



Teaching Council Board Elections 2022

Frequently asked questions

Contact details



Returning Officer

Dale Ofoske, Election Services
dale@electionservices.co.nz

Election Services: Level 2, 198 Federal Street,
Auckland

Postal Address: PO Box 5135, Victoria Street
West, Auckland 1142

Telephone: 0800 922 822

Email: info@electionservices.co.nz

Website: www.electionservices.co.nz



**Teaching
Council of
Aotearoa
New Zealand**

**Teaching Council of Aotearoa
New Zealand**

Visit: Level 11, 7 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea,
Wellington 6011, NZ

Post: PO Box 5326, Wellington 6140, NZ

Phone: +64 (0) 4 471 0852

Email: enquiries@teachingcouncil.nz

Website: www.teachingcouncil.nz

1. Why does the Teaching Council have Board elections?

The Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand was established by Parliament as an Independent Statutory Body. Parliament determined it should be governed by a Board, of which seven members are elected by the profession. Board members are elected for a 3-year term, and by law elections must be held every three years.

2. How many people are on the Teaching Council Board?

There are 13 members on the Board in total, seven elected by the profession and six appointed by the Minister of Education. The Minister also appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair. [Follow this link to our website to find out more about our current Board members.](#)

3. Why does the Minister of Education get to appoint Board members, and how do they choose who to appoint (are there requirements)?

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The Education and Training Act 2020 sets out requirements for appointed Board members, [which you can read, here](#). The Teaching Council is not involved in the process of Ministerial appointments. You can find out more information about the Ministerial appointment process on the [Ministry of Education website, here](#).

4. What powers do Board members have?

The Board focuses on setting policy and strategic direction, ensuring an effective governance culture exists, oversight of the performance of the organisation, and managing risk. The collective and individual duties of all Board members are set out in [Schedule 19 of the Education and Training Act 2020, found here](#).

5. Why are the Board elections at such a busy time of the year?

While we understand the election timeframes are during a busy time of the year for many teachers, the election process and timeframes are governed by the Education and Training Act 2020 and the [Teaching Council of Aotearoa Election Rules 2018](#) (the Rules), which don't allow the Council to vary the election timeline or process.

We're aiming to ensure that all teachers are well informed in advance of the election process so that they are ready and able to participate in the election process!

6. Who can stand for Teaching Council elections?

To be eligible to stand in the elections, candidates must be Registered teachers with a current practising certificate **except** the teacher educator, who need not hold a current practising certificate but must be a registered teacher and have 5 or more years of experience in the field of initial teacher education or ongoing teacher education (or both), and be currently working in one of those fields.

Currently Authorised Persons (LAT holders) are not eligible to stand.

Note there are other requirements relating to nomination that are set out in Section 16 of the [Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand Election Rules 2018](#).

A candidate can only be nominated for one sector:

- 1 teacher representing the early childhood education sector, elected by teachers from that sector; and
- 1 early childhood education service leader, representing leadership in the early childhood education sector, elected by leaders from that sector; and
- 1 teacher representing the primary education sector, elected by teachers from that sector; and
- 1 principal representing the primary education sector, elected by principals from that sector; and
- 1 teacher representing the secondary education sector, elected by teachers from that sector; and
- 1 principal representing the secondary education sector, elected by principals from that sector; and
- 1 teacher educator, elected by registered teachers working in the fields of initial and ongoing teacher education.

7. Who can vote in the Teaching Council elections?

Any person is entitled to vote if they are on the Teaching Council electoral roll as of 28 January 2022 **and** entitled to vote on election day. If you register after this date, you will **not** be on the electoral roll, and therefore won't be able to vote.

The electoral roll will consist of people who on election day will be:

- Registered teachers without current practising certificates; and
- Registered teachers with current practising certificates; and
- Currently authorised persons (i.e. LAT holders).

Every person voting for a candidate in a sector is required to make a declaration to the returning officer that the person is entitled to vote in that sector because –

- the person is a registered teacher or a currently authorised person; **and**
- where applicable, the person holds a current practising certificate; **and**
- the person is currently (or was most recently) employed in that sector.

A person who is entitled to vote may vote only once and may vote only in the sector in which the person is currently (or was most recently) employed. Where that person works in more than one sector, they may vote only in one sector and must choose the sector in which to vote.

Note that Registered teachers without a current practicing certificate are only eligible to vote for the teacher educator representative and only if they are currently employed in the field of initial teacher education or the field of ongoing teacher education, or both.

8. When and how can I vote?

Electronic and postal voting will open on 8 February 2022. Election Services will send the voting form via email or post to all teachers on the electoral roll as of 28 January 2022. 28 February 2022 is the last day to vote!

9. What happens if only one person stands for each sector?

If only one valid nomination is received in an election for an elected member, the returning officer must immediately declare that nominee is elected. No election for that sector's representative may be held.

10. How many people voted in the last Board elections?

Around 7,000 teachers voted in the 2019 elections.

11. How do I know the voting system is well managed?

To ensure the elections adhere to the legal requirements set out in the Education and Training Act 2020 and Election Rules, the election is run at arm's length to the Council by a specialist independent company, Election Services. You can [find out more about them by clicking here](#).

12. What is the time commitment involved if I decide to stand?

As a Board member, you'll be required to attend ten full day Board meetings per year. Each meeting will require substantial preparation, including reviewing Board papers. There may be additional "out-of-cycle" Board meetings that require attendance. Meetings are held face to face or via Zoom.

You may also be asked to sit on one of three Committees, which meet on a monthly or every two months and are between one and three hours in length. You may also be asked to sit on one of the Board's five Advisory groups, often led by a Board member (dependent on educational expertise), which meet throughout the year.

13. Who is currently on the Board? And which of them are voted in and which are appointed?

You'll find profiles of all the current Board members, stating who was elected or appointed, [on our website, here](#).

14. How long is a term on the Teaching Council Board?

Three years. More information about Board terms, including reappointments, can be found in the [Education and Training Act 2020, here](#).

15. Do Board members have legal responsibilities like members of public companies?

No member of the Board is personally liable for any act done or omitted to be done by the body. The Teaching Council holds Professional Indemnity insurance. The cover extends to all current and former Board members/officers of the Council, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. A copy of the policy can be made available to members on request.

However, Board members are liable for offences in relation to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

16. Can I be a member of another body at the same time, for example a union rep?

Yes! Ideally, individual Board members will have a wide variety of professional interests and affiliations.

Members of the Teaching Council Board are required to act in accordance with the law and to act in the best interests of the Council. They are also expected to act with honesty and integrity and in good faith, and not pursue their own interests at the expense of the Council's interests. They are also expected to exercise the care, diligence, and skill that a reasonable person would exercise in the same circumstances.

Where conflicts of interest arise due to any situation where a Board member could have their judgment or responsibilities affected by some other interest or duty they have, such as an employment, personal or financial interest, they are required to disclose those conflicts so they can be appropriately managed.

17. What is the point of having a Board, and being on a Board?

Working as a Board member for the Teaching Council can be hugely rewarding; you are creating change and making decisions for the benefit of the education sector. Board members are collectively responsible for ensuring the Teaching Council acts in a manner consistent with its legislative functions and powers under the [Education and Training Act 2020 \(the Act\)](#) and that it exercises those functions efficiently and effectively. Board members are also responsible for ensuring the Teaching Council operates in a financially responsible manner.

18. Do members of the Board get paid, and are their costs covered?

The Teaching Council has a schedule of fees paid to Board members. The amount paid depends on whether it is a full day or half day meeting. Travel to and from meetings is arranged and paid for by the Council on behalf of the Board members. Actual and reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Council will be reimbursed after being approved by the Board Chair. Where the meeting takes place during a business day, the Board member's employer may receive the meeting fee, if the Board member is being paid by them.

19. How much will the elections cost the Teaching Council?

Running Board elections is a process prescribed and required by the Education and Training Act 2020 and Teaching Council Election Rules 2018. The estimated cost for 2022 is approximately \$80,000 ex GST.

20. If I submit my application for registration prior to 28 January 2022 and it is approved by 8 February 2022, can I vote in the election?

The cut-off date for the Teaching Council electoral roll is 28 January 2022. If you gain registration after this date, you will not be on the electoral roll, and therefore won't be able to vote.

21. Can I vote for all seven elected seats?

No, you can only vote for the sector in which you are currently employed or most recently employed. For example, if you are an ECE teacher, you can only vote for ECE teacher candidates.

22. How do I find out who I can vote for?

Election Services will publish a list of the candidates and any candidate profile statements on the Teaching Council website on or before 26 January 2022. All teachers on the electoral roll will be sent voting instructions, an alphabetical list of candidates and a candidate profile directory on 8 February 2022.

23. I am not currently teaching but would like to vote – can I choose what electoral roll I can be on?

If you are registered and hold a current practicing certificate, you are eligible to vote in the sector in which you were last employed.

If you are registered and **do not** hold a current practicing certificate, you are only eligible to vote for the teacher educator representative **and only if** you are currently employed in the field of initial teacher education or the field of ongoing teacher education (or both).

If you have never taught in New Zealand, and are registered ONLY, you are not eligible to vote.

24. How do I update my details so that I can vote?

Please make sure all your details are correct in our online services platform Hapori Matatū by 28 January 2022.

25. How/When do I find out details about the people running for the position/seat that I can vote for?

Election Services will publish a list of the candidates and any candidate profile statements on the Teaching Council website on or before 26 January 2022. All teachers on the electoral roll will be sent voting instructions, an alphabetical list of candidates and a candidate profile directory on 8 February 2022.

26. When will the results of the election be known?

All key dates are on this [Teaching Council webpage, here](#). Voting closes on Monday 28 February 2022 and results will be published that evening.

27. How does the election process run?

The elections process runs from November 2021 – February 2022, and there are lots of important key dates along the way, [which you will find on our website, here](#).

The process can be broken into two phases: the nominations phase and the voting phase. The nominations phase comes first and runs from 1 November 2021 and closes at midday on 30 December 2021. Candidate nominations require either nominating someone else, or nominating yourself, with a seconder, to stand in the elections.

Candidates must submit a resumé and may submit a profile statement and photo with their nomination paper. Each of the elected members must be a registered teacher holding a current practising certificate, and working in either the ECE, primary or secondary sector (**except** the teacher educator). Please see more information on how to nomination someone, in the question “How do I nominate someone?” below.

On Wednesday 26 January 2022, all teachers on the electoral roll will receive a list of candidates from Election Services. This is when the voting phase begins! From Tuesday 8 February 2022 you can vote for candidates in the sector in which you currently work or have most recently worked in. Voting closes on Monday 28 February 2022. Details on how to vote are in the question “When and how can I vote?”, above.

28. How do I nominate someone?

To be eligible to stand in the elections, candidates must be Registered teachers with a current practising certificate, except the teacher educator, who need not hold a current practising certificate but must be a registered teacher and have 5 or more years of experience in the field of initial teacher education or ongoing teacher education (or both) and be currently working in one of those fields.

Currently Authorised Persons (LAT holders) are not eligible to stand.

Each nomination must be made on the appropriate nomination form, available from Monday 1 November 2021 by either:

- downloading from www.electionservices.co.nz
- phoning 0800 922 822
- emailing nominations@electionservices.co.nz

Candidates must also submit a resumé and may submit a profile statement and photo with their nomination paper. To be valid, nominations must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon Thursday 30 December.

A nomination of a person as an elected candidate is not valid unless:

1. the person who made the nomination is:
 - entitled to vote; and
 - currently (or was most recently) employed in the same sector as the candidate they are nominating; and
2. the nomination is seconded by a person who:
 - is entitled to vote; and
 - is currently (or was most recently) employed in the same sector as the employed candidate whose nomination they are seconding; and
 - is not the person who nominated the candidate.

[See the Candidate Handbook for further information, here.](#)

29. Can I nominate myself?

Yes; however, the nomination must meet all the requirements [set out in the Candidate Handbook](#) and [Election Rules, found here](#).

30. We would like to put up a poster in our school/kura/centre to remind teachers to vote. Are you able to provide any posters/media pack for us to use?

To ensure our costs are minimal, we won't be printing and distributing any posters or media pack. However, we do have a [downloadable media pack available on our website here](#), free to download, print and distribute in your schools, kura and centres!

31. Why is the disability and other sectors not included in the elections?

Parliament decided what governance model would be appropriate for the Council as an Independent Statutory Body and what sectors would be represented on the Council through elected members.

In addition to 7 elected members representing these sectors, the Minister appoints an additional six members – the requirements for these appointments – which include At least 1 representative of parent and community interest groups in relation to schools and early childhood services – are set out in section 476 of the Education and Training Act.

As the Teaching Council has no legal power to determine or change its governance model, If any teacher has queries in this regard, they should direct them to the Minister of Education or their local MP.

32. What is a *teacher educator* for the teacher educator category?

The definition of teacher educator is set out in the Teaching Council Election Rules 2018: teacher educator means a registered teacher who teaches or delivers, or assists in the teaching or delivery of, a programme of either or both of the following:

- (a) study approved by the Teaching Council as suitable for people who want to teach (which is known as the field of initial teacher education):
- (b) professional learning and development for teachers (which is known as the field of ongoing teacher education)

33. How much is a Board member paid?

Members receive a daily rate for Council meetings of \$700 and up to \$350 for preparation. Members who are appointed to subcommittees also receive \$87.50 per hour for each hour of meeting and up to \$262.50 for preparation. Members will be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while traveling to meetings but should not include travel time in their claim. All fee and expense claims are referenced to the *'Revised Fees Framework for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest'*.