

State integrated schools

The Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975 (known as the PSCI Act) was developed more than 40 years ago. Many of the Act's provisions have not been modernised or updated since 1975.

Source: Ministry of Education factsheet

The PSCI Act has now been incorporated into the Education Act 1989. Many of the PSCI Act provisions remain but in a more updated form. Boards will need to be aware that a new merger process has been devised for state integrated schools. There are two other major changes, but they affect proprietors as opposed to boards.

These changes relate to:

- requiring proprietors to provide financial and other information to the Crown to improve decision making when issues arise
- introducing new criteria to guide decision making by proprietors
- creating a bespoke merger process for state integrated schools.

The changes mainly affect proprietors – is there anything the board needs to be aware of?

There is a new merger process for state integrated schools. The merging schools will no longer need to close before opening as a new school. The process will be smoother and more efficient for boards of trustees. The board of each merging school is dissolved and a new board established for the continuing school. All rights, assets, liabilities and debts of each merging school are vested in the board of the continuing school. The board of the continuing school must have no more than four members appointed by the proprietor.

Before a new board takes effect, the Minister must give notice in the Gazette of whether an interim board will be:

- the board of the continuing school plus at least one co-opted trustee representing each of the merging schools; or
- a board appointed by the Minister; or
- an alternative constitution approved under section 98A.

Where do I find this in the amended Education Act?

Section 431.

When do the changes take effect?

These provisions take 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.