



PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS GUIDE SHEET: MODULE TWO

Module Two provides discussion about:

- a comparison of strengths and of risks to the current system
- reporting to and strengthening partnerships with parents, student and teacher.

This guide provides readings and activities to help teachers and others to articulate the strengths of our schools, and how the government's National Standards policy places such strengths at risk.

A COMPARISON OF STRENGTHS AND RISKS TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM

Readings

A *Special Report to Annual Meeting 2011 Moving from Great to Excellent* outlines the NZEI Te Riu Roa vision and the campaigns being undertaken to ensure our vision becomes reality.

Activities

Celebrating our schools' successes and strengths

Teachers need to be able to articulate their school's strengths and successes – the NZEI Te Riu Roa *Speak up for Education resources* (sent to your school in early July) are a great tool to guide your professional discussions with teachers and with your communities. A *discussion kit for primary and area school teachers* is included.

If your school has used those resources, then take the next step, and advance your knowledge by discussing further statements from the extensive list of strengths and risks in Module Two. Using role play helps teachers discuss and clarify their beliefs. We've provided some questions and some starters to guide your discussion.

- **How are the strengths put into practice in your school?**
- **How are National Standards affecting teaching and learning in your school?**

Starters for teachers

In our school we celebrate every child as a 21st century learner with individual strengths, learning needs, and progress by...

But there are risks that current government policies could lead to ...

Our school has an exciting, locally-developed curriculum, driven by the New Zealand Curriculum, supporting broad teaching and learning which...
But there are risks to our creativity and breadth if...

In our school, we assess each student's achievement and progress, and celebrate and work with whanau on the next learning steps. Our assessment tools and practices include...

But there are risks to celebrating every individual's progress if ...

Starters for use with parents and communities

- In our school we assess each student's achievement and progress by...
- Our school curriculum is great because...
- In our school we celebrate every child as a learner by...

Tip: the Speak Up for Education [Speech Bubble Form](#) provides a way to record this

The National Standards 'fuzzy' pamphlet is an excellent resource to use with communities. It contains stories of the impact of the government's National Standards on real children. Read [Confused about National Standards pamphlet](#) and/or order hard copies [from NZEI](#).

REPORTING TO AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS, STUDENT AND TEACHER

Dispel the myths!!.....This section provides some factual information about the requirements of reporting under the Government's National Standards policy.

NZEI Te Riu Roa believes the purpose for reporting to and with parents is for the child, parents/whanau and the teacher to communicate about achievement and progress in a way that supports further learning. It is a collaborative exercise. Good reporting is consistent with the principles underpinning The New Zealand Curriculum and the principles of good assessment.

Discuss:

- **What are the strengths of your school's reporting?**
- **What areas could you develop further?**
- **What does reporting look like in your school and community?**
- **What are the implications for taking your school from great to excellent?**

The [Speak Up for Education](#) resources have a focus on assessment and reporting and will help with your debate.

Further NZEI resources

[Speak Up for Education](#)

[National Standards Resources](#)

[Confused about National Standards pamphlet](#) (order hard copies [from NZEI](#))