Government breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi (education)

Provision was made for Māori education as part of the process of 'civilizing' people of iwi descent: "which object may best be attained by assimilating as speedily as possible the habits and usages of the Native to those of the European populations".	**1844**
The British Parliament passed the New Zealand Constitution Act, conceding to the settlers the administration of all matters relating to land in Aotearoa. The parliament of New Zealand was established without iwi representation because voting was restricted to men who owned land on a single title and since people of iwi descent held land communally, they did not have the vote.	**1852**
The Māori Representation Act was set up with four Māori seats in Parliament in response to settler concern that, with individualization of land titles, voters of iwi descent might outnumber Pākehā in some electorates.	**1867**
The Native Schools Act provided for the setting up of schools in Māori villages so long as the hapū provided the land, half the cost of the buildings and 25% of the teacher's salary. The Education Department built other schools as the need arose at no cost to the local community. English was to be the only language of instruction for Māori students—later rigorously enforced.	**1867**
The Suppression of Tohunga Act outlawed the spiritual and educational role of the tohunga. It was a response in particular to the success of the prophet Rua Kenana in convincing his people to remove their children from the debilitating influences of European schools.	**1907**
The majority of the Māori workforce was unskilled and only 6% of Māori held qualified positions in the workforce.	**1950s**
During the survey by the NZ Council for Educational Research of Māori usage, "in many rural areas, half or more of the adult informants interviewed … reported having been punished at school for speaking Maori". (Benton)	**1970s**
Ninety percent of Māori school children were native Māori speakers in 1913. By 1973 a NZCER national survey showed that only about 70,000 Māori (18-20% of Māori) were fluent Māori speakers, and that most were elderly.	**1973**
Of those sitting School Certificate Māori, only 38% were allowed to pass, because of the way the scaling system operated. Of those sitting Latin, German or French, 80% were allowed to pass.	**1983**
"The education system in new Zealand is operating unsuccessfully because too many Māori children are not reaching an acceptable standard of education. Their language is not adequately protected and their scholastic achievements fall far short of what they should be … Judged by the system's own standards Māori children are not being successfully taught, and for this reason … the education system is being operated in breach of the Treaty". (Wai 11: Report on Te Reo Māori claim)	**1986**
The highest qualification for 30% of Māori school leavers was less than NCEA level 1; only 11% of Pakeha left with their highest qualification less than NCEA level 1. Over half of Pākehā school leavers (54%) had achieved University Entrance, but only a quarter (26%) of Māori had.	**2012**

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