

The questions						
There is no credible evidence that charter schools improve educational outcomes for children, in fact, in many cases it is the opposite. Will your party abolish charter schools?	Yes. The Labour Party is firmly opposed to charter schools and will repeal the law change that allowed for them to be created.	Yes. Charter schools undermine a quality public education system.	No, the evidence shows that many partnership schools are getting great results for their students.	Yes	The Māori Party supports charter schools. They are subject to high levels of transparency and accountability and some have been particularly effective for Māori students who have previously been poorly served by the state system.	No, the partnership schools policy empowers educators to start new innovative schools, allows parents to choose and gives teachers more diverse employment opportunities.
The operations grant was frozen in last year's budget. Will your party continue with the current funding review including no increase to the operations grant? How will you fund equity in education?	No. Labour will ensure that schools receive the funding that they need so they don't have to rely on other sources such as parental donations and user-pays.	The Green Party is aware that education needs to be better funded. We would increase funding overall in the sector, including the operations grant.	The operations grant was not frozen. This year's Budget increased the ops grant by 1.3 percent, and increased targeted funding for those children at risk of educational underachievement by 4 percent. The funding review is looking at possible new options.	No. New Zealand First understands that at least the "cost of living" increases must be immediately paid to schools via their operations grants	The Māori Party would look to increase the operations grant which was frozen in last year's Budget. Equity in education is not just about funding but ensuring all students, no matter what their socio-economic status, ethnicity or location, can achieve similar outcomes.	ACT is open to looking at increased education funding, including more targeted funding for at-risk students. However, equity in education is not only about money. ACT believes that the state should fund a range of schools.
Research has shown that National Standards are narrowing the curriculum and not improving educational outcomes for learners on international monitors. Will your party keep National Standards in schools?	No. Labour will abolish National Standards and return the focus back to a broad and varied curriculum.	No. The Green Party would abolish National Standards and support meaningful assessment that supports each child via a diverse and creative curriculum.	Yes. Having better information enables everyone to identify the students who need extra support to accelerate their progress.	No.	We would consider reviewing National Standards and we believe more culturally responsive teachers are needed. Tātaiako – Cultural Competencies for teachers of Māori learners provides a framework that can support professional development and learning for teachers, leaders and aspiring principals which can only assist in better outcomes for Māori.	Yes, National Standards are one way to help ensure transparency and accountability. However, they are not perfect. ACT favours accountability through parental choice. Every parent should have the right to say, "sorry, this school isn't right for my child, we want something else".
Funding for learning support is inadequate given the growing number of children identified with special educational needs and disabilities. Will your party increase funding for learning support so every child can reach their potential?	Yes. Labour recognises the huge unmet need for learning support. Labour was the only party in Parliament that voted to put increased spending on social services ahead of tax cuts.	Yes. The Green Party led a Select Committee inquiry into learning support needs.	The Government has significantly increased funding for children with additional learning needs by around 33 percent since 2009 to \$633 million per year.	Yes. We are committed to increasing ORS funding to 3 percent of the school population.	Yes the Māori Party supports the increase in funding for children identified with special educational needs and disabilities. It is in everyone's interests that all children receive adequate education.	The special educational needs and disabilities sector has been undervalued for too long with children not getting the support they need. ACT is very open to increasing funding for children identified with special educational needs and disabilities. We also support piloting new educational programmes.
What is your top policy priority in education and what among would you implement in your first 100 days office?	We will abolish the obsession with measurement and audit and return the focus to what really matters – teaching and learning.	Increase the operations grant. Start to roll out our school hubs policy and kick off planning for Te Reo as a core subject in schools.	While we have not yet released our education policy, one of the top priorities is completing the Funding Review so we have a fairer funding system and more support for schools and early learning.	We would set a 30-year strategic plan for education in New Zealand and return to a high trust environment where politicians do not dictate what happens in the classroom.	The Māori Party believes that education should be driven by whānau aspirations but not one policy can achieve that. Rather, a number of policies can help do that including, among other things compulsory Te reo Māori in schools.	ACT will therefore open more partnership schools and allow state and integrated schools to voluntarily apply for partnership school status, giving them the same flexibilities enjoyed by partnership schools.

