



STATE INTEGRATED GROWTH INITIATIVE (SIGI) PROGRAMME

Information for proprietors

March 2026

Background

In Budget 2025 Government approved funding to assist proprietors in providing more teaching spaces at their state integrated schools in high priority school age population growth areas.

The funding, \$30 million over four years, will be managed through what is called the *State Integrated Growth Initiative (SIGI) programme*.

The difference between SIGI and Policy 2 is only in the property delivery phase. Like Policy 2, applications will come from proprietors and must be supported by an approved maximum roll increase (MRI) which follows a parallel process.

If applications pass this MRI threshold and proprietors seek funding assistance, funding will be prioritised based on school age population criteria like Policy 2 was. If an application is not eligible to receive SIGI funding, the Ministry of Education will approach the proprietor to ascertain whether they wish to continue with the MRI application.

All schooling sectors will be eligible but higher growth is currently being experienced in the secondary school age sector. This growth needs to be planned for at a network level and Policy 2/SIGI has always been a tool for doing so.

The property delivery phase is supported by capital rather than operating (opex) funding which means that the Ministry must have an ownership interest in the accommodation provided. This change requires more preparatory work and a different administrative structure.

Delivery options

There are two options which recognise the Ministry of Education's ownership interest:

- Transportables (relocatable classrooms) that the Ministry will deliver and establish on site at its cost (if the site is practicable). The completed building(s) will be subject to a long-term lease between the Ministry and proprietor
- Suspensory loans based on 85% of the Ministry's standard construction rates per classroom, written off over a period (yet to be confirmed) of 15-20 years. This option is similar to Policy 2 settings.

For both options, the completed building(s) can be integrated and therefore receive on-going Policy 1 investment by the proprietor with maintenance funding generated to the board of trustees.

Schools on leasehold property will be eligible, but the lease must not be at variance with the integration agreement (the Ministry's relationship is with the proprietor and not a different landlord).

What is currently happening?

The administrative structure is currently being worked on. Guidelines for proprietors on how the programme will work will be available in April 2026 through Association of Proprietors of Integrated Schools (APIS).

However, the process can start now by proprietors submitting their MRI and SIGI applications (including earlier applications received after July 2025). We envisage SIGI to be a rolling programme with the first round closing 30 June 2026. Applications can continue to be submitted progressively after that.

Decisions will be made on this round from July to August 2026. Some successful applications may have funding disbursed over the programme's successive years depending on the dollar quantum relative to yearly budgets as well as proprietors own building plans.