

# Briefing report

## Education Review Office (ERO): It's early days for the Digital Technologies curriculum content.

Date	25 June 2019
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M19-28
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	<p>It is recommended that you:</p> <p>a) <b>note</b> the attached national evaluation report <i>It's early days for the Digital Technologies curriculum content</i>.</p> <p>b) <b>note</b> that ERO intends to release this report on its website in July 2019</p>	



### Attachments:

**Education Review Office (ERO):  
It's early days for the Digital  
Technologies curriculum content.**



### Comments:

### Minister's Office to complete

Noted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Referred to:	
Date signed by Minister:	4.7.19

Our Ref: M19-28

25 June 2019

**Hon Chris Hipkins**  
**Minister of Education**

### **It's early days for the Digital Technologies curriculum content**

#### **Purpose**

1. This paper provides you with information about ERO's national evaluation exploring how effectively Ministry of Education (the Ministry) support has raised schools' awareness of and helped them to begin working with the Digital Technologies curriculum content.
2. The first phase of the evaluation is formative, intended to inform the Ministry of the overall effectiveness of the early implementation of the support programmes, where the strengths are and where improvements can be made.
3. The report also indicates an initial view of preparedness of schools to implement the Digital Technologies curriculum content in January 2020.

#### **Background**

4. ERO's evaluation was in English-medium schools. The Ministry contracted a separate entity to evaluate in Māori-medium schools.
5. ERO used a Computer Aided Telephone Interview (CATI) to survey a 10 percent, simple random sample of schools.
6. Data were collected in September, 2018.
7. An agreed theory of change was developed in collaboration with the Ministry. This formed the basis for generating evaluation questions together with the Ministry.
8. ERO's survey is phase one of a two-phase evaluation. The second phase in 2019 will use case studies to provide insights into how some schools have worked towards implementation of the Digital Technologies curriculum content. Data collection for phase two was undertaken in Term 1, 2019. The resulting report will provide case studies of good practice, telling the story of change in schools across a range of initial readiness points.

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#### **ERO's evaluation**

9. Progress made by schools was slower than expected.

10. At this early implementation stage, 88 percent of schools felt somewhat prepared to implement the curriculum content from 2020. Only a few schools (seven percent) reported they had sufficient understanding, knowledge and skills to implement the curriculum content in January 2020.
11. Schools have not had or accessed sufficient external support to build their understanding, knowledge and skills necessary to effectively implement the Digital Technologies curriculum content as a part of their local curriculum.
12. The majority of schools had started to support their teachers to engage with the Digital Technologies curriculum content, through staff meetings and links to readings and websites.
13. Schools with 'champions' for the Digital Technologies curriculum content were better prepared than others. Champions were present in two-thirds of secondary schools but less than half of primary schools.
14. Despite this, further analysis showed no school type was more advanced than any other in their teachers' awareness of, engagement with or understanding of the Digital Technologies curriculum content.
15. Leaders identified developing Digital Fluency in teachers was the most compelling need, to raise their confidence in the use of digital devices before starting to plan for students to create digital technologies.
16. Capability and time for teachers to work with the new content were identified as the main concerns regarding preparing for implementation in January 2020.
17. At the time of the survey, not all schools were focused on the Digital Technologies curriculum content as a priority, despite the requirement that they implement it in January 2020. However, two-thirds of schools were making changes taking into account the Digital Technologies curriculum content.
18. The report makes some suggestions for the Ministry and professional learning providers to strengthen their support of schools towards their implementation of the Digital Technologies curriculum content in January 2020.
19. The Ministry has indicated to ERO they have used emerging findings provided to them in December 2018, along with other information from its contracted providers, to refine its programme of support for the implementation of Digital Technologies curriculum content into schools and Hangarau Matihiko curriculum content into kura. The Ministry reports it has:
  - refocused the Kia Takitū ā-Matihiko | Digital Readiness Programme for both English medium and Māori medium settings to ensure teacher and kaiako have more direct support about what to teach and how to teach it. The programme will also focus more explicitly on meeting with and supporting in-school or in-kura champions, and school and kura leaders to undertake the engagement and curriculum planning tasks.
  - extended the Digital Technologies for All contract to include Year 9-10 students
  - commissioned new curriculum support materials to clarify what is being changed and why

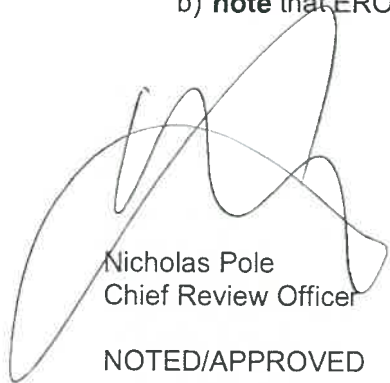
- re-shaped the Technology on-line web-site so that Digital Technologies and resources developed by teachers and contracted providers are more easily accessible for teachers
- reset communications to increase visibility of the Digital Technologies & Hangarau Matihiko programme and raise engagement with the professional supports package.

**Recommendation**

20. It is recommended that you:

a) **note** the attached national evaluation report *It's early days for the Digital Technologies curriculum content.* **noted**

b) **note** that ERO intends to release this report on its website in July 2019 **noted**



Nicholas Pole  
Chief Review Officer

NOTED/APPROVED



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education  
4 / 7 / 19