

NZC NATIONAL STANDARDS

Do teachers make OTJ's mid year?

National Administration Guidelines (NAG) 2A requires schools to report to students and their parents in relation to National Standards, in writing at least twice a year.

In order to fulfil that requirement and report meaningfully, teachers will need to make a professional judgment at least twice a year and report to parents during the time the student is working towards the expected standard as well as towards the end of the period of time (years 1-3) / class level (years 4-8) covered by the expected standard. To report in writing at least twice a year, teachers will need to make at least one *interim* as well as a *final* judgment.

Interim judgments identify '*progress towards*' the standard expected by the end of the year (time at school/class level) and can be used to inform reporting to parents *during the year covered by the standard*¹.

Many schools are using overall teacher judgments cumulatively during the year. In circumstances where schools choose to make only one *interim judgment*, it follows that it would be reasonable to undertake this approximately half way through the student's year. That is:

- *Standards for Years 1-3* - approximately half way between school entry / anniversary of school entry and completion of one/two/three years at school, as applicable. This can be thought of as after the student has completed approximately two/six/ten terms at school, as applicable.
- *Standards for Years 4-8* - approximately mid-way through the school academic year.

Final judgments consider *whether the expected standard has been met* – that is, where progress and achievement sits in relation to the expected standard. These judgments are used both for reporting to parents at the end of the period covered by the standard, to support school review and to enable boards to fulfil their obligations under the NAGs².

These overall teacher judgments need to be made towards the end of the year covered by each standard. That is:

- *Standards for Years 1-3* - "*after (one, two, or three) year(s) at school*" –at, or close to, the anniversary of the student's school entry. *After one year* can be thought of as after the completion of approximately four terms at school, *after two years* can be thought of as after approximately eight terms and *after three years* equivalent to approximately twelve terms at school.
- *Standards for Years 4-8* – "*end of year 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8*" - towards the end of the academic year regardless of the initial school entry timing – that is, as close as reasonably possible to the end of the school year.

¹ Schools choose when to report to parents, to fit with what works best for the community, and the school's reporting cycle.

For years 1-3 some schools choose to stagger written reports throughout the school year based on when the student entered school to align with the timing of overall teacher judgments. Alternatively, overall teacher judgments may be conveyed as part of regular communication with parents, families and whānau.

² However, for reporting to parent's purposes, there is considerable flexibility about how overall teacher judgments (whether interim or final) are described and explained.