

## **Will National Standards Put Learning At Risk?**

The Government has claimed that teachers don't want its controversial National Standards policy implemented next year because they don't want to be accountable. This is not the case.

Teachers are concerned that the Standards risk children's learning because:

- They are untested – children's learning is too important to experiment with
- Children will be labeled as failures if they do not meet the standard for their age, when the actual progress a child is making is what is most important to measure
- They impose a national "one size fits all" approach to learning rather than giving schools the opportunity to create innovative, locally relevant programs for their students
- They could lead to "league tables" of schools being published which create incorrect and unfair perceptions of "good" and "bad" schools.

**The New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI), which represents more than 90% of primary teachers and principals, has recently joined leading education academics in calling for the Government's controversial National Standards to be abandoned unless they are first trialed in a limited number of schools. NZEI absolutely supports parents' rights to know about their child's progress and the next steps for their learning. This is an essential part of education. But the bottom line for principals and teachers is that any new education initiative must benefit children's learning, not damage it. To find out more, talk to your school or visit [www.nzei.org.nz](http://www.nzei.org.nz)**