

Waimea Community of Learners

Waimea Kāhui Ako

July 2017 update from the Waimea CoL/ Kāhui Ako (for BOTs, staff and communities)

Achievement Challenge Plan

Our achievement challenge plan was finalised two weeks ago and is now with the Minister awaiting her approval. Initial feedback from the Ministry of Education is that our plan is “a great exemplar of an achievement challenge,” so we are confident it will be approved very shortly. We thank all who were involved in preparing the plan, especially key staff from Waimea College and Garin College who prepared NCEA data. Our submitted achievement challenges are:

1. To improve achievement in writing for boys in Years 1-10

Rationale

Since 2012 boys have consistently achieved below our Community of Learning/Kāhui Ako average in National Standards for Writing. The gap between the achievement in writing of boys and girls across the Waimea Community of Learning/Kāhui Ako has narrowed slightly from 18% in 2012 to 14% in 2016, but it continues to present us with the challenge of improving our boys' writing.

2. To reduce the gap between the achievement of males and females at NCEA Years 11-13

Rationale

Our challenge is to reduce the gap between the achievement of males and females at NCEA Years 11-13. The two Colleges in the Waimea Community of Learning/Kāhui Ako are both decile 8, so NCEA achievement rates should be well above national averages. This is the case in levels 1 and 2, but not level 3 and UE. If males achieved to the same level as females in the Community of Learning/Kāhui Ako, then achievement rates would be well above national averages. The gap between males and females is considerable, especially in Level 3 and UE. There is also a considerable gap between males and females that are getting NCEA endorsements (over 50 credits at Merit or Excellence level).

3. To improve the educational outcomes for Māori students in Years 1-13

Rationale

Our challenge is to improve educational outcomes for all Māori students. Māori achievement across reading, writing and mathematics in our Community of Learning/Kāhui Ako is lower than achievement of all students. Attendance of Māori students (90.0%) is also slightly lower than overall attendance (91.5%) of students in our Kāhui Ako.

Over the next few months we will work closely with staff, Boards, students and communities to develop detailed action plans for each goal. We will have access to external support through our Col/Kāhui Ako expert advisor (Dr Camilla Highfield from the University of Auckland) and professional development providers, but the success of our COL remains firmly in our own hands and we can be confident in our collective wisdom, creativity and energy.

Appointing across-school and within-school lead teachers

Our COL/Kāhui Ako is entitled to 5 across-school lead teachers and 29 within-school lead teachers, this allocation being determined by our total roll numbers. These teachers will lead the work of the



COL/Kāhui Ako to meet its achievement challenges over the next 2-3 years. Lead teachers are eligible for release time from their normal duties to do COL work.

We intend to have the across-school teachers appointed by the end of term three. At that point schools will run their own internal appointment processes for the within-school roles. Of the 29 within-school roles, 22 have been allocated to schools according to roll size. At a recent COL principals meeting we agreed to allocate 4 of the remaining within-school positions to the four smallest schools in the COL/Kāhui Ako that received no roll-based entitlement. The remaining 3 within-school rolls may be merged to create a 6th across-school role later in the year.

We will use term four to train all the new appointees so they can begin working in schools from the start of 2018.

Meetings with staff and Boards of Trustees

We met recently with the staff of Waimea College to update them on our work and answer their questions, and we would like the opportunity to do the same across all the COL/Kāhui Ako schools during the next few months. Some schools have already booked these meetings so contact us as soon as possible to arrange yours.

COL/Kāhui Ako Professional Learning Day

The combined staff from all COL/Kāhui Ako schools will attend a professional learning day on **Monday 5 February 2018**. Ideas for the day (speakers, workshops etc) are welcome and more information will follow. Representatives from Boards of Trustees will be invited to join part of the day.

Thanks for your commitment to supporting the achievement of our students across the Waimea COL/Kāhui Ako. Please contact us at any time for more information.

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