

Excerpts specifically discussing the use of SMART data in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act

1354967- Sector Feedback and Next Steps for SMART support, Rapid Response, 30 January 2026

What will be provided to sector to support their understanding of SMART data and its use?

The Ministry is preparing a full package of support to help schools, kura, and kaiako build confidence in understanding SMART data and using it to inform teaching and reporting. This support will include guidance on interpreting SMART progress information, practical examples showing how data can inform next learning steps, and resources connected to the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. These materials are designed to complement the Assessment and Aromatawai PLD so schools and kura have a coherent picture of how SMART fits within wider assessment and aromatawai practice.

The support package will include online guidance, videos, and exemplars available through Tāhūrangi, along with targeted PLD so schools and kura can access help in the way that suits them best.

When will this be ready for sector to see and use?

An introductory webinar that guides schools, kura, and PLD providers through SMART will be held in the week commencing 9 February. Depending on demand, we may schedule additional sessions to ensure everyone has the opportunity to attend.

A brochure giving examples of the different reports that SMART can produce, alongside explanations of how these support and inform teaching and learning, and reduce teacher workload in the classroom, will be made available in the week beginning 16 February.

The first set of guidance will be available in early Term 1 (27 February). More detailed materials, including scenarios, exemplars, and data-use prompts, will be published ahead of the Term 2 assessment window (20 April – 22 May). Additional guidance will continue to be added throughout 2026 as further SMART functionality becomes available and as insights are gathered from schools and kura using the tool.

1353950- Teaching the Basics Brilliantly Tables, Rapid Response, 7 October 2026

Initiative Title	Messaging	Purpose	Investment	FTTE	Student reach	Rationale and messaging	Impact
SMART/PAT/asTTle 3 – 8	SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool) will be available from Term 1, 2026 and will be free for all schools and kura. It will be bilingual, have up-to-date technology and be aligned with the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa. SMART will enable twice-yearly assessment of Reading, Writing, Maths, Pānui, Tuhihi and Pāngarau for Years 3 to 8.	e-asTTle is not aligned to the new curriculum.		N/A	All schools and kura will be able to access SMART, for free, in Term 1 2026. Schools will have a choice of SMART, e-asTTle and PATs for 2026. Kura will have a choice of SMART or e-asTTle for 2026.	Having a nationally consistent tool that's aligned with the strengthened National Curriculum will support teachers and school leaders to understand how learners are tracking against the curriculum, no matter where they are taught and if they change schools.	

Cabinet Paper- Progress on curriculum, assessment and aromatawai changes

- 28 The Ministry will have access to SMART-related achievement data for system-level secondary analysis purposes, within existing data protection policies. This will enable the Ministry to make informed national investment and monitoring decisions to drive improvements in student progress and achievement. In addition, access to anonymised student data at the school level will enable the Ministry to target student supports for accelerating progress.
- 29 The Ministry also has a programme of work to support trust and confidence in the sharing and use of data, which includes sharing back insights that are of value to the sector. I have asked the Ministry to monitor the coverage of data sharing achieved in relation to realising its value for system-level purposes to inform future consideration of whether this approach remains appropriate.
- 30 Out of Scope [REDACTED] have expressed concerns about who will have access to data in required checks and aromatawai tools outside of kura controls, and for what system-level purposes it might be used. Out of Scope
Out of Scope [REDACTED]