

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour



30 September 2011

Two ways for you to keep up-to-date with the steps to February 2012 are via this newsletter and Te Kete Ipurangi <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLB-service>

Update

- The lead school selection process is underway.
- Negotiations with the unions are continuing. Whatever the outcome of negotiations, we want RTLB to be certain of the next steps available to them by the time lead schools are appointed.

Lead school selection process

Lead school applications closed on Monday 19 September. The applications are now being considered following the process outlined on page 7 of the [Lead School application document](#).

Once selection and agreement is reached we expect to be able to announce the lead schools during first half of Term 4.

2012 Staffing notices

There has been some confusion caused by the recently released 2012 School Staffing schedule. As this gives schools the information they need regarding staffing to plan appropriately for 2012, RTLB did not appear on the 2012 staffing schedule. That will occur once the lead schools are identified. RTLB continue to be included in the 2011 staffing for their current school.

UPDATE on RTLB Transformation

In this issue

Update

Lead school selection process

2012 staffing notices

Employment transition process

Frequently asked questions

Employment transition process

As we move into the transformed RTLB service, we want to ensure that RTLB can continue to provide valuable support to school, teachers and students while being supported by an improved management and governance structure.

Throughout our negotiations with NZEI and PPTA we have made it clear that we want to bring certainty about the transition process to RTLB before the lead schools are appointed.

Schools are planning for 2012 and it is important that RTLB know what is happening for them next year as well. To ensure RTLB have certainty about their future, if negotiations are not resolved before lead schools are appointed, the principles of current employment agreement provisions will be applied.

The new RTLB service will be in place from the start of the 2012 school year and we look forward to seeing improvements for RTLB and those they provide a service too.

Contact us

Ming-chun Wu
mingchun.wu@minedu.govt.nz
Transformation Programme Manager
Phone 04 463 8954

Stephanie McHardie
stephanie.mchardie@minedu.govt.nz
Senior Project Officer
Phone 04 463 7540

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What will happen to RTLB positions in clusters where there is no Lead School appointed?

A. In order to ensure RTLB services continue in 2012, there are a number of alternate options to work from should a Lead School not be appointed to a cluster.

The Ministry may:

- negotiate with a particular school
- seek to distribute the cluster amongst adjoining clusters
- seek some other solution which provides the RTLB service to the teachers and students in the cluster

While negotiations with the unions continue it would be inappropriate for the Ministry to comment on individual employment situations. For advice, RTLB can contact their union or boards contact NZSTA in relation to employment matters.

Q. What will happen to RTLB caseloads at the end of 2011? Will cases need to be closed and then reopened in the new cluster, or can they be carried over?

A. It is imperative that all students continue to receive RTLB services during the transition period. Caseloads should not be closed solely as a result of the transition at the end of 2011. RTLB should be responding to priority needs in their current cluster for the remainder of 2011, and it is anticipated that permanent RTLB will continue to work with schools they currently provide services to from the start of 2012. Once the new cluster management sets up new processes or approaches to service provision based on the result of a needs analysis with the wider team, then the transition to that new approach will need to be managed carefully and reasonable regard given to transitioning out of current commitments to students and schools.

Q. How will cluster funding be allocated and managed? How can we be assured that students' needs are being met?

A. All cluster operational funding will be allocated to lead schools to manage from the start of 2012. Lead schools will be charged to ensure that funding is allocated based on evidence-based needs analysis. This will ensure that funding is prioritised to support those students that need it the most within the cluster.

Q. Some students are provided with LSF-funded Teacher Aide support. Could funding be allocated from surplus LSF funds in Term 4 this year to cover transition support in the first few weeks of next year?

A. Lead Schools will be allocated all the cluster operational funding from the start of 2012 and be charged to ensure that funding is allocated based on evidence-based needs analysis. Therefore current fund-holding schools and RTLB should not be making non-essential or longer term future financial commitments which they may not be able to meet. Surplus LSF funds from 2011 can be used to cover transition support for students in the first few weeks of next year, however such decisions should be taken with care. RTLB should start noting very carefully those students that may require teacher aide support for the

start of Term 1 and alert the new cluster managers, once they are appointed, before the end of 2011.

Q. Clusters have been instructed not to commit to spending in 2012. What if an RTLB wants to book travel and accommodation this year to attend the "Postgraduate diploma in Specialist teaching" training courses to be held in February 2012?

A. The transfer process is yet to be finalised; the funds and assets belong to the cluster and will be transferred to the Lead School. Current fund holding schools should be prudent with the use of any accumulated funds as fund holding schools will be required to have their accounts audited in March 2012. Current fund holding schools will be required to report on their RTLB. All financial information in a school's 2011 audited report will be made publically available under the Official Information Act.

If a permanently appointed RTLB continues with the compulsory Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching training in 2012, then expenditure on travel and accommodation for the course in February would be seen as prudent.

Q. Has a pay structure been formulated for the Cluster Manager's position?

A. Cluster Managers will be teachers and covered by the relevant collective agreement. The remuneration is designed to mirror other leadership and management roles within schools with a base teaching salary, plus additional leadership payments designated by the employing school boards. At this stage the Ministry is still working on how this may be reflected in the agreements with the unions.

Q. What is happening with the Resource Teachers Literacy (RTLit)?

A. RTLit are not part of the RTLB Transformation.

Q. Will current host schools continue to receive the same amount of operational grant funding as previous years?

A. Changes to the RTLB structure should not affect schools' general operational grant calculations as the RTLB cluster operational funding is tagged and allocated separately to schools. This also ensures host satellite schools continue receiving the property generated component of its operational grant to cover property related expenses for housing RTLB onsite.

Q. What will happen to lease laptops for RTLB at the end of 2011?

A. There are a number of transition issues that will be addressed before the end of 2011 once the lead schools are appointed. At the moment, current employing schools are receiving cluster funding and should continue to pay the laptop lease until the start of 2012. In most cases, unless laptop leases are up for renewal, lead schools will establish reimbursement arrangements with current schools for actual and reasonable administrative expenses from the start of next year. Hence there is no need to terminate laptop leases unless the leases are up for renewal at the end of 2011.