

NZSL@School Funding - FAQs

1) Is this funding only applicable for students who receive ORS?

No, any student who fits the criteria stipulated by the Ministry of Education is eligible.

2) Who should submit the NZSL@School application form?

The responsibility of submitting the form is that of the school the student is enrolled in. This application should be completed collaboratively between the parents/whanau, the ākonga (where age appropriate) and any other relevant members of the students support team such as AoDC, RTD, SENCO.

3) Once approved, does my school need to reapply for NZSL@School Funding?

(We are currently reviewing and developing our reapplication process to streamline the continuation of service)

From 2024 onwards, all NZSL@School Support, including NZSL Tutor Support, will need to be reapplied for annually. You can apply for funding at any time of the year, for example when a New Entrant begins or if a Deaf or HoH student moves to your school mid-year. We begin asking for applications for the following school year in Term 3. Our aim is to inform schools of their funding for the following year with time to confirm any required staffing.

On page 1 of the digital application form, you will be asked to choose if you are submitting your application for a student for the first time, or if you are reapplying to continue receiving this resource. The form will then populate accordingly depending on the level of detail we require.

4) Do I need to know my student's ORS status before submitting an application?

Yes, you will need to know the ORS (Ongoing Resourcing Scheme) status of your student before completing the application. This information is important as you will need to know the exact number of Teacher Aide hours of support your school is receiving for your student. There may be instances where you have submitted an ORS application but are still awaiting an outcome. If this is the case please contact us directly to discuss.



5) One question on the form refers to receptive and expressive language, what does this mean?

New applications for funding ask you to indicate what language your student uses at school. This is either receptive or expressive language. Receptive language is the understanding of information provided in a variety of ways such as sounds and words; movement and gestures; and signs and symbols. Expressive language is our ability to communicate our thoughts and feelings through words, gestures, signs, and/or symbols.

6) What is the difference between In Class support and Out of Class support? What sort of Out of Class activities are covered?

In Class support refers to the normal, timetabled hours that a student is in the classroom. Out of Class refers to irregular and extra-curricular activities such as Kapa Haka, school camps, special school assemblies and prizegiving's, which take place outside of the normal school day hours. Approved funding for school camps consists of three additional hours per day (3pm to 6pm) for each day of the camp. Additional hours worked during school camps/trips is paid from the schools' operational funding from 6pm until 8am. Please note we are unable to fund any activities that are not part of the school's educational and cultural program.

7) What is the difference in roles between a Teacher Aide and a Communication/Education Support Worker? And why does this matter?

The Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding is allocated to students so they can access the support of a Teacher Aide. The role of Teacher Aide does not require the ability to use NZSL. Students who meet the criteria to receive NZSL@school Funding require specialist communication support through NZSL. The term Communication/Education Support Worker (C/ESW) was created to describe this specialist role. Please see attached job description.

8) When would we request an Educational Interpreter instead of a C/ESW for In Class support?

In some instances, the learning needs of the student cannot be met by the C/ESW resource. Please see attached document that outlines in detail the difference between these 2 roles.

9) Even though my student has a C/ESW, are there times that they will benefit from the additional support of an EI?

An Educational Interpreter (EI) is appropriate in situations where the content of the information presented is more complex. We recognize there may be instances where an EI is required during the school day such as at an assembly when information is being delivered at a faster pace. Please note: for a student to benefit from an EI in these situations, they must have a high level of receptive NZSL.

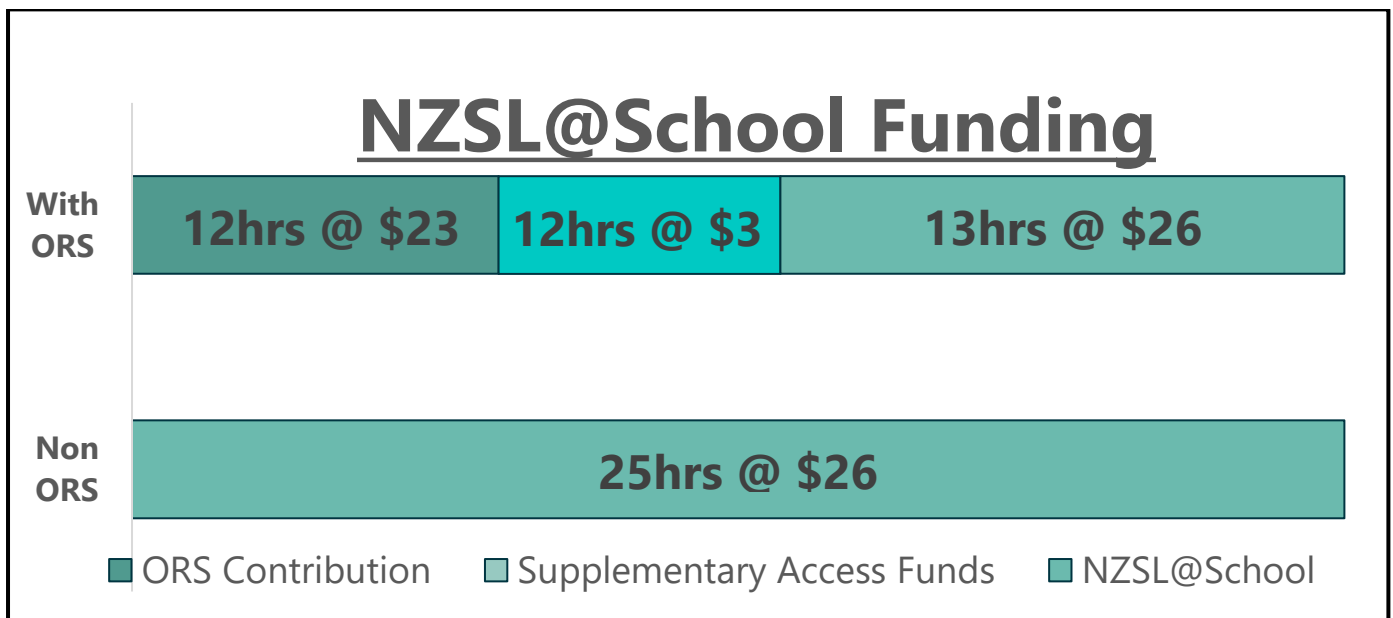


10) What support can an NZSL tutor offer?

The NZSL tutor provides instruction on learning and using NZSL for the student, their classmates, the C/ESW, family/whānau and class teachers.

11) What is Supplementary Access Funding (SAF)?

The ORS T/A contribution your school receives is often not enough to cover the actual hourly rate you pay your C/ESW. For example, the ORS hourly rate that your school receives may be \$23, but the actual hourly rate of the C/ESW may be \$26. From 2023 NZSL@School has covered the shortfall between the ORS funding and the actual hourly rate of the C/ESW. This additional funding is called Supplementary Access Funding. Please see below table for a visual breakdown of this.



12) What does NZSL@School Funding NOT cover?

- C/ESW/Educational Interpreter travel (including mileage)
- ACC levies
- Holiday pay
- C/ESW Study leave
- Interpreter support for parents attending IEPs

