



ELECTIONS

2026 Student Representative Elections

Kia ora koutou,

The board of every school with students in Year 9 or above must include a student representative, unless the school has an approved alternative constitution. All full-time students in Year 9 or above are eligible to participate in the election.

For questions about the information below, email our Elections Team at electionsadvise@tewhakaroupotanga.org.nz or call 0800 782 435 to speak with one of our governance advisers.

Election timeframes

Student representative elections must be held in September each year. The recommended election date for 2026 is **Thursday 3 September**.

Boards using this date must appoint a returning officer (RO) by **Monday 3 August**.

Schools may choose any election date in September. Those selecting a different date should use the election planner on the School Board Elections website to generate a full election timetable, including the deadline for appointing an RO:

Election Planning

An example timetable based on the recommended election date is provided below.

Event	Date
Appoint returning officer by	Monday 3 August 2026
Main roll closes	Monday 10 August 2026
Call for nominations by	Wednesday 12 August 2026
Supplementary roll closes	Monday 17 August 2026
Nominations close	12pm, Tuesday 18 August 2026
Voting papers issued by	Monday 24 August 2026
Election day	Thursday 3 September 2026
Poll closes	4pm on election day
Votes counted by	Wednesday 9 September 2026
Student representative takes office	Thursday 10 September 2026

The student representative's term of office is 12 months from the date they are elected.

Training for student reps

We will be running face-to-face and online workshops in the first two weeks of term 4 for student reps. Keep an eye on our Resource Centre for confirmed dates and times.

Information for returning officers

Once appointed, the RO should register on the [School Board Elections website](#) and provide the school's election date.

The RO will then receive an identification number, username and password. The RO identification number is required when updating the number of nominations received through the registration page.

The RO must display **Notice 7**, available on the website, around the school and on the school's website to call for nominations.

The nomination form, **Form A**, is also available on the website. It may be distributed to all eligible students, emailed to everyone on the roll, or made available from a clearly identified location. Students may use the form to nominate themselves or another eligible student.

If no nominations are received, the board will need to hold a subsequent by-election to try to fill the position. In the meantime, where the board has an available co-opted position, it may co-opt a student to provide student voice at the board table.

All eligible students should receive a voting form, **Form F**, and be told when and where it must be returned. Voting forms may be distributed electronically, provided the process complies with section [13 of the Education \(Board Elections\) Regulations 2022](#).

At the end of the election process, the RO must complete the [School Board Updates form](#).

Please note that the Ministry of Education does not provide funding for student representative elections. The board must still appoint an RO and may choose to pay them a fee from board funds.

Useful links

The [School Board Election Handbook](#) provides guidance on the full election process.

Promotional resources for student representative elections are available [here](#).

Ngā mihi,

The GovHub Team

Preferred Partners:



e tipu e rea

Te Whakarōpūtanga Kaitiaki Kura o Aotearoa New Zealand School Boards Association

PO Box 5123
Wellington, 6140
New Zealand

GovHub staff are here to support you.

Freephone 0800 782 435 or email:

govadvice@tewhakaroputanga.org.nz (for Governance matters)

eradvice@tewhakaroputanga.org.nz (for Employment matters)

For all membership enquiries, please email ea@twkka.org.nz.

Copyright © 2026 Te Whakarōpūtanga Kaitiaki Kura o Aotearoa -
New Zealand School Boards Association Inc., all rights reserved.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)