

March 11 2012

Letter to secondary principals

Dear Principal

This letter is to advise you that The University of Auckland Faculty of Education is the provider of the government funded **secondary student achievement** Professional Learning and Development (PLD) for English medium secondary schools in the **Northern region** and the **Central North region** for 2012 and 2013. A similar letter is being sent to secondary schools in the Central South and Southern regions by the PLD provider for those areas.

The special focus for this work is on raising achievement for all students and particularly for Māori and Pasifika students and those with special learning needs. Key focus areas for this PLD will be on supporting schools with the NCEA standards alignment process and with learning area literacy and language needs, in the context of *The New Zealand Curriculum*.

Availability of PLD to support secondary student achievement

PLD support in the secondary student achievement contract will be available to middle leaders and teachers-in-charge, in all learning areas and specialist subjects. This will be in the form of networks of face to face and online clusters, workshops, online support, facilitated meetings and, for selected schools, in-depth PLD. The PLD will support secondary school middle leaders to:

- Design effective teaching and learning programmes.
- Use assessment practices that are consistent with *The New Zealand Curriculum*.
- Embed the new NCEA achievement standards within these programmes.

Access to in-depth PLD to support secondary student achievement

Any whole school in-depth PLD will be brokered through the Ministry of Education's regional offices. This will involve school leaders completing a needs analysis and the regional Ministry office prioritising and allocating PLD support. Typically, this in-depth support will be preceded by a needs analysis, followed by the development of a support programme, in conjunction with the school and PLD provider.

PLD in 2013

It is anticipated that, for 2013, secondary schools will identify in-depth PLD needs based on self review practices based on achievement targets, set in the school's annual charter update. All schools will be advised by the Ministry of the timeframe for applications for future in-depth PLD with the intention that schools and PLD providers will be advised of the outcome of applications by early November 2012.

PLD involving face to face and online clusters, workshops, online support and facilitated meetings will also continue to be available for 2013.

The University of Auckland Faculty of Education

You can expect regular communications from the Faculty of Education regarding the PLD that will be available to secondary schools in your region and which draws your attention to information and links relevant to middle leaders in your school.

If you would like to receive a copy of our regular newsletter by email, please send an email to lisa.williams@auckland.ac.nz including your full name, position and school.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter please contact Karl Mutch, Director Secondary Student Achievement Contract, at the Faculty of Education. His email is k.mutch@auckland.ac.nz and his direct phone number is 09 623 8866.

Regards

Camilla Highfield
Director Professional Learning and Development

Note: This letter is being sent to all schools with secondary students in the Ministry of Education Northern region and Central North region. If this letter has been sent to your school in error please let us know and we will remove your school from our database. Please email Lisa Williams at lisa.williams@auckland.ac.nz