# Ka Ora, Ka Ako | Heathy School Lunches

## Term 1, **2025**

Ka Ora, Ka Ako provides a daily nutritious lunch to over 242,000 students across Aotearoa New Zealand every school day.

The name Ka Ora, Ka Ako is about being healthy and well to be in a good place to learn. ‘Ka Ora’ means to be satisfied with food, be well, healthy, and safe. ‘Ka Ako’ means to learn.

* **What it provides**:  Meals, free to students, schools and whānau, that meet nutritional standards and use recipes previously enjoyed by students of all ages.
* **What it supports**:  Good nutrition is essential for the healthy growth and child development. Healthy food improves behaviour, learning, concentration, and energy, as well as physical health. When a child eats healthy food, they are happier and find it easier to learn.
* **What has changed in 2025**:
* Intermediate, secondary, full primary (years 0 – 8) and composite schools (years 0 – 15) with an external meal provider will receive a free lunch from the School Lunch Collective (SLC).
* The same menu will be enjoyed by students in all schools and kura across the country.
* The standardisation of the menu, and a national supplier with buying power to purchase cost effective food items has significantly reduced the cost of feeding students a nutritious lunch. The SLC will receive $3 per student, per meal (excluding GST).
* **What will not change**:
* Students will get a hot or cold lunch, every school day.
* The nutritional standards have not changed and will include a balance of protein, vegetables and grains or starchy vegetables.
* Specialist meals will continue to be provided to students for medical reasons such as an allergy or food intolerance, or because foods must be avoided or prepared in a particular way for ethical or religious reasons.

### Menu

A three-week menu will rotate each term, based on seasonality of ingredients. The term one menu is available on your portal [School Lunch Collective | Quality Ready Made Meals](https://schoollunchcollective.co.nz/)

### Waste collection

The School Lunch Collective will collect aluminium meal trays the day after they are delivered (Monday to Thursday), and every Friday. The aluminium meal trays are to be returned in the black containers the meals arrived in and will be taken to a metal recycling plant.

To help with the recycling of meal trays, we suggest students are responsible for scraping food waste and removing wrapping before they are placed in the black containers to be picked up.

In most regions, meal packaging and food waste is also to be placed in the School Lunch Collective black containers and will be collected at the same time as the aluminium meal trays. The exception is schools and kura in Auckland, Tairāwhiti Gisborne, and Invercargill that will receive a separate waste management bin for meal packaging and food waste, which will be collected separately.

### Distribution of meals in school

Schools and kura will receive lunches ready-to eat. There is no longer a need for staff to make lunches or heat food. We recognise large schools may require additional support to get lunches into student hands after they arrive onsite.

Additional support will be made available for schools and kura with a student roll of 350 and over to support distribution of meals onsite. This is interim grant funding that will be automatically provided to eligible schools to support their preferred lunch distribution method.

Schools can choose how the grant funding is utilised. You can find your own staffing resource, or alternatively, subcontract the School Lunch Collective to provide previous staff who have indicated they are available to support schools in 2025.

The distribution grant will be based on the school roll for term one and term two in 2025 and will be automatically paid in advance each term, through Pourato.

Over the next few months, the Ministry will work with schools and kura to develop a long-term cost-efficient distribution solution to meet individual needs.

For more information, visit [School Lunch Collective model - Ka Ora, Ka Ako](https://kaorakaako.education.govt.nz/working-together/new-model)

### For more information and support

Please contact the School Lunch Collective Support Hub on info@schoollunchcollective.co.nz, or visit [School Lunch Collective | Quality Ready Made Meals](https://schoollunchcollective.co.nz/)