

Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO): Education Review Office response to Supporting all Schools To Succeed: Review of our current operating model for school reviews

Date	18 February 2020
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M20-4
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
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Minister of Education

It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** that ERO is undertaking a review of our current operating model for school reviews, to support a move to a stronger internal evaluation culture and a lighter touch in well performing schools, and working more intensely with those that are struggling.
- b) **note** that ERO has engaged external consultants to assist us in developing this new operating approach.
- c) **note** that we will provide you further advice in late March about a new conceptual model.
- d) **agree** to discuss the contents of this paper at our forthcoming meeting on 19 February 2020.

 **Attachments:**

***Education Review Office (ERO):
Education Review Office response
to Supporting all Schools To
Succeed: Review of our current
operating model for school reviews***

 **Comments:**

Minister's Office to complete	
Noted	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Referred to:	
Date signed by Minister:	

Our Ref: M20-4

18 February 2020

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Education Review Office response to Supporting All Schools To Succeed: Review of our current operating model for school reviews

Purpose

1. ***Our Schooling Futures: Stronger Together***, the final report by the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce was published in September 2019. The Government's response to the Taskforce report and recommendations, setting out its approach to reform of the Tomorrow's Schools system was published in November 2019 as ***Supporting All Schools To Succeed***.
2. As part of the Government's response you requested advice from the Education Review Office that focuses on how its approach can strengthen the capability of schools to undertake self-evaluation and continuous improvement, including ensuring effective engagement with whānau and communities so that over time, the ERO can increasingly free up resources to focus on system-level evaluation and review.
3. This report responds to your request and updates you on the direction ERO is taking to re-focus its operating model in respect of our school review functions.

Background

4. **Supporting all schools to succeed** confirmed ERO as New Zealand's education monitoring and evaluation organisation, but also signalled a significant shift in focus as we move towards a more networked, responsive and supported education system. This includes a shift to more system-wide evaluation and significant changes in the way ERO will work with the schools' sector, as we promote and support continuous improvement by, among other things, strengthening schools' capacity for self-evaluation.
5. In our briefing report Education Review Office Response to Our Schooling Futures: Stronger Together (M19-36, para 37 – 41) we discussed that ERO is well positioned to support an approach to evaluation that builds sector evaluation capability and capacity over time.
6. ERO has begun a review of our current operating model for school reviews, to support a move to a stronger internal evaluation culture and a lighter touch in well performing schools, allowing us to work more intensely with those that are struggling.

7. We have contracted an external agency to work with ERO staff to explore potential new operating models for evaluation in and across New Zealand state schools.
8. The review will involve a six-week initial design phase, to produce a conceptual high-level operating model and options.
9. The initial phase involves extensive internal consultation with ERO staff.
10. An external advisory group of school leaders is also being established to guide and test our work.
11. A detailed design phase will build on the initial phase, for a finalised design mid-May, with a view to implementation over the 2020/21 financial year.
12. We are also have a strong interest in reforms in the rest of the sector, so we will be liaising with the Ministry of Education as they develop the Education Service Agency model to consider the interface between ERO's role and others in school evaluation, and to develop models and tools for evaluation that can be applied consistently across the system.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** that ERO is undertaking a review of our current operating model for school reviews, to support a move to a stronger internal evaluation culture and a lighter touch in well performing schools, and working more intensely with those that are struggling. **noted**
- b) **note** that ERO has engaged external consultants to assist us in developing this new operating approach. **noted**
- c) **note** that we will provide you further advice in late March about a new conceptual model. **noted**
- d) **agree** to discuss the contents of this paper at our forthcoming meeting on 19 February 2020. **agree/disagree**



Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED/APPROVED



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

19 / 2 / 20