



3 September 2020

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *The total number of children with a home schooling exemption in 2019, 2015, 2011*
2. *The total number of children excluded from primary through secondary school in 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010*
3. *The total number of children with ORS funding in 2019, 2015, 2011*
4. *The total number of ORS applications in 2019, 2015, 2011*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will answer each of your questions in turn below.

1. Children with a home schooling exemption in 2011, 2015, and 2019.

In New Zealand, all children between the ages of 6 and 16 years of age are required to enrol in and attend a registered school. Home education is where parents or legal guardians take responsibility for the education of their children, instead of enrolling them in school. If a parent or legal guardian wish to educate their child at home, they must first get approval from their local Ministry Regional office by applying for an Exemption from Enrolment at a registered school. Between 2011 and 2019 there has been an increase in the number of students in home education.

Home school exemption data is publicly available so I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act. It can be found at the following link:

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/homeschooling>

2. Children excluded from primary through secondary school in 2010 to 2019

An exclusion is the termination of a student's enrolment following a suspension meeting. Exclusions are given to students under the age of 16, with the requirement that the student enrolls elsewhere. It is important to note that suspensions and exclusions are not measures of student behaviour but measures of a school's reaction to such behaviours. What one school may choose to suspend for, another may not. The number of these events should not be used as a proxy measure for student behaviour.

Since 2009 the overall exclusion rate has decreased from 2.3 exclusions per 1,000 students in 2009 to 1.6 exclusions per 1,000 students in 2019.

I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available. It can be found at the following link, under the tab 'Exclusions' by selecting table 3:

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators/data/student-engagement-participation/stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-expulsions>

3. Total number of children with ORS funding in 2011, 2015, and 2019

The Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) provides support for students with the highest ongoing levels of need for specialist support to enable them to attend school, join in and learn alongside other students at school.

As of 1 July 2019, there are 9,718 students receiving ORS funding. I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available. Data can be found at the following link.

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/ongoing-resourcing-scheme>

4. Total number of ORS application in 2011, 2015, and 2019

The total number of applications received in 2011, 2015, and 2019 are shown in the table below:

Year	Number of ORS applications
2011	1,417
2015	1,606
2020	1,616

I also invite you to explore the Education Counts website as there is a large amount of data across the whole New Zealand education system. There are also a number of interactive filters and sorting mechanisms to ensure you are getting the most relevant data and information.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes responses under the Act on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement & Support