

Standards for Primary Principals FAQs (Standards for primary teachers)

What are the Registered Teacher Criteria (RTC)?

The RTC are the revised standards set by the New Zealand Teachers Council for teacher registration, and replace the Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions (STDs) from 2011.¹ All principals can meet these through the interpretation of 'learner/akonga' which covers both adult and child learner.

What are the Professional Standards for Primary Principals (PSPP)?

These are the professional standards in the collective agreement, and are based on the Kiwi Leadership for Principals framework

Why isn't there just one set of standards?

While both the RTC and the professional standards aim to define what it means to be a quality teacher and principal in New Zealand, they have different purposes and reflect different perspectives.

Registered Teacher Criteria	Professional Standards for Primary Principals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ standards for teacher registration ▪ in the Teachers Council control ▪ form part of a principal's performance agreement ▪ assessed/attested every 3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ standards as 'a baseline for assessing satisfactory performance' ▪ in a collective agreement, voted by those covered ▪ form part of a principal's performance agreement ▪ used in the annual performance agreement

Why can't the new RTC go into the collective agreement so there is only one set?

As noted above, the RTC and the professional standards differ in their form and purpose. In addition, NZEI wants the Teachers Council become an autonomous professional body rather than the current crown entity which has some Ministerial control. Until such independence occurs, NZEI is cautious about considering the RTCs as part of a collective agreement.

How can schools manage this?

Most take a pragmatic approach and acknowledge the similarities and differences in the collective agreement professional standards and the RTC within their performance management systems. The Council allows teachers to apply for renewal of a practising certificate from six months prior to the expiry of the practising certificate; this can help to align assessment and attestation processes.

What are NZEI matrices of RTC and professional standards in schools? (add links when online)

For advice for principals about managing this with the teachers in their school, see the NZEI Primary Teachers' FAQs, and NZEI matrices for all sets of professional standards within the collective agreements.

NZEI's matrices help align the criteria and the principals' standards. You may wish to create a different alignment that suits your setting as it is important to remember that practice does not fit into boxes for each individual criteria or standard as in a matrix. Principals are to 'identity and develop appropriate indicators' for the PSPP, and any one indicator, piece of evidence, or example of practice should be able to be used in your setting to cover more than one of the criteria or standards – this may help make this process holistic, realistic and manageable.

While the introduction of the RTC is a phased replacement of the Teachers Council's STDs by the new RTC, the change is generating reflection about performance managements systems. You are encouraged to take the NZEI information and ensure it fits into your setting and your practice.

NZEI welcomes feedback to teacherregistration@nzei.org.nz so resources are relevant for members.

¹ More information www.teacherscouncil.govt.nz including [RTC resources](#) developed during the piloting of the RTC.