Education records - teachers

Education Boards

The Education Act 1877 established a free, secular and compulsory education system throughout New Zealand. Coming into operation on 1 January 1878, the Act established the Department of Education and twelve Education Boards replacing the former provincial system.

The Auckland Education Board covered the area from North Cape to Taumarunui. In 1952 regulations were gazetted establishing the South Auckland Education Board, with responsibility for the original Auckland Education Board’s area south of Auckland. In 1982 the Education Amendment Act renamed that board the Hamilton Education Board. The Education Boards were abolished under the provisions of the Education Act 1989.

Teachers’ salary cards

The Ministry of Education came into being 1 October 1989. It took over responsibility for teachers’ pay from the Education Boards. The actual payroll function was carried out under contract by various private agencies. Archives New Zealand Auckland has some collections of salary cards, but they are incomplete.

The cards are filed in alphabetical order under the teacher’s name, and all salary cards are now listed individually by name in Archway. The information on a salary card varies with the age of the card, and may include:

- date of birth (for women maiden and married name may be given)
- certificate and year obtained
- degree
- service in years, months, days
- appointments and dates
- school name and district
- teacher’s grade and salary
- remarks
- bond.

Hamilton education salary cards c.1948-1984 [Archives reference: BBEC 4413]
Auckland education salary cards c.1920-1980 [Archives reference: ABEP 4414]
  includes Early Childhood Education teachers [Archives reference: ZABS 4414 A919]
Maori school teachers salary cards c.1938-c.1952 [Archives reference: BAAA 1002]

Administration files

Teachers names have been recorded for various administrative reasons. Date coverage is limited. Examples of files include:-

- Files transferred by the Department of Education Residual Management Unit:
  Primary teachers 1936-1956 [Archives reference: BCDQ 1050 A739/4626a, BCDQ 1050 A739/4626b]

- Records transferred by Education Boards Residual Management Units:
  Hamilton resignations and retirements 1972-1982, 1983-1989 [Archives reference: YCAU 1601 A738/877a, YCAU 1601 A738/877b]. These records give the date of resignation or retirement, position, name of school, name of new school where appropriate.
Auckland schools teaching staff appointment cards 1971-1981 [Archives reference: YCBD 19973/1-6]*
Northland schools teaching staff appointment cards 1977-1987 [Archives reference: YCBD 19974/1-4]*
Auckland schools teaching staff appointment cards - relieving teachers 1981-1989 [Archives reference: YCBD 19975/1-3]*

*These records are on cards or sheets arranged by school name.

Some of these files are marked as restricted access. Where this is the case, written permission to access or search a file is required from the Manager Records Services, Ministry of Education (email: records.services@education.govt.nz)

Teacher education

Auckland Kindergarten Teachers’ College - lists of diploma graduates 1950-1972 [Archives reference: BAKD A1119 12e]
Auckland and Ardmore Training Colleges - returns of students, 1948-1955 [Archives reference: BCDQ A739 4380a, BCDQ A739 4380b]

Education Board Minute Books

Appointments and resignations are often recorded in the minutes, but these are arranged chronologically and not indexed. Sometimes grading information is also recorded. You would need to know the year when a teacher was appointed or resigned.

Auckland Education Board minute books 1872-1989 [Archives reference: YCBD 5491]

Where the school name is known

Teachers' names are often recorded in records specific to particular schools, such as admission registers and class lists (see Education records - pupils fact sheet).

Building and site files for both Maori and public schools can also contain reference to teachers, often including correspondence written by teachers. These files are all listed in Archway by the name of the school. Maori schools building and site files are listed in series BAAA 1001.

Auckland Education Board school inspection reports, 1915-1950 [Archives reference: YCAF 5492]. The reports are arranged alphabetically under the name of the school. Teachers’ names and positions are given. The reports usually show which classes they taught, and provide some background information on the schools.

Official Publications

Details concerning teachers can be found within the Appendices to the Journals of the House of the Representatives (AJHR) and the New Zealand Gazette.

AJHR for 1854-1950 are available for browsing and searching online – visit AtoJsOnline. Hard copy volumes can also be viewed at Archives New Zealand, Auckland. The New Zealand Gazette is available for searching at Archives New Zealand and various libraries.

Public schools and primary teachers

Details of public schools and primary teachers can be found in the AJHR from 1878-1925 in the following sections:

H-1 1878; H-2 Session 1 1879; H-1a 1880; E-1 1881; E-1 1882; E-1 1883; E-1 Session 1 1884; E-1 1885; E-1 1886; E-1 Session 1 1887; E-1 1888; E-1 1889; E-1 1890; then E-1 for each year until 1925.
From 1926-1931 lists of primary school teachers appear in the *New Zealand Gazette*. They are arranged by school. After 1931 registers of teachers continue to appear in the *New Zealand Gazette*, but they do not show the school they taught at.

**Native schools and native school teachers**

Details of native schools and native school teachers appear in the AJHR from 1858 to 1930 in the following sections:

E-1, E-1A, E-1B 1858; E-8 1860; E-4 1862; E-9, E-9A 1863; E-3, E-3A, E3B 1865; A-8 1867; A-6, A-6A 1868; F-5 1872; G-4, G-4A 1873; G-8 1874; G-2, G-2A, G-2B 1875; G-2 1876; G-4, G-4A 1877; G-7 1878; G-2 Session 2 1879; H-1F 1880; E-7 1881; E-2 1882; E-2 1883; E-2 Session 1 1884; E-2 1885; E-2 1886; E-2, P62, I-8 Session 2 1887; E-2 1888; E-2 1889; E-2 1890; E-2 1907; E-3 Session 2 1903; then E-3 for each year until 1930. Details about native schools appear after 1930 but teacher details cease.

From 1916 (possibly earlier as we do not hold earlier lists) until 1943 (and possibly 1944 as we do not hold a copy) native school teachers appear under the Education Department in the *Lists of Persons Employed in the Public Service* (also known as the "stud books").

**Secondary school teachers**


District High School teachers appear in the AJHR from 1905.

**Further reading**

*End of an Era, New Zealand Education Boards*
John Nimmo (ed), New Zealand Education Boards Association Inc, Wellington 1989

*Glorious Enterprise, The History of the Auckland Education Board 1857-1957*
Ian Cumming, Whitcombe and Tombs ltd, 1959

*Nga Kura Maori, the Native School System 1867-1969*
Judith Simon (ed), Auckland University Press, 1989

*Maori Schools in a Changing Society*
JM Barrington, TH Beaglehole, New Zealand Council for Education Research, 1978

*Separate but equal? Maori schools and the Crown 1867-1969*
John Barrington, Victoria University Press, 2008