



Guidelines for the development and operation of enrolment schemes for State Schools

Issued by Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Mātauranga the Secretary for Education

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Introduction

Development and operation of enrolment schemes is set out in sections 71 to 75, and Schedule 20 of the Education and Training Act 2020. References to clauses in these guidelines are to clauses within Schedule 20 of that Act.

These guidelines are issued under clause 3(3)(a) of Schedule 20 of the Education and Training Act 2020 for the purpose of describing the basis on which the Secretary's powers will be exercised in relation to enrolment schemes. These Guidelines are for state schools other than state integrated schools, designated character schools, kura kaupapa Māori, and special schools.

Once the Secretary for Education has developed an enrolment scheme for a school the school's board must implement and operate the scheme.

As well as setting out the purpose and principles in relation to enrolment schemes the legislation specifies a number of non-negotiable requirements that must form part of every enrolment scheme.

It is useful to summarise these before providing guidance on matters the Secretary will take into account when exercising powers granted to the Secretary under legislation.

The Secretary has delegated the power to develop and finalise schemes and arbitrate on other matters to relevant managers in the Ministry of Education's Regional Offices.

Purpose and principles

These are set out in Section 71. The purpose of an enrolment scheme is:

- (a) to avoid overcrowding or the likelihood of overcrowding at the school;
- (b) to ensure that the selection of applicants for enrolment at the school is carried out in a fair and transparent manner; and
- (c) to enable the Secretary to make the best use of existing networks of State schools.

In achieving its purpose, an enrolment scheme must, as far as possible, ensure that:

- (a) the scheme does not exclude local students; and
- (b) no more students are excluded from the school than is necessary to avoid overcrowding at the school.

Overcrowding

Either the Ministry or the board might become concerned about potential overcrowding at the school and may initiate discussions with the other party.

Developing an enrolment scheme

When the Ministry believes that there is or is likely to be overcrowding at a school, the appropriate delegated official (Deputy Secretary, Associate Deputy Secretary, Group Manager or Director of Education) will notify the board of this in writing. The Secretary must then develop a draft enrolment scheme for consultation. See clause 4 of Schedule 20.

When developing a draft enrolment scheme, the Secretary must consult with the school's board, and take reasonable steps to understand the views of the school's community.

After the Secretary has developed a draft proposed enrolment scheme, the Secretary must consult the persons and organisations the Secretary thinks fit and, in particular, must take all reasonable steps to discover and consider the views of:

- a) the parents of students at the school:
- b) the people living in the area for which the school is a reasonably convenient school:
- c) the students and prospective students of the school (depending on their age and maturity):
- d) the boards of other schools that could be affected by the proposed enrolment scheme:

The secretary must also consult with the school's Board on the proposed scheme.

Having done this, if the Secretary is satisfied that the enrolment scheme meets the requirements of clause 5, the Secretary may finalise the enrolment scheme and provide it to the board.

The school's board must implement the finalised enrolment scheme as soon as practicable.

Requirements

To ensure that each scheme gives effect to the purpose and the principles, the legislation specifies the following requirements relating to content.

1. Each scheme must contain a home zone (section 73) with clearly defined geographic boundaries described in such a way that any given address is either within or outside the home zone. See Clause 1 of Schedule 20.
2. Students who live in the home zone have an absolute entitlement to enrol at the school. See section 74(1).
3. The boundaries of the zone may touch or overlap the boundaries of the home zone of any adjacent State school that has an enrolment scheme. See clause 5(c). Note that this requirement is meant to be read in conjunction with requirement 5 below. It is not meant to apply to a situation where School A, which does not operate an enrolment scheme, lies between Schools B and C that do operate enrolment schemes. The home zone boundaries of Schools B and C do not have to touch.
4. A student living in the home zone must find it reasonably convenient to attend the school. See clause 1(2)(a).
5. The home zone must be drawn in such a way that every student can attend a reasonably convenient school. See clause 5(b).
6. The scheme must promote the best use of the network of State schools in the area. See clause 5(d).
7. Students outside the home zone meeting certain criteria may be treated as in-zone students during transition provided certain considerations are met.
8. Out-of-zone students who apply for enrolment at the school must be offered places at the school in the following order of priority:
 - a) students accepted for enrolment in a special programme run by the school;
 - b) siblings of current students;

- c) siblings of former students;
 - d) child of a former student;
 - e) children of board employees or a child of a board member;
 - f) all other students.
9. If there are more applicants in priority groups (b)-(f) than there are places available, places must be allocated in priority order until a category is reached where the number of spaces available in that category is insufficient to accommodate the number of eligible students. Selection within that priority group must be by ballot. Selection of applicants for priority (a) may be on other criteria, but may be by ballot, at the board's discretion.

Because these requirements cover so many of the aspects of the content of enrolment schemes, all enrolment schemes will look very similar.

It is important to understand that the need to avoid overcrowding does not take precedence over the rights of enrolment that are guaranteed to in-zone students. This means that the board and the Ministry must determine a roll figure around which the board can manage overcrowding while at the same time providing for the enrolment of all students who apply for enrolment from within the home zone. The home zone must be drawn up with the capacity of the school in mind. Any board that is at all in doubt about the Ministry's assessment of its school's capacity should raise this during consultation with the Ministry.

The Ministry will not use the term "maximum roll" in a scheme because that implies that nobody will be enrolled above the stated figure, including in-zone students who have an absolute right to enrol under the legislation.¹ For the same reason, the Ministry will not develop a scheme that specifies maximum class sizes at certain levels, though schools may develop administrative practices relating to school organisation that are appropriate for them, so long as they accommodate the right of in-zone students to enrol at the school.

Operating an enrolment scheme

An enrolment scheme is meant to be a tool that enables a board to prevent overcrowding at its school. The board has to remember that students living within the home zone have an absolute right to be enrolled. The board should not, therefore, enrol so many out-of-zone students that the capacity of the school is exceeded if, at a later date, students living in the home zone claim their right to be enrolled. The Ministry of Education will not look favourably on a request for additional classroom accommodation in such a situation. Given the purposes of an enrolment scheme, it is illogical to automatically increase capacity to satisfy demand. If, however, there is a sudden roll surge that could not reasonably have been predicted, an application may be viewed more favourably. In all cases the Ministry will assess the situation on a case by case basis.

Offering places to out-of- zone students

In some areas, schools have found that a late surge in applications from in-zone students has seriously taxed the capacity of the school. This has mainly occurred in secondary schools. The Ministry recommends that boards should be cautious and prudent in offering places to out-of-zone students and points out that:

¹ Except in relation to a special programme, where the board may set a maximum roll.

- although parents have to be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days, this does not mean that all out of zone places have to be offered at this point;
- in secondary schools in particular it might be prudent to offer only a restricted number of places immediately after the ballot and to hold off allocating others until the in-zone picture is clear;
- in situations where experience has shown that the in-zone environment is especially volatile, it might be necessary to create only a waiting list of out-of-zone students as a result of the ballot and offer places at a later date, possibly as late as January, in some cases.

Once a place is offered to an out of zone (OOZ) student and accepted, it cannot be revoked by the board due to unexpected in zone enrolments. The board will still have to honour the OOZ placement offers it has made.

The Ministry would want to assist schools that have experienced unforeseen roll growth, but would expect to see evidence that schools have adopted a policy of restraint similar to those suggested above.

The home zone

The implementation process

Once consultation is complete the Ministry will finalise the enrolment scheme and provide it to the board. See clause 4(3). The board must then implement the enrolment scheme as soon as is practical. See clause 4(4).

- An enrolment scheme for a primary school commences on the date 3 months after the day of its implementation, or on a later date specified in the scheme by the Secretary.
- An enrolment scheme for a secondary or composite school commences on 1 January in the year following the year in which it was implemented, or on a later date specified in the scheme by the Secretary.

Living in the home zone

On the face of it, the wording of section 74(1) is quite straightforward when it says that a person who lives in the home zone of a school is entitled at any time to enrol at that school.

Boards will know, however, that multiple shades of meaning may apply to the word “lives” and boards have become used to making decisions about boarding arrangements, families with more than one address and temporary living situations in a common-sense way. Even so, in recent years some parents have developed ploys that make it difficult for schools to determine whether a given in-zone address is genuine or not.

Under clause 14(2)(a) the Secretary has the authority to direct a board to enrol a student who the board has previously declined to enrol on the grounds the student does not live within the school’s home zone, but the Secretary is satisfied the student is in fact living in the home zone.

It is the Ministry’s view that any decision on whether or not a student lives within a home zone should be based on whether or not the student’s given address is his or her usual place of residence.

A student is considered to be living in the home zone when the student currently (at those times when the school is open for instruction) has his or her place of residence at an address within the home zone and intends to remain within the zone.

The intention of remaining within the home zone is shown by any of the following:

- The student lives with his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) in a house in the home zone owned, leased, or rented by the parent(s)/guardian(s). This could include emergency temporary housing situations, such as motels or hostels.
- The student lives with a family member or some other responsible adult who has been given a primary duty of care by the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) in a house in the home zone description provided the house is in-zone.
- A student over 16 lives independently and owns, leases, rents, or occupies a house in the home zone either with the agreement of the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) or in situations where the student has been granted an Independent Living Allowance.

The following guidelines may be used when considering what is meant by these terms.

Term	Meaning	Does not mean:
When the school is open for instruction	Term-time as opposed to school holidays	Monday to Friday vs weekends
Primary caregiver	The person(s) ultimately responsible for making decisions about the child and receiving information about the child’s schooling. In a shared custody situation between separated parents there <i>might not</i> be a “primary” caregiver, though there could be, on the above basis.	In a situation where a child spends part of the week with relatives, the proportion of time spent with the family members involved
Normal place of residence	The address the child would consider “home”; where the bulk of their possessions/ personal effects would be expected to be kept; where reports or other school notices etc would be sent; mailing address. In a shared custody arrangement between separated parents, where the child spends most of the time. If it is equally split, the parents can choose either address.	In a situation where a child spends part of the week with relatives, the proportion of time spent with the family members involved (does not apply in a shared custody arrangement)
Intention re normal place of residence	The intention is that the address be for a genuine reason at the time of enrolment. Temporary addresses can be perfectly valid, when moving between cities or in emergency housing situations for example.	It does not have to be intended to be permanent – just not intended to be temporary as a strategy for gaining enrolment.

The board will periodically have to make a decision on difficult situations, such as shared custody or temporary living arrangements when people are recent arrivals to an area. In the case of shared custody, it may be that the student’s usual place of residence can only be defined in terms of two addresses. In the case of new arrivals to an area, the board should remember that “usual place of residence” is not the same as “permanent place of residence”

and this may mean that somebody who is genuinely, but temporarily, living in the home zone has to be enrolled.

Schools must consider each application on its own merits and may not have blanket rules requiring students to display a minimum period of residency within a home zone.

Issues associated with temporary residence are explored in more detail in [a later section](#).

Determining genuineness

The onus is on the parent to provide evidence that will enable the board to judge whether the given address will be the student's usual place of residence when the school is open for instruction. If, at the time of application, the parent is not able to provide the board with such evidence, the board may decide to decline the application. In cases where an applicant then requests a directed enrolment under clause 14(2)(a), the Ministry will ask the board to explain the basis for its conclusion that the student is not living in the school's home zone.

The difficulty for the board is the issue of determining "genuineness".

At the time of application, boards may seek proof of residence from applicants. Schools have found documents such as power bills, bank statements, rates demands, leases or tenancy agreements and statutory declarations to be useful in the past. Experience has shown, however, that not even these documents will necessarily provide evidence of "genuineness".

The appendix to these Guidelines contains two documents that could assist schools at the time of application.

[Appendix 1 includes a draft statement](#) that parents can be asked to sign at the time of application. The purpose of this statement is two-fold. It lets parents know the seriousness of attempting to subvert the intent of the legislation and it should help as a reference point if a board subsequently feels it has reasonable grounds for reviewing an enrolment.

The [questionnaire](#) on page 34 reinforces the message about genuineness and assists a board to discover information that might point to an attempt by the parents to defeat the intent of the legislation.

Note that the term "primary duty of care", which is used in both of these documents, indicates that the person with whom the student is boarding will take a high level of responsibility for the student's welfare. A board might doubt the genuineness of the boarding arrangement if the parents insist on being the first point of contact for all matters relating to the student's progress and behaviour at school.

The following situations are likely to raise suspicions and point to a possible non-genuine, in-zone living arrangement.

- A check with the student's current intermediate or full-primary school reveals a different address from that given at the time of application for enrolment at the secondary school.
- The in-zone family address given at the time of application is a recent acquisition and there is no suggestion that this is a new family home resulting from a recent move, or that it is admitted to be a rental address occupied by the family while it is attempting to find permanent accommodation.
- The student will be boarding at an in-zone address while the family home is out of zone but not too far away.

- After an unsuccessful application from an out-of-zone address, the parents make a new application based on an in-zone address – either as a new family home or as a boarding address for the student.

If a non-genuine in-zone living arrangement comes to light before enrolment takes place (ie before attendance begins) the board would be able to simply withdraw any offer of a place that it might have made on the basis of the information provided in the application. If, however, the matter does not surface until attendance has begun, the board would have to follow the enrolment review procedures set out in clause 13 of Schedule 20 of the Act. Information about this process is provided later in these Guidelines, in the section headed [Temporary Residence](#).

It is not possible to designate certain situations as “genuine” and others as “non-genuine”, but boards should feel able to act responsibly on the basis of reasonable belief.

In the event of a complaint by the parents against the board’s judgement, the Ministry would expect to find that the board has made a reasonable attempt to ascertain the genuineness of the situation and has not simply declined the application (and effectively passed the matter on to the Ministry) because it initially appears suspicious. The scenarios discussed in the examples below may give a helpful guide to boards about how the issue might be tackled.

Practical examples for determining genuineness

Ministry staff are frequently asked for hard and fast answers as to whether a particular situation is legitimate or not. It is rarely possible to give a ruling without examining the facts of the particular case.

The following are some common enrolment scenarios that schools have brought to the Ministry’s attention. These are not intended to provide answers that will be applicable in all similar situations, but rather to provide a guide as to how genuineness might be determined.

Example one

A family has moved into the zone just prior to the application for enrolment.

This is a very common scenario in which genuineness can be very difficult to establish. To assist with this, it could be helpful to ascertain the following:

- Assess the suitability of the dwelling, particularly as compared with their previous dwelling, if possible (eg if the family claims to have shifted from a five-bedroom house into a two-bedroom unit, the genuineness of the application is suspect).
- If the parents own the in-zone dwelling, can they provide proof of ownership and proof of sale of their previous home?
- If the in-zone dwelling is rented, assess the length of the rental agreement. It might even be appropriate to contact or request a letter from the landlord to help establish the genuineness of the arrangement. Does the family own an out of zone home?
- Investigate whether the student had previously made an unsuccessful out-of-zone application.

Example two

A student is boarding at an in-zone address. His family lives just outside the school zone.

If the parents insist that they have retained the primary duty of care, then the genuineness of the in-zone living arrangement begins to look very suspect. Even if the parents say that they have handed over the primary duty of care, the situation is still highly suspicious given that the parents live nearby. However, the applicants should be given the opportunity to provide evidence to support the genuineness of their application. Such evidence might include:

- that the boarding arrangement has been in place for a reasonable period prior to the application;
- that special family circumstances have meant that the boarding arrangement is preferable for non-schooling-related reasons.

Example three

A student lives with her grandmother inside the school zone.

While the parents may have granted primary duty of care to their daughter's grandmother, it is not clear whether this is actually the case. To ascertain genuineness, it could be helpful to know:

- how far away the student's parents live;
- how long the student has lived with her grandmother;
- the suitability of the grandmother's residence;
- whether there are any special family circumstances making this arrangement necessary or preferable.

Example four

A student has recently moved in with his father who lives in the school zone, having previously lived with his mother, outside the school zone.

In the case of shared custody, it is entirely legitimate for a student to move in with either parent for the purposes of enrolling at a particular school. The question is whether the student is genuinely living there. Questions that might assist in ascertaining the genuineness of such a situation could include:

- the suitability of the father's dwelling (eg, if it is a one bedroom flat, this may be less credible as a genuine living arrangement than a larger dwelling);
- how long the father has lived at the in-zone address;
- whether there are any other reasons for the student shifting to live with his father.

Example five

A family has recently arrived in New Zealand. They are living in a rented flat whilst they look for more permanent accommodation.

This is a common and very difficult situation to assess. It is, of course, entirely reasonable for a family to rent a flat after just arriving in the country. Equally it is possible that the family has done this specifically in order to gain enrolment at a particular school.

Investigations that might assist in ascertaining the genuineness of such a situation could include focus on:

- the suitability of the dwelling;
- whether this is the family's first address in New Zealand (this could be confirmed through cross-referencing rental agreements with entry permits);
- if it is not their first address, why they have shifted address so quickly?

Example six

A family is sharing a house with another family.

The following kind of information might be helpful in establishing the genuineness of such situations:

- If the student's family claim that they aren't the family that pays the power/phone bills, it may be appropriate to ask for some other evidence that they actually live there (eg, a bank statement or other mail addressed to them);
- The length of time the arrangement has been place: (if the two families have been living together for years, it is more likely to be genuine);
- The suitability of the house for two families;
- Evidence that the student's family is paying rent in some form.

Example seven

A family gives a motel as their in-zone address.

Under normal circumstances, a motel would not be considered a usual place of residence. However, there are reasons this could be the case, for example, relocation from another part of the country for work-related reasons, if the family has just immigrated, or the family has been placed in the motel as an emergency housing solution. In such a case the child has to go to school somewhere and it is sensible if the school is the one whose zone includes the motel. If the parents can provide evidence of these types of situation, then the board should enrol the student. In other cases, if they were able to provide strong evidence (such as unconditional sale and purchase agreements) that they would be relocating to a permanent, in-zone address, the board might feel that it is appropriate to enrol the student. If, however, the parents provide evidence of only a short-term rental agreement at an in-zone address, the situation begins to look suspicious and the school would be wise to warn the parents of the law relating to temporary residence. If there is no evidence that the parents have recently shifted from another part of the country, are new arrivals from overseas, or are in an emergency housing situation, the in-zone motel address is even more suspicious as a genuine in-zone living arrangement.

Conclusion

In most cases, no individual piece of evidence will be conclusive on its own. But, collectively different factors can give a good indication as to the likely genuineness of the situation.

Importantly, asking such questions of applicants will give the opportunity for genuine applicants to prove they are genuine, despite their unusual circumstances.

Although seeking additional information can be time-consuming for a board, it is far more efficient to be thorough at the point of application, rather than having to effect an annulment at a later point.

In some situations, however, suspicions will remain despite there being no reasonable ground to decline an application. The Ministry recommends that schools compile a list of such students for further investigation at a later date, after attendance has commenced.

The Ministry also recommends that schools should keep full and accurate records and notes on all applications that are declined and enrolments that are annulled. These will be valuable to the Ministry if the parent later makes an application for directed enrolment under clause 14. In some cases, it can be difficult for the Ministry to uphold a board's decision if proper records have not been kept.

Special programmes

A special programme is defined in Section 10 as one that has been approved by the Secretary and:

- (a) *that provides –*
 - (i) *special education; or*
 - (ii) *Māori language immersion classes; or*
 - (iii) *any other type of specialised education to overcome educational disadvantage; or*
- (b) *that is a programme –*
 - (i) *that takes a significantly different approach in order to address particular student needs; and*
 - (ii) *that would not be viable unless it could draw from a catchment area beyond the school's home zone; and*
 - (iii) *to which entry is determined by an organisation or process that is independent of the school.*

The Secretary's approval is given by notice in the *New Zealand Gazette (Gazette)*.

The Secretary has previously published a Gazette notice, <https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2022-go2610> that approves Māori language programmes and defines Māori immersion classes as those programmes that are resourced by the Ministry of Education at Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3.

The Secretary's *Gazette* notice also approves special education classes and units, and defines special education as any class or unit established by the school for which students are accepted on the basis of need for additional support arising from learning and behaviour needs or disabilities.

The notice further approves any class that delivers a Pacific language immersion programme and/or offers a bilingual education programme where at least one Pacific language makes up 30% of the language of instruction. The applicable Pacific languages are defined in the notice.

Finally, the notice also approves any class providing a programme of study to students who have a letter from Auckland University of Technology Mangere Refugee Education Centre identifying them as being part of the Government's official refugee programme or from Immigration New Zealand establishing the student's refugee status.

When the Ministry is developing an enrolment scheme for a school, the board should inform the Ministry of any special programme it runs and that it thinks complies with the meaning given in section 10. The Ministry will advise the board whether the programme qualifies under section 10. Boards should seek this approval before the beginning of the consultation process required under clause 4. If the proposed scheme is subsequently confirmed, the Secretary will, if necessary, insert a notice in the *Gazette* amending the list of programmes or types of programmes that he or she has already approved.

If a programme is of a generic type that has been Gazetted already it will only be necessary to confirm that the programme meets the criteria for that type. It will not be necessary to place a further notice in the *Gazette*.

In determining whether a special programme meets the criteria set out in section 10, the Ministry will differentiate between a programme in which students seek to be enrolled and a programme that is devised to meet the needs of enrolled students. For example, a Reading Recovery programme or a remedial Maths programme is not a special programme in terms of the definition given in section 10. A maximum roll will need to be set for the special programme. This will be agreed between the board and the Ministry.

The catchment area for the special programme will likely be different from that defined for ordinary provision in the school's enrolment scheme. This will be especially so if the special programme operates off-site from the main school campus.

The Ministry will also differentiate between an "integrated programme" and a "subject" or "activity". For example, an immersion language unit in an otherwise English-medium school might be considered differently than a language class that is offered as a 'subject' in a school.

The Ministry will be vigilant in ensuring that a special programme is not crafted in such a way that it attempts to create a loop-hole to circumvent the purposes and principles of the legislation – particularly the principle that the selection of applicants should be fair and transparent.

Within its proposed scheme the board must set out the criteria on which students will be accepted into the special programme, including procedures that will be used to determine which students will be enrolled if there are more applicants than places available. Students who meet the criteria for enrolment and live within the home zone must be enrolled ahead of out of zone students.

Out-of-zone students who meet the criteria for enrolment in the special programme have priority in enrolment above all other out-of-zone students while special programme places are available, subject to any transitional arrangements in the enrolment scheme.

Transitional arrangements ("Grandparenting")

In developing a new enrolment scheme or amending an existing enrolment scheme, section 75 provides the option of implementing transitional arrangements for students who are not, or are no longer, within the school's home zone.

A student that meets the requirements is deemed to be an in-zone student for the purposes of enrolment, and is entitled to enrolment ahead of any out-of-zone places offered. Those requirements are as follows.

In the case of a new scheme:

- The student has a sibling who is enrolled at the school at the time that the new enrolment scheme is implemented and who is still enrolled at the time the student wants to enrol.

In the case of an amended scheme:

- The student has a sibling who, at the time that the amendment is implemented, is enrolled at the school and lives inside the home zone as it was before the amendment, and who is still enrolled at the time that the student wants to enrol.
- the student, at the time of their enrolment, lives inside the home zone as it was before the amendment.

The school will need to verify all these points if an enrolment application is made in reliance on these transitional arrangements.

Implications of these rules

New schemes

- There is no limit on the area in which transitioning students may live. The student seeking transition need only have a sibling enrolled at the school at the time that the new enrolment scheme is implemented.

Amended schemes

- There is no requirement for the student to be living in the old home zone at the time the enrolment scheme was amended. The test is applied at the date the student will enrol.
- The sibling must be enrolled at the school when the amendment occurs, but may have moved out of the old home zone since that date.

Additional requirements

In addition, before including transitional arrangements in an enrolment scheme the Secretary must be satisfied that doing so:

- is in the best interests of the school and local community
- can be managed within the existing school network.

Definition of “sibling”

In this context, child A is the **sibling** of child B if any of the following apply:

- a) both children have the same parent;² or
- b) a parent of child A is married to, or in a civil union with, a parent of child B; or

² Clause 2(3)(a) of Schedule 20 uses the term “share a common parent”. The Ministry treats the two wordings as having the same meaning – sharing a common parent. The remaining paragraphs are identical to those in Clause 2.

- c) a parent of child A was married to, or in a civil union with, a parent of child B at the time when child B's parent died; or
- d) a parent of child A is the de facto partner of a parent of child B; or
- e) both children live in the same household and, in recognition of family obligations, are treated by the adults of that household as if they were siblings; or
- f) the Secretary, by written notice to the school, advises that child A is to be treated as the sibling of child B.

Out-of-zone enrolments

Clause 2 of Schedule 20 gives clear instructions for the selection of students who apply for enrolment from outside the school's home zone.

Clause 2 (1) sets out six priority categories that must govern selection. The Ministry has no authority to allow boards to increase the number of priority categories, nor does the Ministry have authority to allow boards to delete any of the priority categories. Parliament has laid out the categories and they must be adhered to.

Once special programme places have been filled, if there are more applicants in the second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth priority groups (including any students eligible to enrol in a special programme who were not successful in gaining a place, if they so wish) than there are places available, selection within the priority group must be by ballot. As provided for under clause 3(1), the Secretary has issued instructions concerning matters connected with balloting. A copy of these instructions is provided separately.

The only other means by which out-of-zone students may be enrolled are:

- if they qualify under transitional arrangements;
- as part of a school's special programme;
- following a direction by the Secretary under clause 14 of Schedule 20, or sections 82, 87 or 76;
- if the principal agrees to accept a student excluded or expelled from another school and the Secretary endorses the proposal.

Scholarships

Some schools offer scholarships to out-of-zone students. A scholarship, however, does not create an entitlement to enrol, and scholarship students are not provided for in the priority groupings relating to out of zone students. The award of scholarships, therefore, should be held over until the balloting process has been completed. Schools must not describe a scholarship as an "entrance scholarship".

Siblings

The enrolment of siblings of current and former students is provided for in the second and third priority groups of out of zone students. (Siblings who live within the home zone, of course, have an absolute right of enrolment.) The onus is on parents to provide proof of a sibling relationship, which is defined in clause 2(3) as follows:

For the purposes of this section, child A is the sibling of child B if –

- a) both children share a common parent; or
- b) a parent of child A is married to, or in a civil union with, a parent of child B; or
- c) a parent of child A was married to, or in a civil union with, a parent of child B at the time when child B's parent died; or
- d) a parent of child A is the de facto partner of a parent of child B; or
- e) both children live in the same household and, in recognition of family obligations, are treated by the adults of that household as if they were siblings; or
- f) the Secretary, by written notice to the school, advises that child A is to be treated as the sibling of child B.

If two or more siblings apply for places at a school at the same level, the applications of those siblings must be dealt with as a single application for the purposes of the ballot. (i.e. either all siblings are successful or none is).

Pre-enrolment Processes

The Act distinguishes between pre-enrolment processes and enrolment.

Pre-enrolment processes include the process of applying for entry to the school and, potentially, being accepted for enrolment. "Enrolment", on the other hand, occurs when attendance at the school commences and the student is first marked as present on the school roll. No legal charge can be made to parents to access forms for pre-enrolment processes, and neither can they be charged to get into the ballot or onto a waiting list. This includes soliciting donations in respect of any application for out-of-zone enrolment (for those schools subject to the Instructions).

Out-of-zone students

Clause 2 sets out the priority sequence for accepting students who live outside the home zone (subject to the transition provisions of section 75). The matter of deadlines for receipt of applications is covered in the Secretary's Instructions, provided separately. Specific dates for receipt of applications are not included in enrolment schemes because the scheme would require amendment if at a later time the school wanted to simply change the date by which pre-enrolment applications must be received.

Boards may, if they wish, state that proof of a sibling relationship will be required and specify the type of proof necessary.

When an out-of-zone application is received, the board is required under clause 11(2) to provide the applicant with certain basic information about the balloting process. Attached as part of Appendix 1 is a statement that boards might find helpful in communicating with parents.

In-zone students

A board cannot require applications for enrolment from in-zone students to be made by a certain date, because the legislation gives an absolute right of enrolment to any student who lives within the home zone.

Almost certainly, however, boards will wish to receive such applications by the same date set for receipt of out-of-zone applications, because boards have to quantify the number of places likely to be available for out-of-zone students before proceeding to a ballot. Therefore, the board may include indicative dates for pre-enrolment of home zone students in the same notice as that giving information to out-of-zone applicants.

In their scheme, a board may indicate that proof of residence may be required in support of an application for enrolment in respect of a student living within the home zone.

Declining applications

The legislation specifies that students living in the home zone have an absolute right to enrol at the school, and it sets out the criteria for the selection of out-of-zone students. There are, however, a number of other situations that need to be considered.

A board might decide to decline an application because, for example:

- it is an application that does not meet the criteria for acceptance in an approved special programme run by the school and provided for in the enrolment scheme;
- the application is made on the basis of living in the home zone but the board does not accept that the given address is the student's usual place of residence;
- the application is made on the basis of a sibling relationship, but the board does not accept that the relationship is consistent with the interpretation provided in the legislation.

In each of these situations the board must write to the parents explaining why the application has been declined.

If an application is declined for one of these reasons, the principal should offer to place the student's name in the general ballot for out-of-zone places.

Annulment of enrolment

Retention of entitlement to enrolment

The determination of validity of an enrolment of an in-zone student, or enrolment of an out-of-zone student subsequent to a pre-enrolment selection process, is determined at the date of enrolment, which is the first day of attendance consequent on the pre-enrolment process. Once enrolled, the student is entitled to remain enrolled at the school until the end of the student's schooling (for the year levels provided by the school), unless the enrolment is annulled under clause 12, terminated under another provision of the Act, or the student enrolls at another school.

This means, for example, that if a student was living in-zone at the time of enrolment, but the student and family later move to an out-of-zone address in circumstances where there is no ground for annulment under clause 12 (i.e. it is not a case of a temporary residence being used for the purpose of gaining enrolment) then the student is entitled to remain enrolled until completion of their schooling.

The same would apply, for example, if an out-of-zone student was enrolled on the basis that their older sibling was attending the school but the older sibling then leaves the school prior to the student in question (the younger sibling) completing his or her schooling. The younger sibling is entitled to remain enrolled until completion of their schooling.

Reasons for Annulment

Once attendance has commenced, clause 12 provides for the annulment of enrolment if the board has reasonable grounds for believing that, at the time of application, the parents falsely claimed the student was living in the home zone or was entitled to a particular priority in the ballot. The importance and implications of “reasonable grounds” are explored in some detail in the next section, headed “Temporary residence”.

Reasons for annulment fall into three broad categories:

Supplying false information

Annulment is via clause 12(1) for the following reasons:

- (a) the student had never lived at the in-zone address given at the time of application; or
- (b) a claim was falsely made that the student was entitled to a particular priority in the ballot; or

In these situations, if the board has reasonable grounds for believing that the information given at the time of application was false, and the parents have been unable to provide a satisfactory explanation, then the board may annul the enrolment. No review of an enrolment is required in false information cases.

Use of a temporary residence

Annulment is via clause 12(2) if a student was enrolled on the grounds that they lived within the home zone, and since enrolling the student has moved out of the home zone and the Board believes on reasonable grounds that the student has used a temporary residence for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school.

Before annulling an enrolment on this ground, a review of enrolment is required under clause 13. This involves giving parents written notice that the board is considering annulment and giving the parents every reasonable opportunity to explain the situation.

These matters are covered in detail in the section, headed “Temporary residence”.

Annulment procedures

The annulment will take effect one month from the date on which the board decided to annul the enrolment.

Immediately after annulling an enrolment, the board must

- (a) advise the student’s parents, in writing, of the date of the annulment decision and the date on which it takes effect; and
- (b) advise the Secretary (by contacting the relevant Ministry office) of the name of the student and the date of the annulment.

If parents continue to dispute the board’s ruling, they should be advised that they can apply to the Secretary for directed enrolment under clause 14(1).

Temporary residence

Reference has already been made to the fact that a student who is genuinely, but temporarily, living in the home zone has to be enrolled. The problem is “How can genuineness be determined?”

Although suspicious of the genuineness of information given at enrolment, a board might not feel sufficiently confident to decline the application on the spot. If on balance it is decided not to decline a suspicious application, the staff member processing the application would be wise to record his/her suspicions on the application form. This could be useful as a record if further evidence of non-genuineness comes to light after attendance has begun and an enrolment review is deemed to be appropriate.

Sometimes, at the time of application, parents will provide evidence of recent arrival in the area and will give an in-zone address that they acknowledge as temporary, because they are in the process of finding a permanent place of residence. When accepting their application for the enrolment of their child, the board should inform these parents that if they move to an out of zone address before the child's first day of attendance at the school, the child will not be entitled to enrol at the school. Clause 12(3) makes it clear that, unless the board is notified otherwise, the address given in the application form will be taken to be the address at the time of enrolment. It is the Ministry's view that enrolment does not occur until attendance commences.

Under Clause 13(1) a board has a right to review the enrolment of a student who had an in-zone address at the time of enrolment, but has since moved out of zone and the Board believes, on reasonable grounds, that the address was used for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school. **Note that this is not a blanket right to investigate any change of address, but can be used in situations only where the board has reasonable grounds to believe that a temporary in-zone address has been used for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school.** What the board has to do is identify the factors that cause it to be suspicious of the genuineness of the living arrangement that led to enrolment. In the event of any later challenge to the board's decision to review the enrolment, the board's reasons must be sufficiently robust to stand up to scrutiny.

Provided that the board has done groundwork such as that suggested above, the Ministry of Education believes that "reasonable grounds" will be likely to exist in the following examples:

- The board was suspicious of the genuineness of the living arrangement at the time of application and a check (once attendance has begun) reveals that a change of address has occurred, although the parents had not advised the school of this. The grounds would be strengthened if, at the time of application, the board had specifically alerted the parents to the potential penalty for attempting to gain enrolment by deliberately arranging a temporary place of residence.
- A check (once attendance has begun) reveals that a change of address has occurred, though the parents had not advised the school of this. The board had no reason to be suspicious at the time of application because the parents gave no information to suggest that the given address was anything other than an address at which the child lived with the parents. Investigation subsequent to the change of address reveals that the given address belongs to a relative or family friend or is a rental property over which the family had a short term lease.
- A check (once attendance has begun) reveals that a change of address has occurred, although the parents had not advised the school of this. With the benefit of hindsight, the board realises that it should have been suspicious at the time of enrolment because the application indicated that the student would be living with a relative or family friend as proof of residence in the home zone.

- At the time of application, the parents advised the board that their address would be a temporary one, but the story that they give when contacted by the school at the time of change of address is different from the one that they gave at application.

A key element in the first two of these scenarios is that the parents did not notify the school of the change of address. Taken with the other factors, this might be seen as an attempt at concealment. This is not necessarily so, however, and the parents might be able to give a perfectly reasonable explanation. If the parents have been quite “up-front” in informing the school about the change of address, the board will have to judge whether the other circumstances are sufficient to suggest that there was an intention, at the time of application, to use the address for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school. In all cases, the board’s hand is strengthened if the parents, at the time of application, signed a statement saying that the given address was the student’s usual place of residence and gave an undertaking to notify the school of any subsequent change of address.

The examples given above are not intended to be exhaustive. They try to show, however, the sorts of things that might suggest that, at the time of application, there could well have been intent to use a temporary residence for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school. As stated above, the change of address, in itself, is not sufficient to initiate a review of enrolment.

The word “temporary” is not defined in legislation, so there is no minimum time period beyond which a student is “safe”. This is deliberately so to ensure that each issue involving temporary residence must be examined on its own merits. Boards may determine whatever time frame they think appropriate, but it is suggested that addresses of newly enrolled students could perhaps be checked within 3-5 weeks of the commencement of attendance and perhaps again within a fortnight of the beginning of the second full term of attendance. If a change of address comes to light after that time, the board may still consider that the matter is worth investigation if staff were suspicious of the genuineness of the living arrangement at the time of application and if the parents have not notified the school of the change of address. At the same time, schools cannot require families to promise to live within the home zone for a specified period of time. If a student genuinely lives in a home zone at the time of enrolment, then the student must be enrolled.

Once the board has made a judgement that reasonable grounds exist for believing that a temporary residence has been used for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school, it must write to the parents informing them that their child’s enrolment is being reviewed and explaining why. Included in [Appendix 1](#) is the draft of a letter that could be used in this situation.

Although the board’s suspicions might have been aroused by a sudden change in living arrangement, particularly if the parents have not notified the school of the change, **there could still be a perfectly reasonable explanation**. Parents should be invited to give this and if the board accepts the reason as being genuine, the student will remain on the school roll.

Because the Act requires boards to give the parent “every reasonable opportunity to explain the situation”, a board cannot insist that parents respond in a particular manner eg by making an appointment to meet the principal. The letter to the parents should, therefore offer a range of acceptable alternatives and the date by which a reply will be required for it to be considered.

The board will need to set up a mechanism for making decisions on the review. The Board may not exercise its power to annul until 10 school days have passed since it sent the review

notice and the parents have been given every reasonable opportunity to explain the situation. A board might think it appropriate to set up a sub-committee similar to that which some boards use for dealing with suspensions and exclusions. It will be likely that boards would ask the principal to report on the parents' response to the review notice (if any) but parents should be given the opportunity to address the board (or sub-committee) directly if they wish.

If the board determines that the parent's explanation has not been sufficient to change the tentative opinion that it had already formed on the matter, or if no reply has been received within the specified timeframe then, under clause 12(1), the board may annul the student's enrolment.

For information about necessary notifications of the annulment, see the section on annulment.

Directed enrolment under clause 14

In making a direction under clause 14(2)(a) the Ministry would have regard to the points made in the section Living in the home zone. Similarly, the Ministry would have regard to this section if asked under clause 14(1) to overturn an annulment of enrolment made by a board under clause 12.

The provision for directed enrolment under clause 14(2)(b) has existed in legislation for some time and has rarely been exercised. This clause provides for the Secretary to direct a board to enrol a student if satisfied that "the consequences of not giving the direction would be so disadvantageous to the applicant that overriding the enrolment scheme in this case is justified". The Act provides that this power may only be exercised in exceptional circumstances. The Ministry will provide a standard application form that will require parents to supply specialist medical or other expert opinion in support of their application and will not make a direction on the basis of unsupported statements such as "All his friends have been accepted for enrolment at School X". The application form will state that the Ministry will share the specialist opinion with the board of the school concerned (unless there are special privacy issues), to give the board every opportunity to consider all the relevant facts. Only after doing this would the Secretary make a direction, if this were considered to be the appropriate course of action to address the significant disadvantage that the student currently experiences.

Adult students

The only people with a right to enrol at a State school are those domestic students who are aged 5 and over and have not yet reached the first day of January after their 19th birthday. Adult students do not have a right to be enrolled at a school, but if a school has spare capacity, adult students can be enrolled at the discretion of the board.

In a school with an enrolment scheme, however, there is potentially no spare capacity. Since adults do not have a right to be enrolled at any school, the fact that an adult might live in the home zone of a school with an enrolment scheme makes no difference. Nor, by extension, do adult students have any right to be included in the ballot for out-of-zone students.

At a school with an enrolment scheme, therefore, adults can be enrolled only in a situation where the availability of places at a particular level has been advertised and the number of applications is fewer than the number of places available.

International students

Under Section 519(5) of the Act, an international student cannot be enrolled if the student's enrolment has the effect that a domestic student cannot be enrolled.

If an international student lives in the home zone of a school with an enrolment scheme he/she still has no right to be enrolled ahead of out-of-zone domestic students. This effectively means that international students cannot be enrolled at a school with an enrolment scheme unless the board has provided, out of the fees paid by the students themselves, sufficient classrooms to enable all international students to be accommodated.

Consultation

The Ministry is responsible for consulting with the board of the school involved, both in developing a proposed scheme and once that has been finalised for external consultation.

Once the proposed scheme is drawn up the Secretary must consult the persons and organisations the Secretary thinks fit and, in particular, must take all reasonable steps to discover and consider the views of specific stakeholders. These are:

- the parents of students at the school
- the people living in the area for which the school is a reasonably convenient school
- the students and prospective students of the school (depending on their age and maturity).
- the boards of other schools that could be affected by the proposed enrolment scheme.

With regard to consultation with students, the Act is not specific about the age range of students who should be consulted. The Ministry will typically consult with the student body in cases where a school caters for students at Year 9 and above.

Boards will typically have existing communication channels to its student and parent community (for example social media). It would be helpful if those channels could be used during the consultation process in addition to other channels the Ministry will need to use to reach other stakeholders.

Consultation for various groups might be combined, eg

- We might organise a public meeting to which both parents and members of the wider community are invited.
- In cases where several boards in an area are having schemes developed at the same time, we might perhaps meet with them jointly to consult each other and to check that all the home zones mesh neatly.

Where consultation is by way of letter, the Ministry will state a deadline for reply and we will follow up any non-reply with a phone call.

Boards should keep a written record of consultation conducted in conjunction with the Ministry.

Where consultation has been by way of a survey of some kind (eg with parents and/or students) the responses should be provided to the Ministry.

Beginning a scheme

Under clause 7 an enrolment scheme for a primary school commences 3 months after the day of its adoption or on a later date specified in the scheme. An enrolment scheme for a secondary or composite school commences on 1 January in the year following the year in which it was adopted. However, the Secretary may specify early commencement of a scheme if the Secretary considers it appropriate.

Providing for the commencement of a scheme in a secondary or intermediate school is a relatively straightforward process. Unless a student is a new arrival in the area, enrolment will occur only at the beginning of the year and this will be preceded by a pre-enrolment process in the latter part of the previous year, which will prepare the ground for an orderly start to the year. All that a secondary or intermediate school with a new enrolment scheme has to ensure, therefore, is that the board abides by the common dates that have been agreed by all other schools of their type operating enrolment schemes in the area. (See Secretary's Instruction 6.) If a school has been given early commencement, so that the scheme comes into effect before the beginning of the year, the only students who will be able to be enrolled before the new year are students who live in-zone. If a scheme is approved too late in the year for the school to comply with the common dates agreed by other schools, then the board will need to organise a "one-off" pre-enrolment process under Secretary's Instruction 31.

In primary schools, however, if the scheme is to come into effect at any time other than the beginning of a school year, the board will not be able to simply follow the common pattern agreed to by all the other primary schools operating enrolment schemes in the area. It will have to decide how it will manage enrolments for the rest of the year. Basically, the board has two options.

Option A

The board decides that for the rest of the year it will enrol only in-zone students. This decision should only be taken in a situation where the capacity of the school is at full stretch. Parents who live out of zone and have been accustomed to think of the school as the natural school for their children will quite possibly be upset that with the adoption of the enrolment scheme under which they will no longer have a right to enrol their children at the school when they turn 5 or would be eligible to enrol as part of a cohort for schools with cohort entry. They are likely to be more upset if they do not even have the opportunity to enter their child's name in a ballot for out-of-zone places. Parents who already have children at the school will almost certainly be the ones who are most aggrieved.

Option B

Prior to the scheme coming into effect, the board takes action under Secretary's Instruction 31:

This will involve notifying parents of the likely number of out-of-zone places for the remainder of the year, setting a deadline for receipt of applications and planning for a ballot in the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of available places. Depending on the time of year, the board may wish to divide the remainder of the year into more than one enrolment period. For example, at a school where the new enrolment scheme comes into effect at the beginning of term 3, the board could plan to run one enrolment period for new entrants turning 5 or becoming eligible to enrol under cohort entry in term 3 and another for those turning 5 or becoming eligible to enrol under cohort entry in term 4.

Amendments

Amendments to a school's enrolment scheme may become necessary for a variety of reasons eg

- the development of a new housing area, for which the school is reasonably convenient;
- unforeseen in-zone roll growth;
- shifting school population patterns.

Any of these might require an amendment to the boundaries of the home zone. They might also create the need for consequential changes to the boundaries of the home zone of a neighbouring school with an enrolment scheme.

Clause 9(3) states that the process for amending a scheme is the same as that for developing the original scheme, ie

- the Ministry must first consult with the board over possible changes, and develop a proposed amendment for wider consultation (clause 4(3));
- the Ministry must consult with the persons and organisations described clause 4(2);
- the proposed amendment must be finalised by the Secretary and provided to the board under clause 4(3);
- the amendment must be implemented by the board as soon as practicable;
- the board must give notice of the amendment, under clause 6(5);
- the commencement of the amendment is governed by clause 7.

A proposed amendment that would have the effect of shrinking the home zone to reduce pressure on school facilities can cause considerable anguish among current school families who live in the area of retrenchment, because it would mean that their pre-school children would in future have no guaranteed right to enrol at the same school as their older siblings.

For this reason, transitional arrangements may be specified in the amendments (see above).

Minor amendments

Clause 10 provides for a modified procedure if the amendment is minor in nature. In this case, provided that the Secretary has first confirmed that the amendment is indeed minor, and meets the purpose and principles of the legislation, the Secretary must notify the affected board and school community of the proposed amendment. The Secretary must consider any comments or questions received about the proposed amendment. Once the Secretary has made a final decision and notified the board, the amendment must be adopted by the board. The Secretary cannot make a final decision until at least one month has passed since the date of the notice.

Unless special circumstances exist (eg if there is likely to be a considerable degree of public interest or a large number of families affected), the Secretary would consider a proposed amendment as a minor one in the following situations:

- where a school with an enrolment scheme is seeking to amend its scheme simply to include the criteria for enrolment in a newly-approved special programme;
- where there is a new housing development on the perimeter of a home zone and the school is the only reasonably convenient school for students living in the new development;
- residential development in a street that had previously been left out of the zone simply because it contained only commercial premises;
- where a zone boundary does not actually need to be changed, but a more precise definition is needed, to make it clear whether certain addresses are within or outside the home zone;
- where School X is having to amend its home zone as the consequence of approval for a new scheme or an amended scheme being implemented at neighbouring School Y. (It is appropriate to allow a lesser compliance requirement for School X because there will have been full discussion of the proposed new boundary in the consultation process undertaken by School Y.)

Review of enrolment scheme

At least once every three years, as provided for in clause 15, the Secretary must review the operation of the enrolment scheme, having regard to the purpose and principles set out in legislation. In particular, the Secretary must reach a view as to whether there is a continuing need for the scheme in its present form.

Shortly after the beginning of the year in which the next review is due, the Ministry will send the board a letter, reminding the board that the Secretary will soon be reviewing their scheme.

Ending an enrolment scheme

The Secretary may end an enrolment scheme if satisfied that overcrowding at the school is unlikely to ensue.

In this case the Secretary must give written notice to the school's board, and the board must abandon the scheme as soon as practicable unless the Secretary's notice has specified a date on which the scheme is to end.

A board may not abandon an enrolment scheme unless it has received written notice from the Secretary to do so.

See clause 8 of Schedule 20.

Appendix 1: Draft notices and letters

This appendix includes draft public notices, forms and letters to parents that boards may find useful.

[Draft notices](#) are provided for:

- implementation of an enrolment scheme;
- advising parents of pre-enrolment procedures and balloting
 - for a school with a single pre-enrolment period;
 - for a school with multiple pre-enrolment periods;
 - for a group of schools of the same type;
- For a school holding a ballot as provided for in Instruction 31.

[Draft administrative documents](#) are provided for:

- an enrolment questionnaire;
- statement to parents at the time of application;
- ballot supervisor's completion certificate
- draft application form for in-zone status under section 75 of the Act

[Draft letters](#) are provided for:

- informing parents of an out of zone applicant:
 - at the time of application;
 - who have been successful in the ballot for out of zone places;
 - when no ballot was necessary;
 - who have been unsuccessful in the ballot for out of zone places;
 - who is on the waiting list, that a vacant place that can now be offered to their son/daughter;
 - who is not yet eligible for enrolment at the school;
 - who is on a waiting list that vacant places are now being made available part way through a year.
 - who have been successful in the ballot for out-of-zone places, held in accordance with Instruction 31.
 - about decisions on applications under section 75 of the Act.
- informing parents of an enrolment review

All the items in this appendix are available on the Ministry of Education's website <https://www.education.govt.nz/tools-for-schools>

Draft Notices

Draft public notice indicating that an enrolment scheme has been implemented.

To avoid overcrowding, or the likelihood of overcrowding, the board of <school name> has implemented an enrolment scheme that has been developed by the Secretary for Education.

Under this scheme, students will be enrolled if they live within the home zone described below. *(Insert description of the boundaries of the home zone. The description may be precise or general.)*

[Use if a transitional provision applies] Prospective students who have a sibling enrolled at the school on [specify date of commencement] will be treated as in-zone students for enrolment purposes.

The enrolment of out-of-zone students is governed by the provisions of the Education and Training Act 2020.

The enrolment scheme, which includes a precise description of the home zone, may be viewed at the school office *(or some other appropriate place within the school)*, where copies of the scheme are also available.

Draft public notice advertising details of pre-enrolment procedures and subsequent balloting procedures

For a school with a single pre-enrolment period

The board invites applications from parents who wish to enrol their children at < school name > for next year.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

<Insert details of how applications are to be made.>

The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is < state date >. [This includes students applying to be treated as in-zone students under transition provisions.] Parents of students who live within the home zone should also apply by this date to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year.

The board has determined that < state number > places are likely to be available for out-of-zone students next year. *(Alternatively state the number of places likely to be available at particular levels within the school.)* The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

If appropriate add: The school operates an approved special programme for <state name> and expects that there will be about <number> places available in the programme for out-of-zone students next year.

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot (except in the case of special programmes, where the criteria in the enrolment scheme apply). *(Omit the preceding bracketed statement if it is not relevant.)* If a ballot is required, it will be held on <date >. *(If there will be more than one ballot, eg ballots at different levels, all relevant dates must be given.)* Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Draft public notice advertising details of pre-enrolment procedures and subsequent balloting procedures

For a school with a multiple pre-enrolment periods

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

The board has determined that < *state number* > places are likely to be available for out-of-zone students next year. (*Alternatively state the number of places likely to be available at particular levels within the school.*) The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

If appropriate add: The school operates an approved special programme for < *state name* > and expects that there will be about < *number* > places available in the programme for out-of-zone students next year.

Next year there will be < *state number* > enrolment periods. The first enrolment period runs from < *first day of school in the new year* > to < *last day of term 1, or last day of term 2, or whatever is decided* >.

For students seeking enrolment within the first enrolment period, the deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is < *state date* >. [This includes students applying to be treated as in-zone students under transition provisions.]

Parents of students who live within the home zone **and intend enrolling their child at any time during the next year** should notify the school by < *same date as above* > to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year. [This includes students applying to be treated as in-zone students under transition provisions.]

< *Insert details of how applications are to be made.* >

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot (except in the case of special programmes, where the criteria in the enrolment scheme apply). (*Omit the preceding bracketed statement if it is not relevant.*) If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required, it will be held on < *date* >. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Details relating to the second enrolment period are as follows.

Length of enrolment period: from < *first day* > to < *last day* >. Deadline for receipt of applications: < *state date* >

Date of ballot: < *state date* > *Repeat this pattern for any subsequent enrolment period(s)*

Draft public notice advertising details of pre-enrolment procedures and subsequent balloting procedures

For a school with multiple pre-enrolment periods - for second and any subsequent pre-enrolment period

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

Applications for out-of-zone places are now being invited for those students who will become eligible for enrolment during the period *<state beginning and ending dates>*. [This includes students applying to be treated as in-zone students under transition provisions.]

The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is *<state date>*.

If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required, it will be held on *< date >*. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

If you live in the home zone and have not yet signalled your intention to enrol your child later this year, please contact the school immediately to assist us to plan appropriately.

Draft public notice advertising details of pre-enrolment procedures and subsequent balloting procedures

For a group of schools of a similar type

In cases where there is a group of schools that are all going to follow the same pattern, it is possible to create a public notice that covers all schools in the group. Any variations within the group must be separately listed (eg the likely number of out of zone places available at each school). Here is an example of how a public notice might be created covering six secondary schools, who have agreed that they will all hold a ballot for places at Years 10-13 at a later date than the ballot for places at Year 9. Note that the notice must be placed in an appropriate medium (for example a newspaper that circulates in all the areas served by schools in the group or an internet-based community noticeboard).

This notice applies to the following schools, all of whom have authority to operate enrolment schemes to prevent overcrowding.

School A School B School C School D School E School F

The boards of the above schools invite applications from parents who wish to enrol their children at the above schools for next year. Details of the enrolment schemes are available from the relevant school office in every case.

Applications should be made in writing and addressed to the principal of the relevant school. The envelope should be marked "Application for enrolment". The deadline for receipt of applications for out of zone places is XXXday 15 September 20XX.

Parents of students who live within the home zone of a school listed in this notice should also apply by this date to assist the school to plan appropriately for next year. [This includes students applying to be treated as in-zone students under transition provisions.]

The board of each of the named schools has determined that the following places are likely to be available for out-of-zone students next year.

School A	25
School B	40
School C	55
School D	35
School E	45
School F	50

The exact number of places available at each school will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

School C and School E operate approved special programmes, for which enrolment is controlled by particular criteria stated in the enrolment scheme of each school. The special programme places likely to be available for out of zone students are shown below.

- School C Māori immersion programme 12 places
- School E Class for students with physical disabilities 4 places

[State the methodology to be used for the special programme if there are more out-of-zone applications than places available].

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available (outside of the special programme), students will be selected by ballot.

In cases where ballots are required, they will be held on the following dates.

Wednesday 25 October 2017 for places in Year 9 in 2018

Friday 27 October 2017 for places in Years 10 - 13 in 2018

Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Draft public notice advertising ballot as provided for in Instruction 31

(Where a board has places available at a school part-way through the year)

The board advises that a number of vacancies have become available at <school name>. Since the last ballot for out-of-zone places on <date> the board has received a number of enquiries from parents of out-of-zone students seeking to enrol their children at the school this year.

Because the board operates an enrolment scheme, it is required to fill any vacant out-of-zone places by ballot in cases where there are more applications for enrolment than there are places available. The board has determined that <state number> places are likely to be available to out-of-zone students for immediate enrolment <or for enrolment from a certain date>. *(Alternatively state the number of places likely to be available at particular levels within the school.)*

The board is prepared to receive applications, in addition to those it already holds, so long as they reach the school by <date>. If a ballot is required, it will be held on <date>.

Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Administrative Documents

Enrolment questionnaire

The Education and Training Act 2020 gives a guarantee of enrolment to students who live in the home zone specified in the school's enrolment scheme. The board needs to be sure that an in-zone address is genuine, because it is required to manage the enrolment scheme for the benefit of local students.

In addition to specific documents showing proof of residence, it will assist the board if you complete the following questionnaire.

Student's name

1. What school is the student currently attending (if any)?

2. What is the address that will be the student's usual place of residence when the school is open for instruction?

If the student will be living with the parent(s)

3. Have you lived at this address for more than one year?

Yes / No

4. If you answered "Yes" to Question 3 above, is this:

- your only residential address?
 your main residential address?

if "No", state your other address

-
5. If you answered "No" to Question 3 above, do you own the property?

Yes / No

If "No", do you intend to stay at this address long term?

If the student will be boarding

6. Will the student be boarding in-zone at the school hostel?

Yes / No

7. If you answered "No" to Question 6 above:

(a) Who will the student be boarding with?

(b) How long has the boarding arrangement been in place?

(c) Is it a long-term boarding arrangement?

(d) What are the reasons for the boarding arrangement?

(e) If the boarding arrangement is temporary, why is that so?

(f) What is your home address?

(g) Will the person(s) with whom the student is boarding have a primary duty of care?

(Note: The student will not be considered as living in-zone if an out-of-zone parent remains the primary caregiver.)

If any issues arise from the above information, the board might wish to interview you to ensure the genuineness of the application.

If your application for enrolment is declined, you may ask the Ministry of Education to direct the board to enrol the student. This power is only used in exceptional circumstances. More information and application forms are available from the Ministry's local office.

Draft of statement to be provided to parents at the time of application for enrolment.

To be completed by parents who have given an in-zone address as the student's usual place of residence.

The address given at the time of application for enrolment must be the student's usual place of residence when the school is open for instruction. This means that if you currently live at an in-zone address but move to an out-of-zone address before your child's first day of attendance at the school, your child will not be entitled to enrol at the school.

The Ministry of Education has advised that parents should also be warned of the possible consequences of deliberately attempting to gain enrolment by knowingly giving a false address or making an in-zone living arrangement that they intend to be only temporary eg

- renting accommodation in-zone on a short-term basis;
- arranging temporary board in-zone with a relative or family friend;
- using the in-zone address of a relative or friend as an "address of convenience", with no intention to live there on an ongoing basis.

Before enrolment takes place (ie before attendance begins), if the board has reasonable grounds for believing that the given in-zone address will not be a genuine, ongoing living arrangement, the board may withdraw any offer of a place it might have made on the basis of the given address.

After attendance has begun, if the school learns that a student is no longer living at the in- zone address given at the time of application for enrolment and has reasonable grounds to believe that a temporary in-zone residence has been used for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school, then the board may review the enrolment. Unless the parents can give a satisfactory explanation, the board may annul the enrolment. This course of action is provided for under clause 13 of Schedule 20 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

I confirm that the address that I have provided to the school will be the usual place of residence of.....(student's name) when the school is open for instruction. I will advise the school of any subsequent change of address.

(To be completed in the case of a student who will be boarding in-zone, but not at a school hostel. Delete if not applicable.)

I confirm that.....(name), with whom my child will be boarding, will have the primary duty of care and should therefore be the school's first contact in matters related to discipline and progress at school.

Signed.....

(Parent)

Ballot supervisor's completion certificate

Note: If there are ballots for places at more than one level, there must be a separate certificate for each ballot.

I have supervised the ballot for places at:

_____ Year level(s)

_____ School

The ballot relates to the enrolment period commencing: _____

(State Term and Year)

I can certify that the ballot took place in accordance with the requirements specified in the Secretary's Instructions 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

_____ Name (print)

_____ Position*

_____ Signature

_____ Date

* Justice of the Peace

Practising Lawyer

Sworn member of the Police

Local Government Returning Officer

Application for in-zone status under section 75 of the Education and Training Act 2020

Application relating to a **new** enrolment scheme.

Name of new student _____

Address of new student _____
Date new student will be enrolled if application successful _____

Sibling name: _____
Address of sibling when enrolment scheme implemented (if different from above) _____

When was sibling first enrolled at school? _____
Will sibling still be enrolled at the school on the date of enrolment of the new student? _____

Application relating to **amended** enrolment scheme.

Name of new student _____

Address of new student _____
Date student will be enrolled if application successful _____

Sibling name: _____
Address of sibling when enrolment scheme changed (if different from above) _____

When was sibling first enrolled at school? _____
Will sibling still be enrolled at the school on the date of enrolment of the new student? _____

I confirm that the above information is true and correct.

Signed

Name of parent/caregiver

Date

Draft Letters

Draft information for parents of out-of-zone applicants, to be provided when an application is received

Thank you for your application for enrolment at <school name>.

Because you do not live within the home zone specified in the school's enrolment scheme your application will be subject to the selection procedure specified in the Education and Training Act 2020.

The Act states that first priority must be given to students who meet the criteria for enrolment in an approved special programme run by the school. *(If this is not relevant to your school, add the following sentence: "Our school has no such programme.")* Second priority must be given to siblings of current students. Third priority must be given to siblings of former students. Fourth priority must be given to children of former students. Fifth priority must be given to children of board employees or board members. Sixth priority must be given to all other students.

In situations where the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available for out-of-zone students, selection will be by ballot. If a ballot is required at our school, it will be held on <date> and will be supervised by a Justice of the Peace *(or, as appropriate, a practising lawyer or a sworn member of the Police or a local government returning officer)*.

Within three school days of this date, the school will send you a letter informing you of the outcome of the ballot. If your application has been successful, you will be asked to confirm your acceptance or rejection of the offered place within 14 days of the date on the school's letter. If you do not respond within the 14 day period, the place will be offered to the first person on the waiting list established by the ballot.

Draft letter to parents of out-of-zone applicant who has been successful in the ballot

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your child <name> at <school name>.

A ballot has recently been held for places available for out-of-zone students and I am pleased to be able to inform you that < name > was successful. I am therefore able to offer him/her a place at our school for next year (or “in the next enrolment intake”).

You will appreciate that a number of applicants were not successful in the ballot. Please confirm your acceptance of the place in writing, or alternatively indicate that you will not be taking up the offer. A tear-off slip is provided for your convenience. Your reply must reach the school no later than < a date that is 14 days from the date on this letter >. If confirmation is not received by this date, the place will be offered to the person currently at the head of the waiting list of applicants who were unsuccessful in the ballot.

I look forward to hearing from you.

< Add any relevant details about procedures relating to the first day of attendance. >

Yours sincerely

Strike out the option that does not apply

- (a) I accept the offer of a place at <school name>.

- (b) Thank you for the offer of a place at <school name> but I do not wish to take up the offer.

_____ Signed
_____ Name
_____ Date

Draft letter to parents of out-of-zone applicant when no ballot was necessary

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your son/daughter <name> at <school name>.

The number of out-of-zone applications that the board received was fewer than the number of places that are expected to be available for out-of-zone students. I am therefore pleased to be able to offer <name> a place at our school for next year (or "in the next enrolment intake").

Please confirm your acceptance of the place in writing, or alternatively indicate that you will not be taking up the offer. A tear-off slip is provided for your convenience. Please reply by <a date that is 14 days from the date on this letter> to assist us with forward planning.

I look forward to hearing from you.

< Add any relevant details about procedures relating to the first day of attendance. >

Yours sincerely

Strike out the option that does not apply

- (a) I accept the offer of a place at <school name>.

- (b) Thank you for the offer of a place at <school name> but I do not wish to take up the offer.

Signed

Name

Date

Draft letter to parents of out-of-zone applicant who has been unsuccessful in the ballot

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your son/daughter <name> at <school name>.

A ballot has recently been held for places available for out of zone students and I regret to have to inform you that < name > was not successful. The names of unsuccessful applicants were listed in the order in which they were drawn in the ballot and were then placed on a waiting list. < Name > is number < give number > on the waiting list.

I have asked parents of successful applicants to inform me within 14 days whether or not they wish to accept the place that has been offered. Any vacant places that result from this process will be offered to unsuccessful applicants in the order in which their names appear on the waiting list.

The Board wishes to advise you that it has no discretionary powers that can be applied where parents feel that there are special reasons why their child should be enrolled other than through the normal balloting process. If you believe that exceptional circumstances do exist in your child's case, then you may make application under clause 14(2)(b) of Schedule 20 of the Education and Training Act 2020 to the Ministry of Education. Forms for this process are available from the Ministry's local office. The Ministry advises that this section is used in exceptional circumstances only. The Ministry expects that specialist medical or other expert opinion will be supplied in support of an application. Ministry staff will be able to provide more guidance on this process if necessary.

Yours sincerely

Draft letter to parents of out-of-zone applicant whose name has been placed on the waiting list and can now be offered a place at the school

I am pleased to be able to inform you that a vacancy has occurred and I am now able to offer < *name* > a place at our school (*specify date student can start*).

You will appreciate that a number of applicants who were not successful in the ballot are still on the waiting list. Please confirm your acceptance of the place in writing, or alternatively indicate that you will not be taking up the offer. A tear-off slip is provided for your convenience. Your reply must reach the school no later than < *a date that is 14 days from the date on this letter* >. If confirmation is not received by this date, the place will be offered to the next person on the waiting list of applicants who were unsuccessful in the ballot.

I look forward to hearing from you.

< *Add any relevant details about procedures relating to the first day of attendance.* >

Yours sincerely

Strike out the option that does not apply

- (a) I accept the offer of a place at <*school name*>.

- (b) Thank you for the offer of a place at <*school name*> but I do not wish to take up the offer.

_____ Signed
_____ Name
_____ Date

Draft letter to parents of an out-of-zone applicant who is not yet eligible for enrolment at the school

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your son/daughter <name> at <school name>.

I note that <name> does not turn 5 until <date>[If the school has cohort entry: This makes <name> eligible for enrolment with the cohort enrolling on <date>], This is outside the enrolment period for which applications are currently being accepted. I will therefore hold this application over for consideration alongside others relating to the second/third/fourth enrolment period, for which applications close on <date>.

I will be in touch with you soon after that date to let you know the outcome of your application.

Yours sincerely

Draft letter to parents of students on a waiting list, in situations where a board determines part way through a year that it has vacant places that can be made available to out-of-zone students

When the board last held a ballot for out-of-zone places at <school name> your child was unsuccessful in the ballot. You were informed that your child's name had been placed on a waiting list.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that a vacancy has occurred and I am now able to offer < name > a place at our school. I realise that by now your child is settled in another school. Nevertheless, you might wish to accept the place at our school that I am now able to offer you. Please indicate your intentions by completing the tear-off slip at the bottom of this letter and returning it to the school by <date>. If you have not responded by that date, I will take that as an indication that you no longer wish your child's name to remain on the waiting list.

I look forward to hearing from you.

< Add any relevant details about procedures relating to the first day of attendance. >
Yours sincerely

Strike out the option that does not apply.

- (a) I accept the offer of a place at <school name>. I understand that the place is available for immediate enrolment <or for enrolment from (date)> and that the offer of a place does not entitle me to delay enrolment until a later date.

- (b) Thank you for the offer of a place at <school name> but I do not wish to take up the offer.

_____ Signed

_____ Name

_____ Date

Draft letter to parents of out-of-zone applicant who has been successful in a ballot held in accordance with Instruction 31

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your son/daughter <name> at <school name>.

A ballot has recently been held for places available for out of zone students and I am pleased to be able to inform you that < name > was successful. I am therefore able to offer him/her a place at our school. Please understand that this offer is for immediate enrolment <or state a date at that enrolment will commence> and if not taken up does not confer an entitlement to enrol next year or at some other time.

You will appreciate that some applicants were not successful in the ballot and are still on the waiting list. Please confirm your acceptance of the place in writing, or alternatively indicate that you will not be taking up the offer. A tear-off slip is provided for your convenience. Your reply must reach the school no later than < a date that is 14 days from the date on this letter >. If confirmation is not received by this date, the place will be offered to the first person on the waiting list of applicants who were unsuccessful in the ballot.

I look forward to hearing from you.

< Add any relevant details about procedures relating to the first day of attendance. >

Yours sincerely

Strike out the option that does not apply

- (a) I accept the offer of a place at <school name>.

- (b) Thank you for the offer of a place at <school name> but I do not wish to take up the offer.

_____ Signed

_____ Name

_____ Date

Draft letter to parents of student whose enrolment is being reviewed because there are reasonable grounds to believe that a temporary in-zone address has been used for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school

Note: This is a model only. Details should be changed as appropriate.

Dear <parent's name>

ENROLMENT REVIEW NOTICE

It has come to the attention of the board that <student's name> is no longer living at the address that, at the time of your application for enrolment, you stated would be *his/her* usual place of residence.

I note that when you applied for enrolment you gave no indication that the given address would be a temporary one, nor have you subsequently informed the school of any change of address, although you gave an undertaking to do so in the statement you signed at the time of application. The board feels therefore that it has reasonable grounds to believe that you have used a temporary residence within the school's home zone for the purpose of gaining enrolment at the school.

Under Schedule 20, clause 13 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am formally advising you that the board <or relevant sub-committee> will be reviewing the enrolment at a meeting on <date>.

It might be, of course, that there is a perfectly reasonable explanation for the change of address and that there has been no attempt to use a temporary in-zone residence to secure enrolment at our school. If that is the case, I would appreciate it if you would contact me immediately * or make an appointment to see me in person, to provide an explanation. If the board is satisfied that the explanation for moving out of zone is genuine, then your child is entitled to remain on the school roll.

The board <or relevant sub-committee> has asked me to prepare a report for its meeting of <date>. The report will include any information that you have provided by way of explanation. Please let me know if you would prefer to be present at the meeting to present your case personally.

If I do not hear from you by <date, that is at least 10 school days after the date of this letter and before the board meets to consider the matter>, the board may annul the enrolment as provided for in Schedule 20, clause 12(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020. Any annulment will take effect one month from the date of the board's decision.

<Signed> Principal

* Give contact details if not on the school letterhead.

Decision letter accepting application for in-zone status under section 75 of the Education and Training Act 2020

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your child <name> at <school name> as an in-zone student under the school's transition provisions following implementation / amendment of its enrolment scheme.

I am pleased to confirm that <name> qualifies as an in-zone student.

Please confirm your acceptance of the place in writing, or alternatively indicate that you will not be taking up the offer. A tear-off slip is provided for your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

< Add any relevant details about procedures relating to the first day of attendance. >

Yours sincerely

Strike out the option that does not apply

- (a) I accept the offer of a place at <school name>.

- (b) Thank you for the offer of a place at <school name> but I do not wish to take up the offer.

_____ Signed
_____ Name
_____ Date

Decision letter declining application for in-zone status under section 75 of the Education and Training Act 2020

Thank you for your application for enrolment of your son/daughter <name> at <school name> as an in-zone student under the school's transition provisions following implementation/amendment of its enrolment scheme.

Unfortunately, <name> does not meet the requirements of these provisions. <explain why>

EITHER

As there are no out-of-zone places available at this time I am unable to offer <name> an opportunity to apply for enrolment as an out-of-zone student.

I wish <name> well in his/her studies.

OR

<Name> does qualify under priority <X> as an out-of-zone student, and I would be happy to accept an application on that basis. If you wish to pursue this option, please complete the enclosed application.

Yours sincerely

Ministry of Education

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

Mātauranga House

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Te Kawanatanga o Aotearoa