

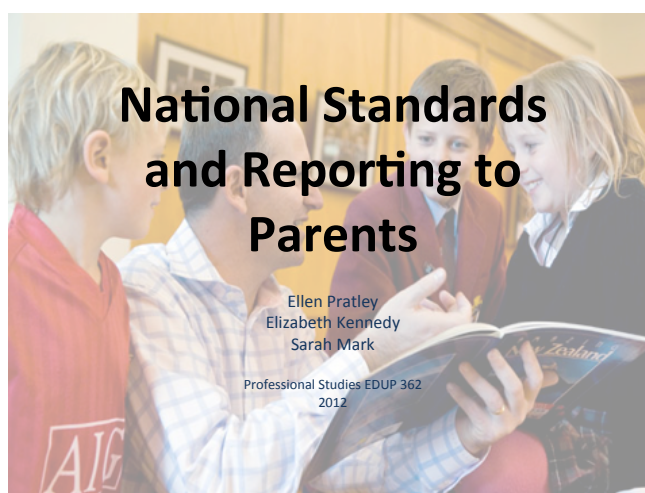
Laurence Potter

Professional Studies: Assignment 2

Reflection Two

In those reflections please comment on

- *Why this topic is relevant and interesting to you.*
- *What you have learned from it*
- *How what is presented in each electronic presentation might impact on your practice as a teacher.*



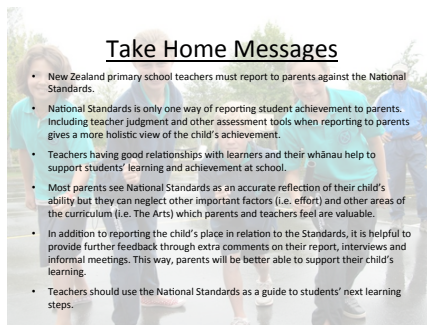
National Standards:

This topic again has relevancy to me both in a professional capacity, but also in terms of me as a parent. So a relevant and important subject matter for me to be investigating, reading around.

The presentation began to fill in some of the gaps in my knowledge. And whilst a very informative presentation, again with great efficient and logical use of data, the real issues would seem to be way beyond a 12 slide presentation. What interested me was the number of parents from their survey who believed the standards accurately measured their children's achievement. I feel this 'belief in the system', or at least an attitude of what's so bad about the system amongst parents is why the revolt against the system hasn't really happened. There would seem to be some grumblings about the dangers of league tables amongst parents, and maybe even some awareness of what this can lead to. But compare this to the uproar when the Government floated bigger classroom sizes. Teachers and parents united, and the Government felt the heat and almost without a fight backed down.

I feel that it is my teacher training, and not my role as a parent, that is beginning to inform me more about the potential flaws in the standards, the fact that the classroom is full of diverse learners, learning at different rates, and in different ways. One of the biggest learning points for me was the OTJ (Overall Teachers Judgement). My previous AT used this term and I just assumed it was another age-old teacher acronym. I didn't realise it was a key part of the standards system!

The take home messages were useful, but still feel that I need to research further, and that the coming years will very much provide more food for thought as standards become part and parcel of the system, and hindsight, statistics come into play.



Take Home Messages

- New Zealand primary school teachers must report to parents against the National Standards.
- National Standards is only one way of reporting student achievement to parents. Including teacher judgment and other assessment tools when reporting to parents gives a more holistic view of the child's achievement.
- Teachers having good relationships with learners and their whānau help to support students' learning and achievement at school.
- Most parents see National Standards as an accurate reflection of their child's ability but they can neglect other important factors (i.e. effort) and other areas of the curriculum (i.e. The Arts) which parents and teachers feel are valuable.
- In addition to reporting the child's place in relation to the Standards, it is helpful to provide further feedback through extra comments on their report, interviews and informal meetings. This way, parents will be better able to support their child's learning.
- Teachers should use the National Standards as a guide to students' next learning steps.