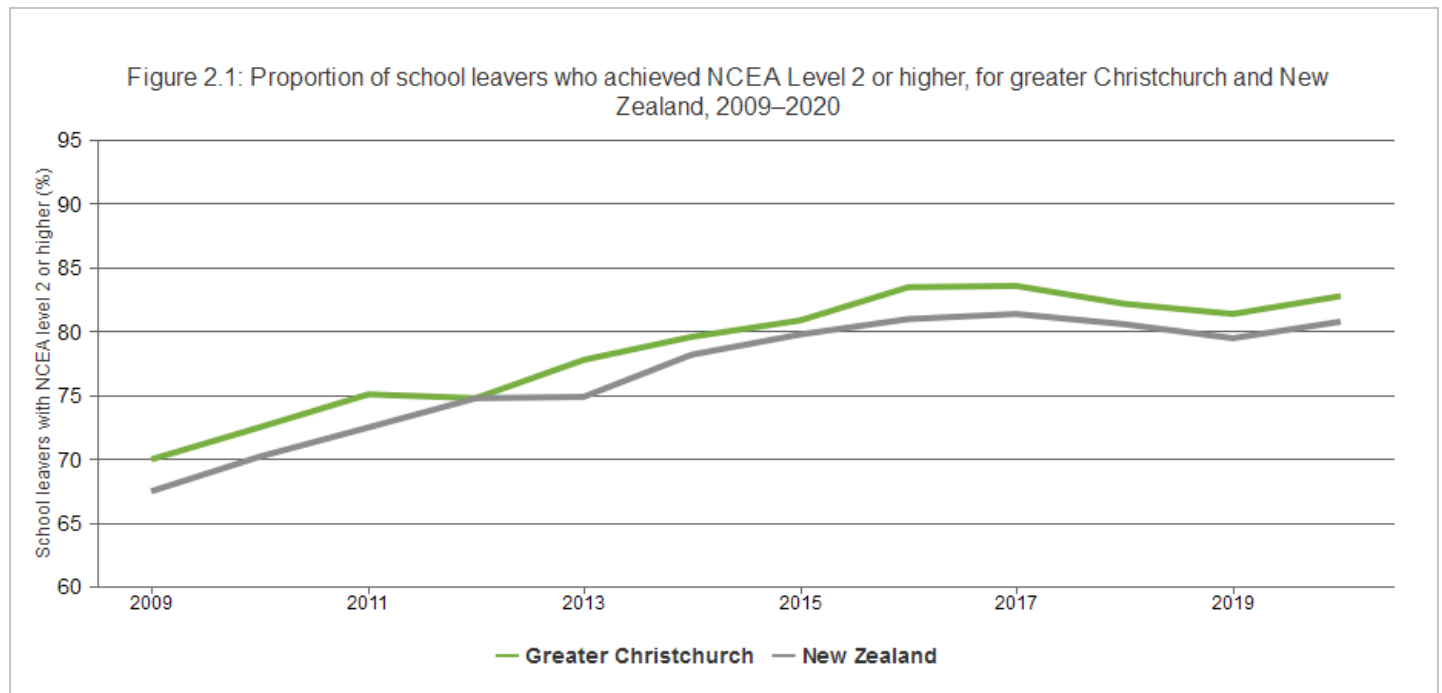


## Education: NCEA Level 2 achievement

Downloaded from <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/education/ncea-level-2-achievement/> on 23/04/2024 11:13 PM

A formal school qualification is a measure of the extent to which young adults have completed a standardised prerequisite for higher education and training and many entry-level jobs. The main qualification available to secondary school students in New Zealand is the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). NCEA Level 2 is often a necessary requirement for entry-level employment opportunities. In 2016, New Zealanders with no qualifications had an unemployment rate approximately 50 percent higher than those whose highest qualification was a school qualification [11]. One of the Government's priorities is to increase the proportion of 18 year-olds with NCEA Level 2 (or an equivalent qualification).

This indicator presents NCEA achievement, defined as the proportion of school leavers who achieved NCEA Level 2 or higher.



The figure shows that the proportion of school leavers in greater Christchurch achieving NCEA Level 2 or above has increased substantially over the period 2009 to 2020 (from 70% in 2009 to 82.8% in 2020). National figures have shown a similar pattern over this time period. However, while NCEA Level 2 or above achievement has improved overall over the time period shown, the proportion of school leavers achieving NCEA Level 2 or higher decreased between 2017 and 2019, for both greater Christchurch and New Zealand, before increasing again between 2019 and 2020.

Breakdown by Territorial Authority



The figure shows that the proportion of Christchurch City students achieving NCEA Level 2 or higher has been consistently rising over the last few years, except for the period 2017-2019. The proportion for Christchurch City has generally been similar to the proportion for New Zealand overall (83.1% and 80.8% respectively, in 2020). Selwyn District has had a notably high proportion of students achieving NCEA level 2 or higher (85.2% in 2020), and the proportion in the Waimakariri District (77.7% in 2020) has generally been similar to the proportion for New Zealand overall.

Breakdown by ethnicity



This breakdown highlights the substantial disparity between the NCEA Level 2 achievement of Māori and Pacific students and other ethnicities. Between 2009 and 2020, school leaver NCEA Level 2 achievement for European/Pākehā students in greater Christchurch increased from 72.7 percent to 84.8 percent. By comparison, Māori and Pacific school leaver NCEA Level 2 achievement has improved from 45.2 percent and 49 percent, respectively, to 64.6 percent and 69.5 percent of students over the same time period.

While there may have been some convergence between Māori and European/Pākehā students’ outcomes between 2014 and 2017, the difference between Māori and European/ Pākehā NCEA Level 2 achievement has increased from 18.7 percentage points in 2017 to 20.2 percentage points in 2020 (Māori 64.6% vs European/Pākehā 84.8% in 2020). Pacific school leaver NCEA Level 2 achievement shows a similar pattern to that for Māori, although generally maintaining a level approximately five percentage points higher. Asian students’ NCEA Level 2 achievement has generally been above that of European/Pākehā students and has increased from 84.3 percent in 2009 to 93.3 in 2020.

Breakdown by gender



The proportion of school leavers gaining NCEA Level 2 or above has consistently been higher for female students than for male students. In greater Christchurch, 86.2 percent of female school leavers gained Level 2 NCEA or above in 2020 compared to 79.6 percent of male school leavers. This pattern is also evident for all of New Zealand (data not shown).

Data Sources

**Source:** Ministry of Education.  
**Survey/data set:** Ministry of Education ENROL Database. Access publicly available data from the Education Counts website: [www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators/main/education-and-learning-outcomes/1781](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators/main/education-and-learning-outcomes/1781)  
**Source data frequency:** Annually.

Metadata for this indicator is available at <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/index-data>

## REFERENCES

---

This is the full reference list for **Education**.

- 1 Feinstein L, Sabates R, Anderson TM, Sorhaingo A, Hammond C (2006) What are the effects of education on health? Copenhagen Symposium: Measuring the Effects of Education on Health and Civic Engagement. Copenhagen.
- 2 Public Health England (2015) *Local action on health inequalities: Improving health literacy to reduce health inequalities*. London: Public Health England.
- 3 Hughes D, Lauder H, Robinson T, Simiyu I, Watson S, et al. (1999) *Do Schools Make a Difference?: Hierarchical Linear Modelling of School Certificate Results in 23 Schools: The Smithfield Project, Phase Three: Eighth Report to the Ministry of Education*. Wellington.
- 4 CSDH (2008) Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- 5 Marmot M (2004) Social Causes of Social Inequalities in Health In: Anand S, Peter F, Sen. AK, editors. Public health, ethics, and equity. Oxford: Oxford University Press on Demand.
- 6 Marmot M, Bell R (2012) Fair society, healthy lives. *Public Health* 126: S4-10.
- 7 Mitchell L, Wylie C, Carr M (2008) *Outcomes of early childhood education: Literature review. A report by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research for the Ministry of Education*. Wellington: Ministry of Education.
- 8 Ross CE, Wu C-I (1995) The Links Between Education and Health. *American Sociological Review* 60: 719-745.
- 9 OECD (2013) *OECD Indicators: Education at a Glance 2013*. Paris: OECD.
- 10 Wylie C, Hodgen E, Hipkins R, Vaughan K (2009) *Competent learners on the edge of adulthood: A summary of key findings from the Competent Learners @ 16 project*. Wellington: Ministry of Education and New Zealand Centre for Education Research.
- 11 OECD (2017) *Education at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators*. Paris: OECD Publishing.
- 12 Allen M (2014) *Local action on health inequalities: Reducing the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)*. Nottingham: Department for Children, Schools and Families.
- 13 Statistics New Zealand (2011) *Introducing the youth not in employment, education, or training indicator*. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.
- 14 International Labour Organization (2011) *Manual on decent work indicators (DWIs): Methodology and progress. How can DWIs and ILO's manual be used for quality of employment work?* Geneva: International Labour Organization.