

Combining school boards of trustees

Sometimes it makes sense for more than one school to be governed by a single board. This may, for example, occur where a school is having governance difficulties, such as finding enough skilled trustees to make up a board.

Source: Ministry of Education factsheet

The changes to the Act give the Minister the ability to combine boards under certain circumstances. If there are four or more schools involved in a combined board, an alternative constitution may be required.

Can boards still request a combining of boards process themselves?

Yes, boards may still initiate this process themselves.

What say will school communities have in this process?

Whether the Ministry or individual boards initiate this process, school communities must be consulted.

What occurs if the school is a state integrated school?

The proprietors of the school must be consulted along with the wider school community as part of the process.

Are there any types of boards that may not be combined?

There are restrictions around the combining of boards of state integrated, special institution and designated character schools, including those designated Kura Kaupapa Māori. For example, a board of a designated character school may only combine with a board of another designated character school and only if they share substantially the same aims, purposes and objectives. A Kura Kaupapa Māori may only combine with another Kura Kaupapa Māori.

Can a combined board be separated at any stage?

Yes. The Minister has the ability to return a combined board back to a state where individual schools are governed by individual boards.

What impact would a combined board have on our Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako?

With increased collaboration between schools in a Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako, it may be the choice of the individual boards to combine so that more than one school is governed by a single board. It is important to note that this is not the same as a stewardship group within a Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako.

Where do I find this in the Education Act?

Sections 110, 110A, 111, 112 and 112A.

When do the changes take effect?

These provisions took effect from 19 May 2017.

Where do I get advice?

NZSTA will continue to update and advise you through factsheets, newsletters, and our website.

You can call **0800 782 435** or email actupdates@nzsta.org.nz.