



15 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *The number of refugee children / children from refugee backgrounds in the last five years.*
2. *The breakdown of countries the above children are from.*
3. *Levels of achievement/attainment and retention of the said children in the last 5 years.*
4. *Levels of attainment and retention compared to other students.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We are providing the requested information in full as the attached **Appendix A**. Please note that when viewing this data, there are some caveats to take into consideration. This data only includes school leavers. All other students are not included.

We do not hold any data on the country of origin, only citizenship. A student may identify and list multiple citizenships. This data provided only uses the student's primary citizenship.

For points three and four of your request, the level of achievement has been broken down to show those who achieved below NCEA level three and those that achieved NCEA level three or above. The student retention has been broken down to those that left school before turning 17 years old and those who stayed until 17 or above.

School leavers are students that permanently left school to enter the workforce and/or undertake further education and training sometime between 1 March and the last day of February (inclusive) i.e. 2017 includes leavers between 1 March 2017 to February 2018. School leavers are identified using ENROL.

Students counted as school leavers are:

- Domestic students who were aged less than 19 in their first enrolment in ENROL; including alternative education students, students 16 or over before 1 March 2018 and students attending teen parent units.
- Students with leave reason; 'end of schooling' or 'early leaving exemption'

- Students with leave reason 'transferred to another school in New Zealand' or 'transferred to home schooling' but did not reenrol in ENROL
- Students with leave reason 'gone overseas permanently', who meet the age criteria
- Students who attend for a period of time at the start of 2018 but leave before 1 March 2018 are counted with 2017 leavers.

This excludes:

- Returning students (aged 19 or more) with a gap in their attendance
- Exchange students
- International fee-paying students
- Students who transferred to home-schooling or another school in New Zealand
- Deceased students

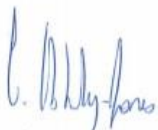
Alternative education students are counted with the school that enrolled them in alternative education, not the school that manages their enrolment while they are in alternative education. This is to reflect that the school that manages their alternative education provider and funding may not be the last school the student attended.

The majority of the highest attainment information of students comes from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) who look after NCEA. Attainment information from other types of assessment, such as Cambridge International Assessment, and International Baccalaureate, are provided directly by the school.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses 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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Cathryn Ashley Jones  
**Group Manager**  
**Evidence, Data and Knowledge**