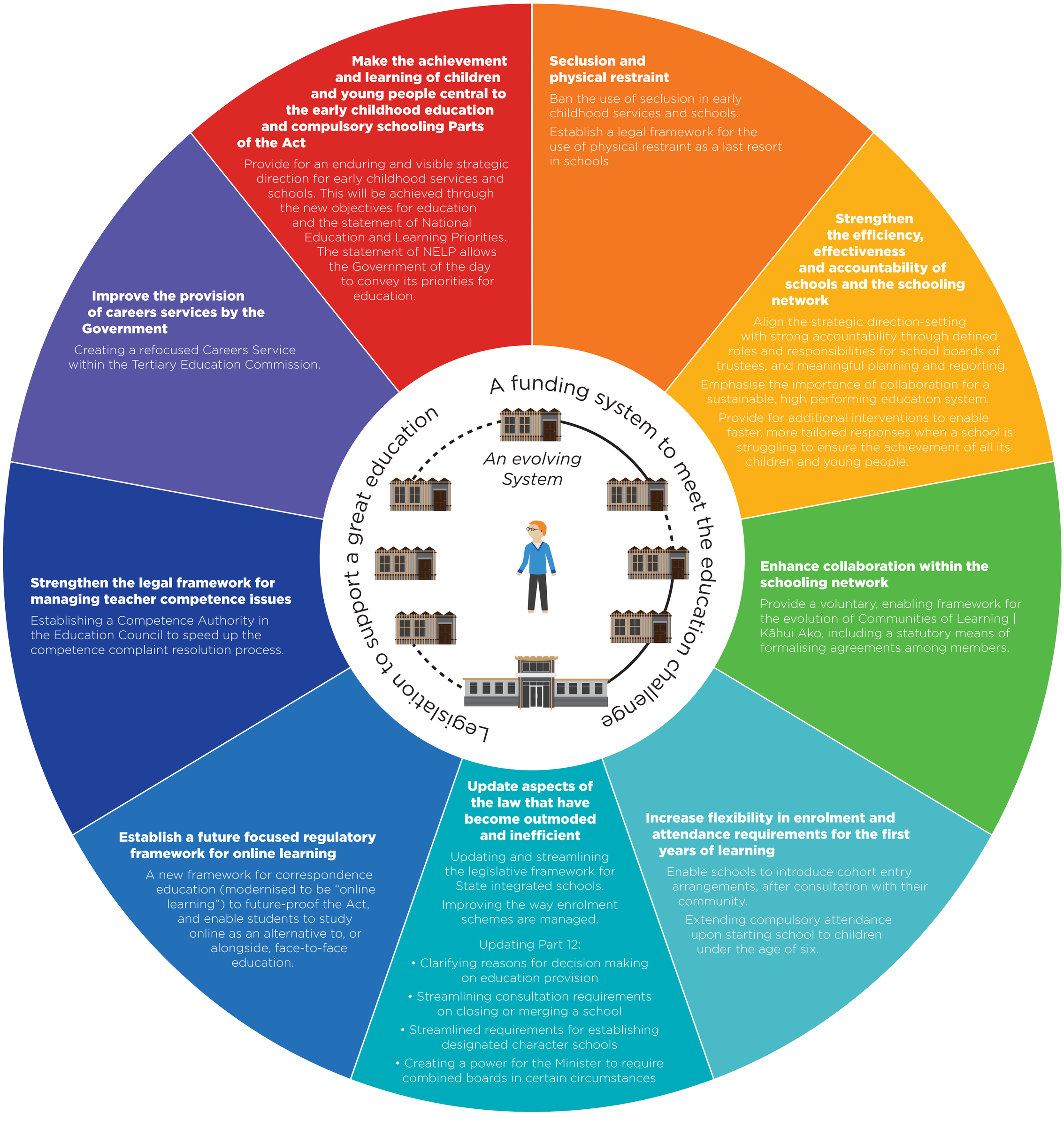
Your guide to the new Education Update Act 2017



Make the achievement and learning of children and young people central to the early childhood education and compulsory schooling Parts of the Act

Provide for an enduring and visible strategic direction for early childhood services and schools. This will be achieved through the new objectives for education and the statement of National Education and Learning Priorities. The statement of NELP allows the Government of the day to convey its priorities for education.

Seclusion and physical restraint

Ban the use of seclusion in early childhood services and schools.

Establish a legal framework for the use of physical restraint as a last resort in schools.

Strengthen the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of schools and the schooling network

Align the strategic direction-setting with strong accountability through defined roles and responsibilities for school boards of trustees, and meaningful planning and reporting.

Emphasise the importance of collaboration for a sustainable, high performing education system.

Provide for additional interventions to enable faster, more tailored responses when a school is struggling to ensure the achievement of all its children and young people.

Improve the provision of careers services by the Government

Creating a refocused Careers Service within the Tertiary Education Commission.

Strengthen the legal framework for managing teacher competence issues

Establishing a Competence Authority in the Education Council to speed up the competence complaint resolution process.

Enhance collaboration within the schooling network

Provide a voluntary, enabling framework for the evolution of Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako, including a statutory means of formalising agreements among members.

Establish a future focused regulatory framework for online learning

A new framework for correspondence education (modernised to be "online learning") to future-proof the Act, and enable students to study online as an alternative to, or alongside, face-to-face education.

Update aspects of the law that have become outmoded and inefficient

Updating and streamlining the legislative framework for State integrated schools.

Improving the way enrolment schemes are managed.

Updating Part 12:

- Clarifying reasons for decision making on education provision
- Streamlining consultation requirements on closing or merging a school
- Streamlined requirements for establishing designated character schools
- Creating a power for the Minister to require combined boards in certain circumstances

Increase flexibility in enrolment and attendance requirements for the first years of learning

Enable schools to introduce cohort entry arrangements, after consultation with their community.

Extending compulsory attendance upon starting school to children under the age of six.