



October 2008

**Independent Schools Education Association NZ**

[www.isea.org.nz](http://www.isea.org.nz)

**REPRESENTING TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF IN  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

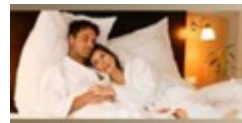
## Welcome

Hi and welcome to our second e-newsletter.

We hope that you have had a fabulous term break and have settled into term 4. Look out for the launch of our new website at [www.isea.org.nz](http://www.isea.org.nz) later in the term. In association with this we have developed relationships with additional companies for a range of new membership benefits.



[EyePro eye care discounts](#)



[Millennium Hotels](#)



[Regency Duty Free Discounts](#)

PS. This email includes pictures. If you cannot view the pics but wish to do so then you may wish to adjust your email account settings. A pdf file is also attached. To access past copies of our newsletters on the website, [Click here](#). Or to contact us email [newsletter@ISEA.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@ISEA.org.nz)

## Election NEWS

### Introduction

While the drama of the Winston Peters saga has been interesting (or appalling depending on your tolerance levels) of more immediate importance is the policies of the various political parties. These positions are solidifying the closer we come to the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election Day. We have devoted this issue to summarising the Education and Industrial Relations/Employment policies of the parliamentary parties in alphabetical order. ISEA does not

support or advocate for a particular party and the information provided below is solely for the interest of ISEA members.



Act advocates the “Principle: All New Zealanders have the right to a decent education. Not one that breeds failure.” They say that Parents have the right to send their children to the school of their choice. After all, it’s their money, their children and their future.



Act will give each of your children an education scholarship. The amount of each scholarship would be the same amount that the government currently spends on your child's education. The scholarship would either come to you as a tax cut, or be paid by the government to the school of your choice. You'd be able to spend the scholarship at any approved school you like. It could be public, independent, non-profit, or for-profit. Act argues for more freedom of employment contracts.

[ACT Education Policy](#) [ACT Industrial Relations Policy](#)



The Green Party has as its Key Education Principles:-

- A free education system that fosters participation, sustainability, equality and peace.
- High quality teaching, learning environments, and curriculum that fosters peace in our communities.

It does not have any specific policies about independent schools but they want to establish a Commission of Inquiry into the New Zealand education system and Evaluate the NCEA, in consultation with all stakeholders.



[Greens Education Policy](#) [Greens Industrial Relations Policy](#)

The Greens have released their Industrial Relations Policy:-

\* Lifting the minimum wage to \$15 an hour immediately, then indexing it to no less than 66 percent of the average wage.

\* A full review of the Employment Relations Act rather than ongoing piecemeal amendments.

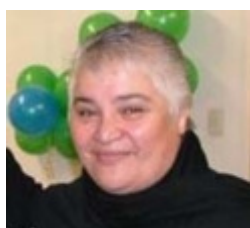
\* Significant resourcing of a separate Government agency linked to the Department of Labour focused on supporting the capacity of unions and employers to bargain MECAs (multi employer collective agreements); funding to help unions and employers with the extra costs of negotiating MECAs, with experienced mediators available to help with the process.



Labour has not yet launched its 2008 policy on its website. However, it is announcing policies throughout the election period. For example, on October 9<sup>th</sup> Trevor Mallard announced a new policy setting a legal minimum redundancy compensation and notice if Labour were re-elected. The key issue from their education policy is that Labour believes that education is a core responsibility of the state. They reject the idea that taxpayer funds should be used to drive returns to shareholders. Key policies can be gleaned from the relevant government actions and spokesperson pages. Labour has ministers of Education (Hon. Chris Carter) and Labour (Hon. Trevor Mallard). Ctrl + Click on the ministers' photos below to access their portfolio websites.



[Labour's Education Policy \(2005\)](#) [Labour's Industrial Relations Policy \(2005\)](#)



The Maori party website does not show any Education or Industrial Relations policy. However, they have stated that "in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Maori Party

supports public school partnerships with local whanau, hapu, iwi and their education strategies.

### [Maori Party](#)



National believes employment law should treat all parties fairly. It should:

- Protect employees and employers.
- Expand job opportunities for those having difficulty getting work – like young, inexperienced people or new immigrants.
- Increase flexibility.
- Let businesses grow. National propose to introduce a 90-day trial period for new employees by agreement between the employer and the employee, for businesses with fewer than 20 staff. During the trial period, either party may terminate the employment relationship for performance, without a personal grievance claim being brought. Good-faith provisions will still apply, as will rights to sick leave, holidays, and health and safety provisions. Rules of natural justice and human rights legislation will apply. Mediation will be available in disputes, and employers won't be able to hire and fire the same employee every 90 days. They also promise to continue to allow union access to workplaces with the employer's consent, which cannot be unreasonably withheld.

And, continue to support the social partnership with Business NZ and the CTU.

- Restore workers' rights to bargain collectively without having to belong to a union.

National's education policy has not yet been released although public statements have supported increasing the funding for independent schools. This appears to be based on a decile type formula.



### [National Industrial Relations Policy](#)



New Zealand First believes that “education is a critical social and economic investment. We will continue to deliver policies that develop an education system fit for the 21st century and that enables each and every New Zealander to achieve his or her greatest potential”.



[NZ First Education Policy](#) [NZ First Employment Policy](#)



Jim Anderton is the Assoc. Minister of Tertiary Education. The Progressives believe that education is an investment in a productive, informed, and healthy society. It helps us flourish as individuals, but it is also vital in lifting the living standards of all New Zealanders. The party's education policies include Continuing to improve funding for out of school care programmes and supporting teachers to access professional development and support services.



[Progressive Party Website](#) [Jim Anderton's Ministerial Website](#)



Although United Future does not specifically mention independent schools the party is happy for private investment in public schools but are against the privatisation of the public sector". United Future supports the use of NCEA while acknowledging areas of improvement still needed. United Future has not released a comprehensive industrial relations policy. However, it has a social services and employment policy which states "UnitedFuture believes that work is a good, for society and for individuals. Having a job boosts self-esteem and a sense of personal dignity. That's why UnitedFuture's policies are practical, with the goal of suitable employment for all who want them".



[United Future's Education Policy](#) [United Future's Social Services and Employment Relations Policy](#)

### Are You Enrolled?



[Click Here](#)

### Related Election Policy Websites (click on the logos)



### Membership

The more members that join ISEA the more services that we can provide to you. You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member. Please feel free to pass a copy to any other staff that you feel might be interested in joining ISEA. Or, you can pass them a membership subscription form. [Click here to access a membership form.](#)

The subscription period is for one year and can be deducted with each pay or if you prefer we can arrange payment by cheque or direct debit.

### Correction to email address

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### To unsubscribe

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act has taken effect this year. If you do not wish to receive our email newsletter about our website and other events, please [send an email](#) and type "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

***NB. If you still wish to receive our emails you do not have to do anything***

**Many thanks,  
The Team at  
Independent Schools Education Association NZ**  
[newsletter@ISEA.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@ISEA.org.nz)

Representing teaching and non-teaching staff in independent schools