

BETTER FUNDING FOR SUPPORT STAFF BETTER LEARNING FOR KIDS

NZEI TE RIUROA

THE GOVERNMENT HAS CUT SUPPORT STAFF FUNDING

In its May Budget, the National Government froze our school operations grant. This grant funds support staff wages and other school running costs. This is the first time in nearly two decades that any Government has frozen school funding.

Analysis by respected economics research firm Infometrics shows this funding freeze actually equates to a 0.5% cut in per student funding in the coming year due to increases in school rolls. That adds up to a lot of money schools can't afford to lose.

FUNDING CUTS HURT KIDS

The funding cut comes on the back of already insufficient ops-grant funding for our schools.

Many support staff are paid only marginally above the minimum wage, employed for 40 weeks of the year rather than 52 weeks and have a lack of job security. To ensure great learning for kids and secure employment for staff we need more funding, not less.

The funding cut will see schools having to make tough decisions about what support staff it can afford to hire next year and is likely to lead to less support that helps kids learn.

BETTER FUNDING NOT BULK FUNDING

The Government's funding review is proposing to re-introduce bulk funding for teachers.

National's plans will result in bigger class sizes and downward pressure on pay and staff numbers. When school budgets are under pressure it will force school boards to make trade-offs between teaching staff, support staff and other running costs once the funding freeze kicks in.

Support staff are essential to kids learning and shouldn't be traded off due to funding cuts.

STAND UP FOR LEARNING

The funding freeze and the funding review offer us the chance to show that for kids and schools to succeed they need better funding.

We can stop the funding freeze and the bulk funding proposal by standing together with parents and our schools to win a fair deal for support staff.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO WIN

ATTEND YOUR UPCOMING JOINT NZEI/PPTA PAID UNION MEETING. A huge turnout at these meetings will send a message to the Government that we stand for Better Funding not Bulk Funding.

SEND A MESSAGE TO EDUCATION MINISTER HEKIA PARATA to unfreeze the school operations grant.
Go to **www.betterfunding.org.nz/supportstaff** and sign the petition and share it on Facebook.

JOIN THE UNION. The only way we can win more money for our schools and stop bulk funding is to work together and send a strong message to the Government. If you are not currently a member of NZEI now is the time to join. If the Government sees we are growing then it will be forced to take our call for better funding seriously.

GO TO WWW.NZEI.ORG.NZ/JOIN