

Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Healthy School Lunches

External Model

The Government asked the Ministry to deliver a more efficient school lunch programme that provides nutritious lunches that students know and love, with significant savings to the taxpayer.

We've partnered with the School Lunch Collective (led by Compass Group, and supported by over 17 New Zealand

based food suppliers and manufacturers) to deliver healthy school lunches for 240,000 students.

The changes will apply to all schools, and all model types by the start of 2026 with the exception of Specialist Schools and Teen Parent Units who have learners with complex special dietary needs. This document provides and overview of the

changes to schools currently on the external model, where lunches supplied to the school by an external supplier.

All schools in the external model will receive their lunches from the School Lunch Collective from Term1, 2025. The School Lunch Collective has been selected because of their reach across the country, their ability to deliver consistently and reliably, and the sustainable solutions they can provide.

Changes to the external model	What doesn't change
<p>1. <i>There will be two meal sizes</i> Students in years 0-8 will receive the same size meal at 240grams. Meals for older students in Year 9 and above will be at least 300 grams.</p> <p>2. <i>Your meal provider will likely change, and there might be some changes to your meals</i> Meals will be planned each term to match seasonality and will be based on what students like to eat.</p> <p>3. <i>Meals will be delivered to schools daily. Schools will be responsible for distribution to students.</i> Schools with large rolls may be entitled to additional support to help with serving and cleaning up.</p>	<p>1. <i>Hot and cold meals</i> Both hot and cold meals will continue to be part of the menu.</p> <p>2. <i>Meals for learners with complex special dietary requirements</i> Additional funding for complex special dietary meals does not change and these will continue to be provided.</p> <p>3. <i>You can still provide feedback to your meal provider</i> Your feedback and ākonga voice will be encouraged and welcomed.</p> <p>4. <i>There are no changes to nutrition standards</i> We will continue to support suppliers and internal model schools to meet the nutrition standards.</p> <p>5. <i>Responsibility for waste management</i> All meal providers are responsible for waste management and meals will be packaged in recyclable containers of the same size to reduce waste.</p>

All schools will move to the new model

From Term 1, 2025, the change applies to:

- Intermediate Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Full Primary Schools
- Composite Schools
- Alternative Education providers
- Activity Centres.

From Term 1, 2026 Contributing Primary Schools will join the new model.

For more information

For more information email school.lunches@education.govt.nz or visit kaorakaako.education.govt.nz