



Briefing: Timelines and Announcements for New Charter Schools

To:	Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:			
Date:	22 November 2024	Deadline:	22 November 2024
Security Level:	In-Confidence	Priority:	High
From:	Jane Lee	Phone:	9(2)(a)
Position:	CEO Charter School Agency	METIS No:	1340248

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive outline of the timeframes and announcements pertaining to the establishment of new charter schools. It aims to offer a clear and detailed schedule of key milestones, including the approval process, timelines, and anticipated opening dates.

Additionally, the report will highlight important announcements from relative authorities and stakeholders, ensuring that all parties involved are well informed about the progress and developments in the Charter school initiative.

The approval process

The approval process for charter schools in New Zealand involved several key steps and the collaboration of two main bodies, the Charter School Agency (CSA) and the Charter School Authorisation Board.

1. Potential sponsors submitted applications to CSA detailing their intentions, educational approach, and a high-level business plan. The application had to demonstrate that the sponsor is a 'fit and proper person' as defined by the Education and Training Amendment Act, 2024.
2. The CSA reviewed the applications to ensure they meet the necessary criteria and were viable. This included evaluating the sponsor's capability and the proposed school's potential impact on the education system.
3. The independent Charter School Authorisation Board appointed following the passing of the Education and Training Amendment Act, 2024, evaluated the applications

recommended by the CSA. The Board considered factors such as the focus of the proposed school, the sponsors capability, and the level of community support.

4. The Authorisation Board made the final decision on which sponsors were approved to open a charter school. Successful sponsors will now negotiate contracts with the CSA, outlining learning performance targets, outcomes, and specific measures.
5. This structured process ensures that charter schools are established with a clear focus on improving student outcomes in maintaining accountability.

Background

6. The Charter School Authorisation Board has approved seven schools for CSA to enter contract negotiations. These schools have demonstrated their potential to deliver innovative and high-quality education to students, aligning with the overall goals of the Charter School initiative.
7. The CSA is currently undertaking detailed contract negotiations to finalise the terms and expectations for these new charter schools.
8. The Board has approved the CSA to support its consultation process with two state converting schools opening later in 2025, or the beginning of 2026.
9. It is anticipated that two sponsors will sign their contracts with the CSA by the end of this week. The other sponsors are expected to follow suit in the coming weeks.

Process for Establishment of Charter School

10. The CSA will provide comprehensive support, through Education Facilitators, to ensure that the schools are fully prepared to open. This includes guidance on critical operational aspects, resources, and funding. They will also help the sponsor navigate the regulatory requirements for opening.
11. The Minister will need to sign a Gazette Notice for the new schools that must be published. To reduce the timeframes, the Gazette Notice could be signed before the CSA finalises the contract with the sponsors. We will forward the Gazette Notices for the seven new schools early next week. They would then be published when the contracts are completed in line with announcements.

Announcements of Charter Schools

12. The CSA is working with your office on the announcement of the first Charter School establishment (proposed for Thursday 28 November). We will provide a draft Press Release for the Minister and a separate one for the Agency, with talking points to

accompany them. We will co-ordinate with your office regarding any media pitching. (Refer to Annex 1).

13. The CSA is also preparing communications to key stakeholders, including internal parties and unions.

Profiles for the new Charter Schools

14. The new charter schools are strategically located in Northland, the Auckland region and Christchurch, offering educational opportunities across both primary and secondary levels.
15. The schools are diverse in their focus and target different educational needs. They include schools dedicated to neurodiverse students, creative arts, Kaupapa Māori and second chance and disengaged learners. Details of the qualifications with Years 11-13 students will offer is included in the school profiles below.

Name and school details	Additional information
Out of scope	

Released

1982

Out of scope

Name of new school: Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki	Year levels: Co-educational Years 1-8 school, opening with Years 4-8 for Terms 1 and 2 and introducing Years 1-3 from Term 3, 2025.
Sponsor: Mastery Schools New Zealand Limited	Expected roll for 2025: 51 students.
Location: Hillsborough, Christchurch	Assessment Tool: Yet to be agreed.
	Other Information: The curriculum will have a focus on student engagement.
	School Premises: Yes

Additional Information you have requested

- 16. The contract negotiation with each sponsor includes discussions about the percentage of registered teachers that will be employed at each school. In line with your

Released under the OIA

recommendation, CSA has negotiated within the set parameters that a minimum of 75% of teachers in each school are to be registered and have a current practicing certificate. Until positions are advertised and appointments made the exact percentage is not clear.

17. Schools with Years 3-10 students have three options available to undertake assessment of their students. These are: e-asTTle, PATs or Te Waharoa Ararau. We are yet to discuss these with sponsors but will work with them to determine the best option for their students.

18. Schools with Years 11-13 can offer NCEA, International Baccalaureate or French Baccalaureate as their base qualifications. It is expected that some schools with Years 9 -10 students will also be working towards these qualifications.

Recommended Actions

The Charter School Agency recommends you:

note

- i. the process for the establishment of the seven new Charter schools;
- ii. that the Sponsors of these schools are in the process of negotiating and signing contracts with the Charter School Agency;
- iii. the school profiles provided;

Noted

agree

- iv. to make a media statement about the new Charter schools with a possible announcement in Christchurch, at Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki on Thursday 28 November 2024.

Agree / Disagree

Jane Lee
CEO
Charter School Agency

1/1


Hon David Seymour
Associate Minister of Education

24/11/24

Annex

The following is annexed to this paper:

Annex 1: Draft media release for the announcement of the inaugural Charter school –
Mastery School New Zealand – Arapaki.

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**Charter School
Agency**

Report: Gazette Notices for the Establishment of Charter Schools

To:	Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:			
Date:	26 November 2024	Deadline:	27 November 2024
Security Level:	In-Confidence	Priority:	High
From:	Jane Lee	Phone:	9(2)(a)
Position:	CEO Charter School Agency	METIS No:	1340445

Purpose of this report

- This report provides a status update on contract negotiations for the seven approved charter school sponsors, and seeks your signature on the attached notices for publication in the New Zealand Gazette.

Action Required

- Please return the signed gazette notices as soon as possible so they can be published in the Gazette as appropriate. This will help sponsors move towards getting their schools operational.

Background

- The Charter School Agency is working to finalise contracts with the seven sponsors approved by the Authorisation Board to establish new charter schools.
- One school (Mastery Schools New Zealand - Arapaki) has signed their contract, and the remaining schools are expected to sign within the next two weeks.
- The final part of the process of establishing a new charter school is publishing a gazette notice in the New Zealand Gazette.
- Draft notices for all seven approved schools are attached for your signature.
- The Charter School Agency intends to publish each of the notices separately after individual contracts are signed and announcements have been made.

Annex

The following are annexed to this paper:

Annex 1: Gazette notices notifying the establishment of charter schools to open in February 2025

- Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki
- Ecole Francaise Internationale Auckland
- Christchurch North College
- Te Rito, Te Kura Taiao
- TIPENE
- The BUSY School NZ
- North West Creative Arts College

Recommended Actions

The Charter School Agency recommends you:

agree that

- i the attached notices identifying sponsors that have entered into a contract with the Charter School Agency be published in the New Zealand Gazette as soon as possible after the contract is signed.

Agree / Disagree

sign

- ii each of the attached notices to be published in the New Zealand Gazette.

Signed



Jane Lee
CEO
Charter School Agency

26/11/2024



Hon David Seymour
Associate Minister of Education

1/12/24