

Partnership schools proposed

TWO partnership schools have been proposed for the Eastern Bay.

The Partnership Schools Authorisation Board has released further information about the parties who have applied to establish partnership schools, or kura hourua, to open in 2017.

The latest application round, which closed on October 30, includes applications from the Bay of Plenty Children's Education Charitable Trust proposing a year 1 to 8 school in Whakatane, and Te Waii Uu Whanau Trust, wanting to establish a year 1 to 13-plus school in Waimana.

Authorisation board chairwoman Catherine Isaac said 26 applications were received and had now been validated as compliant.

Detailed evaluation was under way and would be carried out over the next two months.

She said details of each application would be released at the conclusion of the assessment process.

Ten of the proposed partnership schools were in Auckland, one in Northland and two each in the Bay of Plenty, Gisborne and Hawke's Bay.

Three were proposed for the Waikato, one in the Manawatu, four in Wellington and one in Canterbury – the lone South Island application.

The ministry of education laid out criteria for proposals in this third round, and said they should make "innovative use of the flexibilities and freedoms on offer".

Partnership schools bring together education, the business sector and community groups to provide new opportunities for students to achieve education success.

The Government has established a small number of partnership schools to target students underachieving in the state and state-integrated system. The first one opened in 2014.