

10 December 2014

Board of Trustees/Principal

«School»

«Address1»

«Address2»

«Address3»

Dear Board of Trustees and Principal

The Government has committed to provide additional ongoing in-class support for 4 -5,000 students who have special education needs. From the beginning of 2015, the additional support will be provided to the first group of up to 1,500 students. The students who will receive the support have already been identified as having high ongoing learning needs and are currently being supported by the Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) service.

«Student1name» «Student2name» who attends your school has been identified as one of the students whose learning would benefit from the in-class support.

The support provides for an allocation of five hours a week teacher's aide funding to support teachers and students and is a contribution to your school's resourcing. It is expected that schools will use this time flexibly to best suit the individual needs of the student within their teaching programmes.

Initially, the support is for two terms and will begin at the start of the 2015 school year. The funding will be paid directly to your school in March 2015 using the same process the Ministry uses for other types of teacher's aide support.

Further work will be carried out from the beginning of 2015 to look at longer-term options for the implementation of the in-class support initiative across the country. This work will be undertaken in consultation with education sector groups. More information will be available in the new school year.

What do you need to do now?

Before the start of the 2015 school year, could you please contact parents/whānau to discuss

- whether they would like this teacher's aide support for their child in 2015, and
- if there will be any changes of school for their child for the start of 2015.

Please send the following information to the in-class support mailbox by *Monday 9 February*:

- if the parents/whānau do or do not wish their child to receive the support
- or if there has been a change of schools.

The mailbox address is In-Class.Support@minedu.govt.nz

If you have any queries, please email the above mailbox.

Enclosed is a letter you may like to send to the child's parents/whānau to notify them of the additional support they will receive in 2015 and to use as a basis for your discussion.

We appreciate you making this a priority. Thank you for your support with these actions this late in the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Wales', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Wales
National Director Special Education
Sector Enablement and Support