017	-	-	-	-
<i>Non-Departmental Output Expense:</i>					
Primary Education	(4.400)				
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-

Approved/Not Approved

Hon Grant Robertson

Approved/Not Approved

Hon Chris Hipkins

Approved/Not Approved

Hon Jan Tinetti

- k **note** that the COVID-19 Support Scheme for Schools savings initiative above assumes that joint Ministers will agree the final transfer of \$14.1 million from the projected underspend in funding in 2020/21 to 2021/22 as part of the 2021 October Baseline Update to support schools to manage the immediate costs of COVID-19 [SWC-21-MIN-0092 refers];
- l **note** that the Ministry of Education will develop communications regarding the range of supports available for the return to face-to-face learning in Auckland.

Noted

Hon Grant Robertson

Noted

Hon Chris Hipkins

Noted

Hon Jan Tinetti

Proactive Release

- m **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this report once you have had an opportunity to announce these decisions subject to any redactions in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☐ Agree / ☐ Disagree



Dr David Wales
Poutohu Matua | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
National Director Learning Support
Delivery
Te Pae Aronui
22/10/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

24/10/2021



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

28/10/2021

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

 / /

Recommendations

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Hon Jan Tinetti

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- f **agree** to redeploying Te Kura 400 to support at-risk secondary students in Auckland to stay engaged or to re-engage in learning, at the cost of \$2.217 million in 2021/22 only;

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- l **note** that the Ministry of Education will develop communications regarding the range of supports available for the return to face-to-face learning in Auckland.

Noted

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Hon Chris Hipkins

Noted

Hon Jan Tinetti

Proactive Release

- m **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this report once you have had an opportunity to announce these decisions subject to any redactions in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**



Dr David Wales
Poutohu Matua | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
National Director Learning Support
Delivery
Te Pae Aronui
22/10/2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

___/___/___



Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

___/___/___

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

25/10 2021

Re-engagement in education in Auckland

1. On 6 October 2021, Cabinet Business Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance, in consultation with the Associate Minister of Education (Hon Jan Tinetti), the power to jointly make fiscally neutral adjustments of up to \$15 million within 2021/22 non-departmental appropriations in Vote Education, to support the urgent implementation of an equitable, robust response to re-engage students in education in Auckland [CBC-21-MIN-0115 refers].
2. On 8 October 2021, we provided advice on the package of measures we proposed to urgently support students in Auckland re-engage in education [METIS 1273949, refers]. Ministers subsequently requested advice on a revised approach that placed greater emphasis on ākonga, and schools and kura, with the greatest needs.
3. This revised approach and package, therefore, targets those students in Auckland most in need of support to re-engage, with a strong focus on equity. The package pays particular attention to the need to identify, connect and reengage students and then maintain that connection with learning. The package includes components that can support ākonga in primary and secondary settings, and learning at home. It also provides opportunities to link with related activities funded by other agencies (including Ministry of Social Development and Whānau Ora providers) through brokerage undertaken by community providers. We have also recognised the need to address wider whānau concerns about their children returning to face to face learning and concerns amongst students themselves about COVID-19, being back at school, and end of year assessment pressures.
4. To be successful, support needs to have a strong focus on equity, be made available through schools and communities to reach those with the greatest needs arising from the impact of COVID-19 and lockdowns. The revised package of immediate responses will build on and enhance existing services and supports and will reach out to ākonga and families not yet planning to return to school or kura.
5. The package for Auckland recognises the immediate focus is on Term 4 2021 (including but not limited to senior secondary school students facing pressures to achieve NCEA credits) and that success also depends on ensuring students then stay engaged in education so they have opportunities to achieve educational success. The package recognises the risk that if we do not re-engage ākonga in Term 4 and support them through into next year, they will not return to school and be lost to education, or face another hard re-start at the beginning of Term 1 2022. It, therefore, includes initiatives that not only actively reconnect disadvantaged students to learning but that support them to remain engaged and be ready to go again on day one of Term 1, 2022 (eg Te Kura 400).
6. The measures set out below recognise the need to target support to students whose learning is most impacted by not being able to remain engaged in learning during the lockdown in Auckland and the wider experience of lockdown and its negative impacts. It also reflects that, fundamentally, reconnecting ākonga with schools supports wellbeing and learning, not just learning. The package has seven components:

Supporting wellbeing and engagement - already underway

- 6.1. \$1.5 million in 2021/22 only – counselling support to improve wellbeing of students in years 6-9 attending or wanting to attend school with a focus on Māori and Pacific ākonga;

Identifying, connecting and re-engaging students in education in Auckland

- 6.2. \$6 million in 2021/22 only - targeted support through Māori and Pacific providers to re-engage Māori and Pacific students within their whānau into education, responding to their immediate and urgent needs (\$3 million for Māori, \$3m for Pacific);

- 6.3. \$3 million in 2021/22 only – Rapid Resurgence Fund to provide flexible support to schools and kura with the greatest needs to connect and reengage ākonga (Years 0-13) and support them to stay engaged;
 - 6.4. \$1.0 million in 2021/22 only - support for students with identified moderate to high learning needs (Years 0-10) who are attending or intending to attend school (including those with disabilities);
 - 6.5. \$2.217 million in 2021/22 only - redeploying TK400 (Year 9 up) to support at-risk students in Auckland to stay engaged or to re-engage in learning, with a focus on Māori and Pacific ākonga
 - 6.6. \$600,000 in 2021/22 only - additional capacity into the existing Auckland based Attendance Services to support rapid responses for ākonga referred by schools and kura or who have become non-enrolled during lockdown;
7. *Supporting students to remain engaged*
- 7.1. \$630,000 in 2021/22 only - scaling up of Check and Connect in South Auckland to provide mentors for additional at risk students referred by school and kura;
8. These funds are all expected to be fully distributed during Term 4 2021 and Term 1 2022. The components and relevant funding sources are discussed below.

Redirecting \$2.5 million of existing funding to provide wellbeing supports prior to the return to school and in schools

Counselling (\$1.5 million)

9. The Ministry of Education has identified existing funding that it has redirected in the short-term to provide counselling support for students attending school in Auckland. One-off funding of \$1.5million to 30 June 2022 from within Counselling in Schools (approved in Budget 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0305]) will be used for counselling and wellbeing services to support students in years 6-9 in decile 1-3 schools in Auckland, while they are attending school or as they begin to plan for attending school. The priority groups for funding are Māori and Pacific ākonga.
10. This will allow students to grow their confidence and establish strategies that support them to stay engaged in learning. The funding will be directed first to schools the Ministry's data and local intelligence indicates have students whose engagement in learning is most impacted by lockdown. The funding will support expanded capacity (up to 15,000 sessions) within existing health and wellbeing providers or other approaches that promote wellbeing and strategies that support students to stay engaged in learning.

In-Class Support (\$1.0 million)

11. The Ministry will redirect one-off funding to Auckland to fund additional In-Class Support. This additional support is the most appropriate rapid funding mechanism available to enable schools to make accommodations to support the planning, engagement and return of students with moderate to high learning support needs to school in Term 4. Through the additional teacher aide hours funded, schools will have flexibility to support more individual ākonga prior to their return to school, provide additional support in the classroom, and free up teachers to provide targeted support.
12. We propose the redirection of \$1million funding to additional In-Class Support places in Auckland. This will be available for students who meet the criteria for additional teacher aide support to access the curriculum and reengage in their learning.
13. We have identified funding from the Learning Support Coordinators [CAB-18-MIN-0526 refers], salary underspend that can be redirected to support 220 additional ICS places starting in Term 4 and running through to June 22. Schools will be able to use this for

students who need additional support to access the curriculum and reengage in their learning. This support can start before ākonga return to school.

14. This \$2.5 million is in addition to the reprioritised funding officials have identified from within Vote Education baselines to support the proposed package of initiatives as discussed in paragraph 13 below.

Reprioritising \$12.5 million of existing funding to re-engage students in learning

15. In addition to the \$2.5 million of support described above, we recommend reprioritising \$12.5 million from the following four sources:
 - 15.1. Food in Schools (\$3.7 million from one-off savings in 2021/22);
 - 15.2. Learning Support Co-ordinators (\$3.2 million from one-off savings in 2021/22);
 - 15.3. Primary Education (\$2.0 million from underspends and school roll changes);
 - 15.4. COVID-19 Support Scheme for Schools (\$3.6 million in one off savings in 2021/22).
16. Food in Schools one-off savings in 2021/22 arise from savings in food costs during the COVID 19 lockdown Alert Level. The Ministry met the cost of all prepared lunches and perishables, as well as covering the cost of labour if this was not covered by the wage subsidy.
17. The Learning Support Co-ordinators one-off savings are a result of coordinators being appointed at average salary costs lower than anticipated and budgeted.
18. In June Cabinet agreed in principle to repurpose underspends up to \$14.1 million to implement a COVID-19 Support Scheme for schools [SWC-21-MIN-0092 refers]. The scheme was to have two tiers:
 - 18.1. Tier 1: Financial support to help schools meet immediate, unforeseen costs of COVID-19 lockdown (initially costed at \$6.5 million).
 - 18.2. Tier 2: Intensive support for schools identified as being at-risk due to medium-term impacts of COVID-19 on finances (initially costed at \$7.6 million).

The amount of support required under Tier 2 is now estimated to be \$1.4 million, rather than \$7.6 million because schools are in a better financial position than initially anticipated.

19. We propose this funding is directed to proving immediate support for students to re-engage, and stay engaged, in learning through the following five targeted measures:
 - 19.1. \$6.0 million in 2021/22 only - targeted support through Māori and Pacific providers to re-engage Māori and Pacific students within their whānau into education, responding to their immediate and urgent needs (\$3 million for Māori providers and \$3 million for Pacific providers);
 - 19.2. \$3 million in 2021/22 only – Rapid Resurgence Fund to provide flexible support to schools and kura with the greatest needs to reconnect ākonga to school and support them to stay engaged;
 - 19.3. \$600,000 in 2021/22 only - additional capacity in Attendance Services to support rapid responses for ākonga referred by schools and kura or who have become non-enrolled during lockdown.
 - 19.4. \$2.217 million in 2021/22 only - redeploying TK400 to support at-risk secondary students in Auckland to stay engaged or to re-engage in learning;
 - 19.5. \$630,000 in 2021/22 only - scaling up of Check and Connect to provide additional mentors for at risk students referred by schools and kura;

Redeploying TK400 to support at-risk secondary students in Auckland (\$2.217m in 21/22)

20. We propose re-establishing the Te Kura 400 (TK 400) programme to support at-risk students to re-engage with learning and plan an education pathway. Based on the level of demand experienced last year, with 300 enrolments available for students in Auckland. Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (Te Kura) are currently scoping and assessing capability and resource needs to support delivery of a quality programme. Over the national Level 4 lock down period (18 August – 6 September), Te Kura received 270 new enrolments – all were students from schools within Auckland and from across all year groups.
21. A recent evaluation of the TK400 programme found that it was successful in reaching at-risk students and had positive impacts on student wellbeing and re-engagement. A total of 193 students were enrolled in TK400, filling approximately half of the 400 places set aside. This enabled the programme to be extended. TK400 was delivered throughout Term 4 of 2020 and in Term 1 of 2021. Nearly three-quarters of students who enrolled in TK400 identified as Māori (49 percent) or Pacific (32 percent). For context, Māori students make up 14 percent of all students in Auckland aged 14 years or older, with Pacific students accounting for 20 percent overall. The evaluation suggested the factors that contributed to its success included quickly enrolling students, face to face teaching helped students connect with teachers, mentors and peers, and meeting times and places suited students.
22. TK400 would be phased in from Term 4 2020, connecting with and re-engaging students through the He Oranga Mahuru programme before moving to an individualised learning programme for Terms 1 and 2 2022 (assuming a Level 1 like environment). Kaiāwhina would work in Term 4 to support re-engagement and retention, initially virtually, and remain engaged with students over the summer break to support their retention in education in 2022. This phased approach recognises the changed circumstances that the current lockdown has created for students and communities, and the capability and skillsets needed to support effective delivery of the programme for a second time. We are working through the operational details with Te Kura to support the rapid deployment of the programme.

Targeted Support for Māori And Pacific Students within their Families/Whānau (\$6 million in 2021/22)

23. Following previous lockdowns, Māori and Pacific students, particularly primary school-aged Pacific students, took the longest to return to school. Given the infectiousness of the Delta variant and the impact of this outbreak across Pacific communities in Auckland and among hard to reach families, we expect more children will not return to school. During one of the Pacific fono co-hosted by the Ministry of Pacific Peoples and the Ministry of Education last week, a Principal confirmed that 40 Pacific students had unenrolled from his school over the lock down period. Our regional staff had engaged with some of these students to identify and respond to any immediate needs to support their re-engagement in learning.
24. Overall, the negative social and economic effects of lockdown disproportionately impact Māori and Pacific communities. We are also aware that Māori and Pacific families continue to have variable experiences with their local education services so the advent of COVID-19 saw many whānau look to iwi providers, Māori and Pacific communities and social service providers, and church organisations for information and support. There has also been inequitable access to resources that support these students' and their families' to remain engaged in learning over the lockdown period. This has intensified the impact on these students' ability to fully participate in learning and achieve educational success. We consider that providing support directly to communities and whānau, as well as to schools, recognises the role that students' whānau and communities have in supporting them to re-engage in learning; while acknowledging that it is then the role of the school to support those students to then stay engaged.

25. The Ministry will direct source services from existing iwi providers, Māori and Pacific communities and social service providers and church organisations to:
- 25.1. respond to the urgent needs of dis-engaged students within their families who did not get to access the range of resources and supports being delivered across Auckland by government agencies.
 - 25.2. facilitate access to existing services and supports delivered in local communities to meet urgent needs across Māori and Pacific communities in Auckland.
 - 25.3. engage with local schools and actively connect with other providers and organisations to 'stem' the flow of dis-engaged students out of the education system.
26. These funds will focus on immediate and urgent needs and removing barriers to students engaging, re-engaging and staying engaged in learning.

Rapid Resurgence Fund to provide flexible support to schools and kura with the greatest needs to connect and reengage ākonga in Term 4 and support them to stay engaged (\$3 million in 2021/22)

27. Following the nationwide lockdown in 2020, the Government made additional funding available to schools, kura and early learning services me ngā kōhanga reo through the Ministry of Education's Urgent Response Fund (URF). The URF leveraged local knowledge, data and expertise to identify locally developed and led solutions. This is consistent with research undertaken by the Education Review Office about post-lockdown re-engagement.
28. We propose a reshaped and refocused fund to that will provide a direct payment to schools and kura with the greatest need. Allocation will target support to years 0-13 and be weighted for equity.
29. This is designed to help schools and kura identify and connect with ākonga and support them to reengage with school. It will allow them to respond to the immediate needs of ākonga, to enable them to re-engage in learning, prepare for and navigate subject requirements, examinations and 'catch up' learning in Term 4, over the school break and into Term 1 2022. Schools and kura are doing what they can to engage ākonga in online learning and also want to be in the best position possible to maximise in-person learning when onsite learning resumes. Secondary principals have shared with us the view that that Zooms are not engaging ākonga in the way that is needed and that engagement in learning is low. This response will look different for each school and kura and this funding will be a contribution to solutions.
30. The Rapid Resurgence Fund approach reflects the need for supports to be in place quickly for Term 4 and in preparation for Term 1 and gives schools and kura the flexibility they need to respond.

Additional capacity in Attendance Services to support rapid responses for ākonga referred by schools and kura or who have become non-enrolled during lockdown – (\$600,000 in 2021/22)

31. Following the lockdowns in 2020, government provided additional capacity for Attendance Services to support the reengagement of students and respond to notifications of students that had become non-enrolled. Auckland providers received an additional \$679,740. Additional resources for Attendance Services will support them to work with schools to re-engage students, working with other providers, and to locate and reengage student who had disengaged from learning during lockdown and who will eventually become non-enrolled.
32. Given that schools are unlikely to have large numbers of unenrolled students during lockdown (most will have been coded as 'F' - learning from home) and that those who

have not returned to school will not be unenrolled until after 20 days continuous absence, we are exploring an accelerated referral process to allow for the earlier engagement of Attendance Services by schools and earlier identification of students who have become non-enrolled.

Scaling up Check and Connect to provide additional mentors for at risk students referred by school and kura (\$630,000 in 2021/22)

33. Check and Connect is a long-term, educational mentoring programme for students at risk of disengaging from school. Check and Connect is currently working with 140 students in South Auckland. There are nine mentors but the programme can scale-up to support students at risk of disengaging from education following the lockdown. The programme was developed by the University of Minnesota in the late 1990s. In the United States it has proven to help students:
 - 33.1. improve their engagement and retention rates
 - 33.2. develop a positive attitude to learning
 - 33.3. increase their levels of problem solving
 - 33.4. raise their academic performance.
34. A school nominates students based on a number of risk indicators, including lateness to school and classes, incomplete homework and absenteeism. Students accepted onto the programme are matched with a trained Check and Connect mentor. The mentor works with the student to help them to set and achieve their educational goals. This includes working with the student's whānau/family and school, and other service providers who can help the student achieve their goals. As with the existing programme, at-risk students would be referred by schools and kura. The programme has a strong whānau, ākonga, and school focused and is provided by social sector providers. Check and Connect also aligns well with school wide PB4L approaches.

Communications

35. The Ministry will deliver targeted communications for engaging in learning, including the return to face to face learning in Auckland, that addresses wider parental and student concerns related to health and safety of that return as well as achievement and assessment pressures in Term 4 2021. We propose to translate materials and use multiple communication channels to reach as widely as possible into communities.

Working collectively with other agencies to reach and re-engage disadvantaged students

36. In implementing this additional support we will coordinate efforts to identifying and re-engaging young people in learning. We will work with schools, Attendance Services, Māori and Pacific providers and connect with other agencies working with disadvantaged young people and their whānau, with a focus on the Ministry of Social Development and Whānau Ora providers. Many of the counselling providers are community-based, Māori and Pacific providers contracted by the Ministry and some Attendance Service providers are also Whānau Ora providers and/or hold youth service contracts or other MSD contracts. Providers often work alongside statutory and non-statutory agencies, which provides the opportunity to collaborate, coordinate referrals and broker services. This also provides an opportunity for schools and kura to connect with these wider services and to support referrals. The aim will be to avoid multiple agency duplication of effort with students and their whānau.

Table One: Summary of Initiatives and Savings

Spending Initiative	Appropriation	(\$M)
Te Kura 300	Non-Departmental Output Expense: Secondary Education	2.217
Support for Māori and Pacific learners and whānau	Non-Departmental Output Expenses: Learning Support and Alternative Education	6.000
Rapid Resurgence Fund	Non-Departmental Output Expenses: Learning Support and Alternative Education	3.000
Scaling up Check and Connect in South Auckland	Non-Departmental Output Expenses: Learning Support and Alternative Education	0.630
Additional capacity in Attendance Services	Non-Departmental Output Expenses: Learning Support and Alternative Education	0.600
Counselling support to improve wellbeing of students attending school (refocused to Auckland)	Non-Departmental Output Expense: Primary Education	1.500
In-class support for students with identified moderate to high learning needs who are attending school		1.000
Total		14.947
Saving Initiatives		
Food in Schools	Non-Departmental Output Expenses: <i>School Lunch Programme</i> :	3.700
Learning Support Coordinators	Non-Departmental Output Expenses: <i>Learning Support and Alternative Education</i>	2.700
Primary Education	Non-Departmental Output Expense: <i>Primary Education</i>	2.000
Learning Support Coordinators – for In Class Support		1.500
Counselling		1.500
COVID-19 Support Scheme for Schools	Non-Departmental Output Expense:	
	<i>Primary Education</i>	2.400
	<i>Secondary Education</i>	1.200
Total		15.000

Proactively Released