



Factsheet and FAQs for schools

Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Programme funding

What do I need to know?

What is this funding?

New funding is available for schools with students enrolled in Pacific bilingual and immersion programmes at levels 1 and 2.

This funding will be available from January 2022 on an ongoing basis. This funding will be a permanent part of the operational funding for eligible schools from 2022.

How can I access this funding?

Payments will be made through the standard operational grant payment processes. All state and state-integrated schools are eligible for funding from January 2022 if they meet the criteria.

If your school operates an immersion level 1 and/or level 2 Pacific language unit in 2021 and

- your school included the number of students in these programmes in your *March 2021 roll return* and include them again in your July 2021 roll return, you won't need to do anything.
- your school did *not* include the number of students in these programmes in your March 2021 roll return, you will need to include these students in your July 2021 roll return.

The Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Programme funding will be shown in schools' September provisional funding notice that report level 1 and 2 students in their July 2021 roll return. Payments will be included in the usual quarterly operational funding payments.

Ongoing payments in future years will be based on roll return data, in the same way as other operational grant components.

What is bilingual and immersion education?

Bilingual education means teaching in two languages with both used as a medium of instruction and to deliver curriculum content. Pacific bilingual and immersion education use a Pacific language for at least 51% of the class time.

The Ministry uses the following definitions:

- Immersion education in Aotearoa New Zealand uses the target Pacific language as the medium of instruction for 81% or more of the time. This is also referred to as level 1 on the immersion scale.
- Bilingual Pacific language education uses a Pacific language as the medium of instruction for at least 51% of the time. This is also referred to as level 2 on the immersion scale.

The Ministry measures the proportion of time a class is taught in two languages through school roll returns and records the language immersion level.

Language immersion level (highest level of learning in language)	Pacific languages programme definition (per week teaching time)	Equivalent to
Level 1	81 – 100% (20+ hours per week)	Immersion
Level 2	51 – 80% (12.5 to 20 hours per week)	Bilingual

We expect programmes at levels 1 and 2 to be delivering teaching and learning across the curriculum in bilingual and immersion settings.

The Ministry of Education uses school roll returns to gather data on teaching in two languages and to define the language immersion level. It will also use this data to make payments.

How do you know which schools are offering Pacific bilingual and immersion education?

We will know which schools are offering Pacific bilingual and immersion education from the data schools report in their roll returns.

What do you mean by Pacific languages?

The Ministry's current definition of Pacific languages are the indigenous languages from the Pacific region. This includes the following Pacific languages:

- te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani | Cook Islands Māori
- gagana Tokelau | Tokelauan
- vagahau Niue | Niuean
- gagana Sāmoa | Samoan
- lea faka Tonga | Tongan
- Vosa vaka-Viti | Fijian
- te gana Tuvalu | Tuvaluan
- te taetae ni Kiribati | Kiribati
- te leo Wale | Pukapuka Language | Bukabukan
- Fäeag Rotŕam | Rotuman
- Pijin | Solomon Islands
- dorerin Naoero | Nauruan
- reo Tahiti | Tahitian
- Bislama | Vanuatu and other indigenous languages of Vanuatu.

How do I report a student in Pacific bilingual or immersion education in my school roll return?

In your Student Management System (SMS), each of your students' records have the option to add a Pacific medium language and Pacific medium level to them. Once populated, this information will automatically be included in the student data file you send to the Ministry. Some SMSs may populate these fields automatically from students' timetables, but this can be overridden manually if necessary.

When you generate and validate your roll return in your SMS, Audit Table 9 displays your school-level Pacific medium aggregations. There is no change to how this operates in your SMS.

Please refer to the School Roll Return Guidelines for more information or contact your SMS vendor directly if you have any technical queries regarding where and how to find these Pacific medium fields in your system.

If you do not use a SMS, then please ensure that you add the relevant Pacific language and level for each applicable student in the Student List sheet of the Excel template return that you complete.

You can find more information by contacting the Resourcing mailbox at resourcing@education.govt.nz or in the following Frequently Asked Questions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General FAQs

What are the criteria for schools to receive Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Programme funding?

The school must be a state or state integrated school that offers Pacific bilingual and immersion education programmes at levels 1 or 2 of the Language Programme Immersion scale.

This means that your students are enrolled with:

Immersion	at least 81% medium of instruction in a Pacific language, which is equivalent to more than 20 teaching hours per week.
	the whole curriculum is accessed in an immersion environment.
Bilingual	at least 51% medium of instruction in a Pacific language, which is equivalent to between 12.5 and 20 teaching hours per week
	the whole curriculum is accessed in a bilingual environment.

We expect levels 1 and 2 programmes to be delivering teaching and learning across the curriculum in bilingual and immersion settings. Pacific language offered as a subject, is not eligible for Pacific language funding.

Which Pacific languages are included?

The Pacific language must be one of the indigenous languages from the Pacific region. Our Ministry guidelines and data collection defines the following list as Pacific languages:

- te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani | Cook Islands Māori
- gagana Tokelau | Tokelauan
- vagahau Niue | Niuean
- gagana Sāmoa | Samoan
- lea faka Tonga | Tongan
- Vosa vaka-Viti | Fijian
- te gana Tuvalu | Tuvaluan
- te taetae ni Kiribati | Kiribati
- te leo Wale | Pukapuka Language | Bukabukan
- Fāeag Rotūam | Rotuman
- Pijin | Solomon Islands
- dorerin Naoero | Nauruan
- reo Tahiti | Tahitian
- Bislama | Vanuatu and other indigenous languages of Vanuatu.

Is Pacific bilingual and immersion education different from Pacific medium education?

No. Pacific medium education includes both Pacific bilingual and immersion education. The phrases may be used interchangeably – but essentially refer to the same thing. Generally, the Ministry will use Pacific medium to mean both bilingual and immersion education.

My school is opening a Pacific immersion class for the first time next year. What do we need to do?

If your school is planning to open an immersion level 1 and/or bilingual level 2 Pacific language unit in 2022, continue with your plans. The data will be collected in the March 2022 roll return and you will be paid later in 2022. It will be backdated to January 2022.

Funding will be provided in April if you submit your March roll return in time, otherwise you might have to wait until July. No advance payment is available.

You can still let us know that you plan to open a unit via the July Roll Return Supplementary Survey. This means that we will add you to relevant mailing lists about Pacific medium education and we can start using the data for planning purposes. This will not provide you with payment in advance of the unit opening.

Will there be further support given to teachers and leaders of Pacific bilingual and immersion?

Yes. The Ministry of Education will work with Pacific communities, educators, and leaders to develop networks, peer-to-peer supports for professional learning and development to grow capabilities for bilingual and immersion education in Pacific languages.

This will build on the successful Networks of Expertise model and use a culturally sustaining Pacific approach to professional learning and development. Curriculum resources will also be developed from 2022.

Contact resourcing@education.govt.nz or pacific.educationconversation@education.govt.nz for more information or for any questions.

School Eligibility FAQs

A school has a language unit that teachers 20% of the time in Tongan, 20% in Samoan and 20% in Cook Islands Māori and 40% in English. Is it eligible for funding?

No. An individual Pacific language must be used at least 51% of the time.

How many students must be enrolled in these programmes?

There is no minimum number of students required to be enrolled in programmes.

However, students must be being taught through an organised, formal programme all the time that they are at school and we expect students to be taught and learning separately from English medium and Māori medium classes.

What year level do students have to be?

Students in any year level from years 1-15. Funding is the same for students in all year levels. Pacific language units may combine multiple year levels into one class.

What happens if a school has multiple Pacific language bilingual or immersion units?

If you have multiple Pacific language bilingual or immersion units, you are eligible for funding for each of the students enrolled in these units.

For example, if you have 43 students in level 1 programmes and 55 students in level 2 programmes, you are eligible for funding for 98 students: 43 at the level 1 rate and 55 at the level 2 rate.

What happens if a school has multiple Pacific language bilingual or immersion units in different languages?

If a school has multiple Pacific language bilingual or immersion units, you are eligible for funding for each of the students enrolled in these units. For example, if you have 10 students in lea faka Tonga unit and 5 students in gagana Tokelau, you are eligible for funding for 15 students.

What if schools have students enrolled part time in these programmes?

We expect schools to be offering level 1 and level 2 programmes as full-time programmes. There may be some rare exceptions where some students are participating in other programmes, for example a secondary student in a Gateway or Dual Pathway may be enrolled in a bilingual or immersion programme when they are on site. Contact resourcing@education.govt.nz if you have a specific question.

Can a school still qualify for Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Programme funding if they already receive Māori Language Programme funding?

Yes. The operational grant funding received for Pacific bilingual and/or immersion education does not affect the operational grant funding a school receives for rūmaki (immersion) or reo rua (bilingual) units.

Schools may be eligible for both Māori Language Programme funding and Pacific Bilingual Programme payment if they have both a rumaki /reo rua unit and a Pacific language unit.

Can students in Secondary Tertiary Programmes be eligible for this funding?

No, students enrolled in formal Secondary Tertiary Programmes are not eligible for this funding. This is the same as with Māori Language Programme funding.

What if a school has a te reo Māori-Pacific language bilingual or immersion unit?

A school may be eligible for both Pacific Bilingual and Immersion Programme and Māori Language Programme funding if the school is offering a combined te reo Māori-Pacific language bilingual programme for the same students. If this is case for a school, please contact the Resourcing mailbox on resourcing@education.govt.nz.

A school has been running a Pacific immersion/bilingual unit for several years. Will this funding be backdated?

No, the funding is only available from January 2022.

A school offers Pacific languages via Te Kura. Are these students eligible?

No, classes taught via Te Kura are not eligible as provision is expected to be delivered by the school.

A school has Pacific students who are bilingual but are not offering a bilingual programme. Are they eligible for funding?

No, this funding is for schools operating Pacific bilingual and immersion units. It is not intended to support learners who are bilingual but learning in English medium environments.

What if a school teaches a language that isn't in the list?

Languages that are not indigenous to the Pacific region, such as Hindi, are not currently eligible.

The Ministry's current definition of Pacific languages are the indigenous languages from the Pacific region. This is consistent with the Ministry of Pacific Peoples' current position, which is based on StatsNZ ethnicity definition. These classifications are in line with ethnographic profiles, which include peoples with common languages, customs and traditions.

For any questions regarding languages not on the list please email resourcing@education.govt.nz