

## Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

### 1. What will happen to the Hawera Intermediate site and buildings if the school closes?

The site and buildings will be available for use while more permanent property solutions are developed and achieved. This means if Proposal 1 was approved then some buildings could be relocated on other primary school sites. If Proposal 2 (A or B) were approved then the site and buildings could be used until other property decisions are made by the Board of the new or merged Year 7-13 school. Longer term the Ministry will determine what happens with the Hawera Intermediate site.

### 2. I am a parent of a Year 6 student. Where will my child be next year?

If Proposal 1 was approved then ideally your child would stay at their current primary school for Year 7 in 2022. This also requires that the Ministry and Boards can complete the required changes for 2022. If schools indicate in their submissions that the implementation date needs to be pushed out to 2023, your child may be in the last year group to attend Hawera Intermediate School.

If Proposal 2 were approved then your child would be eligible to enrol at the new Y7-13 school. Depending on the decisions of the Year 7-13 Board, they may be at the Hawera High School site or they may be temporarily at the current Hawera Intermediate site until more permanent property decisions are made by the establishment board of the new or merged school.

### 3. Will I have to buy a new uniform? If so which one?

If Proposal 1 was approved then your child would stay at their current primary school and would stay in their current uniform (if the school has one).

Or if your child was at Hawera Intermediate next year as part of the transition process (because your current school will not have space for year 7 straight away) then Hawera Intermediate has confirmed that there will not be the requirement to buy their school uniform for 2022.

If Proposal 2 (A or B) were approved then depending on the decisions of the Year 7-13 Board, parents would be informed of the uniform requirements. Most boards in this situation have a phasing in of new uniforms.

### 4. What transport to school will be available?

The closure of the Intermediate School may result in a change to the transport eligibility zones (TEZ) for neighbouring schools and/or the new or merged school. If there are changes we will work with the schools and communities concerned and parents will be notified in a timely way. There may also be some transitional arrangements.

### 5. Closure/Merger process

Following the current formal consultation on the proposals, the feedback will be collated, and a report will be developed for the Minister. It is likely that the Minister will then be in a position to make a final decision.

Once a final decision is confirmed the changes will be gazetted and the Ministry and boards will work towards implementation.

If the final decision includes the closure of a school (or both the intermediate and high schools), then a change manager (or managers) will be appointed by the Minister of Education to support the board(s) through this process. Staff will continue to be supported through EAP. In a closure, all positions (including the board) finish on the date of closure.

If the final decision includes the merger of the intermediate and the high school, then the Ministry will work to appoint the board of the continuing school. This could be one of the current boards with representatives from both schools, or it may be an appointed board. The board of the continuing school is the board that determines the policies, practices, staffing etc for the merged school. This

is a complex process and we would estimate it would take most of 2022 to complete ready for opening in 2023.

If the final decision includes the establishment of a new school then an Establishment Board will be appointed. The Establishment Board is the board that determines how the school will operate by year levels and curriculum, policies, practices, staffing etc for the new school. This is a complex process and we would estimate it would take most of 2022 to complete ready for opening in 2023. To support the Establishment Board we would provide a Governance Facilitator to guide the Board in its decision-making.

While the process above is occurring, the high school and intermediate will continue to remain open and provide education to your children.

## **6. What funding would be available to support the schools?**

When a school closes or merges it generates Education Development Initiative (EDI) funding. In the case of the Hawera proposals there would be \$1,000,000 in EDI funding generated (which is approximately 2,500 per Year 7 and 8 student). This is based on the 1 March roll of the Intermediate School as per the EDI policy.

EDI funding is to be used by a school board to support students to transition to their next school and for projects to raise student achievement.

Joint Schooling Initiative Funding (JSIF) is also generated where there are two or more schools remaining in the network following the change. In the case of the Hawera proposals there would be \$290,000. JSIF funding is to be used for collaborative projects between two or more schools to support students.

## **7. Any information about 7-13 models**

Some Year 7-13 schools operate as traditional secondary schools. In more recent years there has been an interest in middle schooling (Year 7-10) and senior schooling (Year 11-13) and some Year 7-13 schools operate as junior high and senior high schools, with separate programmes, property. They are still one school with one board and one principal.

If proposal 2 (A or B) was approved, and the board chose to operate as a junior and senior high, there may be some classes that cut across the junior high – senior high model, such as a immersion te reo unit in the school. These units usually operate as a whānau group within the school.

## **8. Keeping teachers currently at the intermediate and high schools.**

Should the Minister's final decision include the closure of the intermediate and/or the high school, we will work with the teacher unions to consider how best to support staff, and teaching and learning for students during the transition.

Parents can email [enquiries.whanganui@education.govt](mailto:enquiries.whanganui@education.govt) with any questions or click on the following [link](#) for more information.