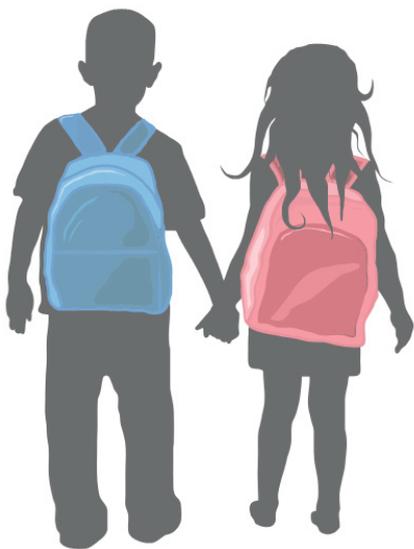


Education and children

The majority of children do very well at school. Our top achievers are performing at a globally high standard

But New Zealand is among the most unequal countries for achievement, with a large number not doing so well. Socioeconomic status is "probably the most important risk factor associated with low academic performance." (source: OECD PISA)



FAQS

Q. What percentage of young people get NCEA level 2?

A. Overall, 77% of school leavers in 2014 achieved NCEA Level 2 or higher. This varied by ethnicity:

Asian 90%
European 81%
Pacific 72%
Māori 59%

Q. How big an issue is truancy?

A. Just over 1% of students are frequently truant.

Q. How big an issue is bullying?

A. An international study found 31% of NZ year 5 students had been bullied weekly. This is higher than the international average of 20%.

(source: [TIMMS 2011](#) p276)

ECE participation

Most New Zealand children aged 3 and 4 attend some early childhood education (ECE) prior to starting school.

in 2015 the attendance rate in ECE was 96%, an increase from 90% in 2000.

[Further information](#) on ECE participation.

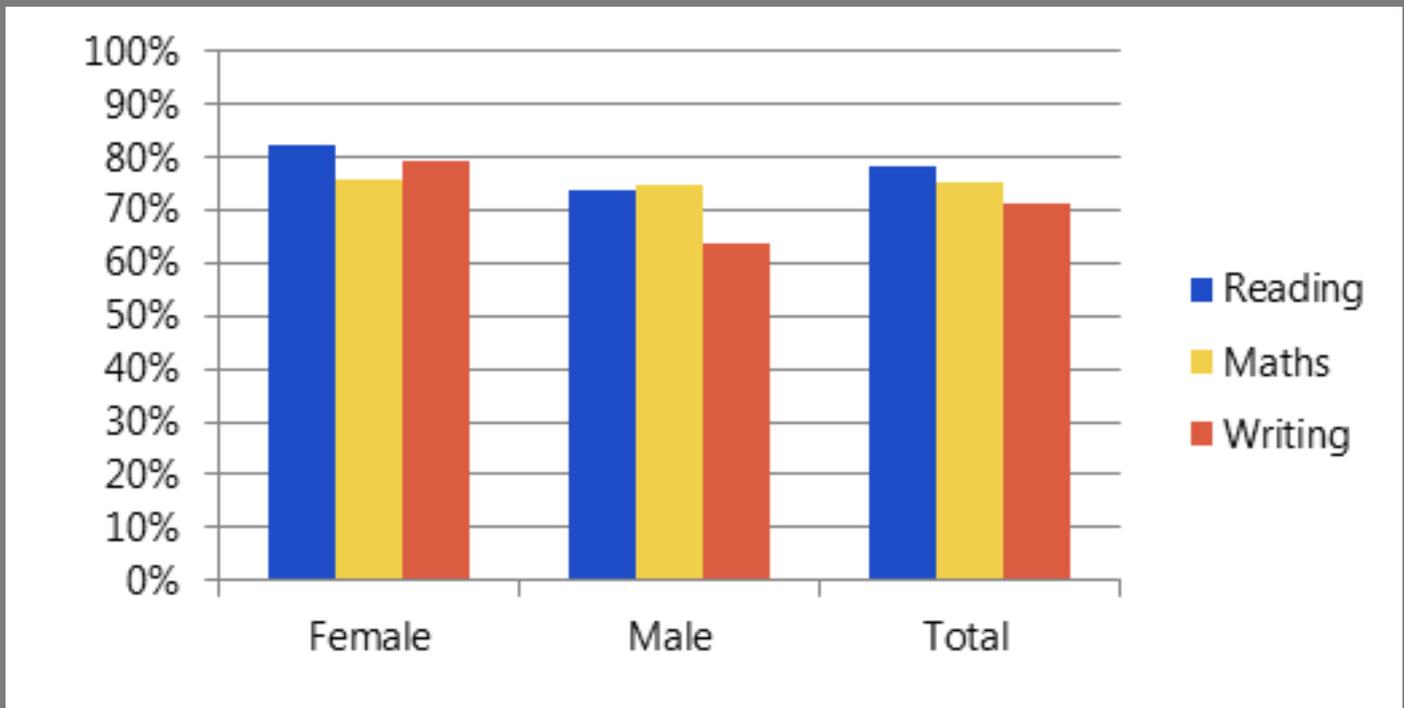
Children attending ECE spend an average of 21 hours a week in care

How well do children do at school?

A child's success at school is strongly affected by family income, the area they live in, cultural factors, and how well they respond to the school learning environment.

There is a difference between achievement by girls and boys at primary school.

Proportion of children at or above National Standard at primary school



Source: [Education Counts](#)

More young people are achieving NCEA at secondary school. 77% of students achieved NCEA level 2 in 2014. This is an increase from 68% in 2009.

Pass rates vary by the socioeconomic mix of a school.

Proportion of school leavers with NCEA level 2 or higher by school decile

Decile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pass rate	60%	64%	69%	72%	77%	77%	83%	84%	90%	92%

Truancy and absence from school

Frequent truancy is three or more unjustified absences in a week. Truancy relates to negative peer influence, drug use, leaving school without a qualification and criminality.

1.3% of children were frequently truant from school. In decile 1 schools, the truancy rate was much higher at 3.7% and in decile 10 schools it was lower at 0.7%.

Source: [Education Counts](#) Attendance