

Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour



9 June 2011

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We are well underway to transform the RTLB service alongside the school sector.

We want you to know of changes that will affect your school. Two ways for you to keep up to date are via this newsletter and Te Kete Ipurangi <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLB-service>

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Update

- The meetings with RTLB and principals are going well as we head into the second month of hui. Over the last two weeks meetings were held in Whangarei, Auckland, Christchurch and Napier. Questions raised were mainly about the management set up, the benefits for lead schools, the cluster arrangements and employment agreements.
- Discussions with both NZEI and PPTA about industrial relations issues are underway
- Feedback gained so far about the cluster arrangements has been collated. Based on this, regional and district offices are working with principals to examine where cluster arrangements can be changed if necessary.

Timeline for finalising clusters

We recognise that the consultation process has identified some cluster arrangements that may need changing. Therefore, regional officers are having further discussions with local principals. Any revised cluster proposals will come back to the national office by 30 June for consideration and modelling of staffing figures.

Any refinement of cluster boundaries will be completed during July. Letters with the final arrangements will then be sent to school boards and published online.

UPDATE on RTLB Transformation

In this issue

Update

Timeline

Lead school applications

Accommodating RTLB

Hui update

Becoming a Lead School

The lead school application process will start at the end of July when the final clusters are announced.

We encourage you to now raise the possibility with your school boards about applying to be a lead school. Because of various board meeting cycles, and the plan to have lead schools appointed in September, please start discussing the idea as soon as you can.

The draft operational service document and the lead school selection process documents are online. These will be finalised in July but are a strong indication of what is required.

<http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/content/download/749/3340/file/Process%20to%20Choose%20Lead%20School.pdf>

<http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/content/download/750/3343/file/How%20the%20service%20will%20operate.pdf>

Accommodating RTLB

Questions about RTLB accommodation and other overhead costs have been raised by principals. Every RTLB generates an area entitlement of 15m². This is a legitimate area added on to the host school's roll generated entitlement. If the chosen school already has suitable accommodation, it won't be provided with new capital for property but there is a possibility of additional 5YA funding. Please read the factsheet on our website.

Regional hui

Working group members and members of the Ministry's project team are organising and presenting at regional hui. We encourage all principals and RTLB to attend. The calendar is also on Te Kete Ipurangi and will be updated as details are confirmed here: <http://rtlb.tki.org.nz/Transforming-RTLb-service/May-and-June-Hui>

Date	Time	Region or sector group	Venue
Wednesday 8 June	12:30 p.m.	Lower Hutt	Avalon Intermediate
Thursday 9 June	9:00 am	Cromwell	Presbyterian Church
Friday 10 June	1:00 pm	Invercargill - RTLb & Principals	Aurora College
Monday 13 June	1:00 pm	Nelson, Blenheim - RTLb & Principals	Nelson Bridge Club
Tuesday 14 June	3:00 pm	Lower Hutt – Principals	Avalon Intermediate
Wednesday 15 June	10:00 am	Taupo	Pihanga Rm at REAP 73 Titirapunga St.
Thursday 16 June	10:00 am	Hamilton	Melville Primary, 101 Ohaupo Road
Thursday 16 June	1:30 pm	Te Kuiti	Te Kuiti High School, Hospital Road
Friday 17 June	9:00 am	Wairiki (Tauranga Rotorua) RTLb	Yacht and Power Boat Club Sulphur Point
Friday 17 June	1:30 pm	Tauranga- Principals	Te Puke Club, 50 Jellico St
Monday 20 June	10:30 am	Dunedin	TBA
Tuesday 21 June	1:00 pm	Timaru - RTLb & Principals	TBA
Wednesday 22 June	11:30 am	NZAIMS Executive	NZEI National Office
Thursday 23 June	10:00 am	Manawatu, Tararua, Horowhenua and Rangitikei- RTLb	MOE- 1-3 Oxford Street, Palmerston North
Friday 24 June	9:30 am	Taranaki – RTLb	SE Conference Room New Plymouth
Friday 24 June	11:30 am	Taranaki - Principals	New Plymouth Club
Monday 27 June	10:30 am	Gisborne - Principals	Awapuni School Hall (Awapuni Rd)
Monday 27 June	12:30 pm	Gisborne – RTLb	Awapuni School Hall (Awapuni Rd)
Tuesday 28 June	10:00 am	Tai Tokerau- RTLb	The Centre, 43 Cobham Road, Kerikeri
Tuesday 28 June	1:30 pm	Tai Tokerau- Principals	The Centre, 43 Cobham Road, Kerikeri
Thursday 30 June	1:30 pm	Otaki/Kapiti Principals Association	TBA

July

Friday 1 July	10:00 am	Whanganui- RTLb	Ministry of Education, 93 Ingestre Street
Friday 1 July	1:30 pm	Whanganui- Principals	Ministry of Education, 93 Ingestre Street
Monday 4 July	10:00 am	Hamilton (alternate meeting for principals who were in training on 16 June)	Melville Primary, 101 Ohaupo Road
Monday 4 July	1:30 pm	Te Kuiti (alternate meeting for principals who were in training on 16 June)	Te Aroha Primary, Jubilee Avenue

Please note that these details are accurate as at the time of emailing, however we will be updating the calendar on Te Kete Ipurangi, regularly

Contact us by 30 June 2011...

to give us your feedback on how to improve the proposed new service. This will enable us to consider your collective feedback before we complete the design process.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will my school continue to have our dedicated full time RTLB?

A. Probably not. Since its inception, the intention of the RTLB resource has been for it to be an itinerate service. It may be the case that a rigorous cluster needs analysis might indicate that a dedicated RTLB is required to meet the needs of students at one school. However this would be highly unlikely given the size of most schools in New Zealand and patterns of normal demographic dispersion.

Q. Do the weightings in the new allocation formula mean that high decile schools will miss out on RTLB service?

A. No. Currently, the Ministry applies a population-based allocation formula with a decile weighting to allocate the national number of RTLB. Research shows that Māori and Pasifika students and students in lower decile schools require more support to learn. The new formula will continue to be population-based but will have less emphasis on decile and will add weightings for the Māori and Pasifika population to ensure that the resource goes to where the need is greatest. These weightings will reallocate the total RTLB positions across the country but do not prevent a high decile school having access to the service if there is a student or issue requiring support.

Q. Have the lead schools already been selected?

A. No. All schools in a new cluster will be able to apply to be the lead school.

Q. Will the lead schools be able to capture the RTLB resource?

A. No. The funding and service agreement will ensure all funds are used appropriately and the RTLB service is allocated to meet the needs of students in the cluster with the greatest needs.

The cluster advisory committee will also provide advice on meeting the needs of the community.

Q. Will the transformed service support students in secondary settings?

A. Yes. The transformation programme continues to have a focus on improving services to secondary schools. The approach to effective provision for secondary schools is different to how the service might be provided in a primary setting. We need to confirm and support the most effective approach for secondary schools.

The Year 11-13 fund is one way to provide support to high school students and this separate fund will remain in the transformed RTLB service.

The funding and service agreement will ensure the:

- year 11-13 fund is used appropriately
- RTLB service is meeting the needs of all secondary schools in the cluster
- fund is allocated to meet the needs of students with the greatest needs.

Q. Is the cluster manager role just an added bureaucratic layer to the service?

A. No. The cluster manager role replaces the current management layer. It is funded by aggregating of the attached staffing (0.05 FTE) currently dispersed across hundreds of schools. The Education Review Office found that variable management of the RTLB service contributed to inconsistent practices and service. The new cluster manager role is designed to provide more consistent management of the RTLB resource and result in an improved service to students. With a reduction in the number of clusters, management time and administrative resources will be optimised by reducing duplications of functions and structures.