

# School Decile Ratings

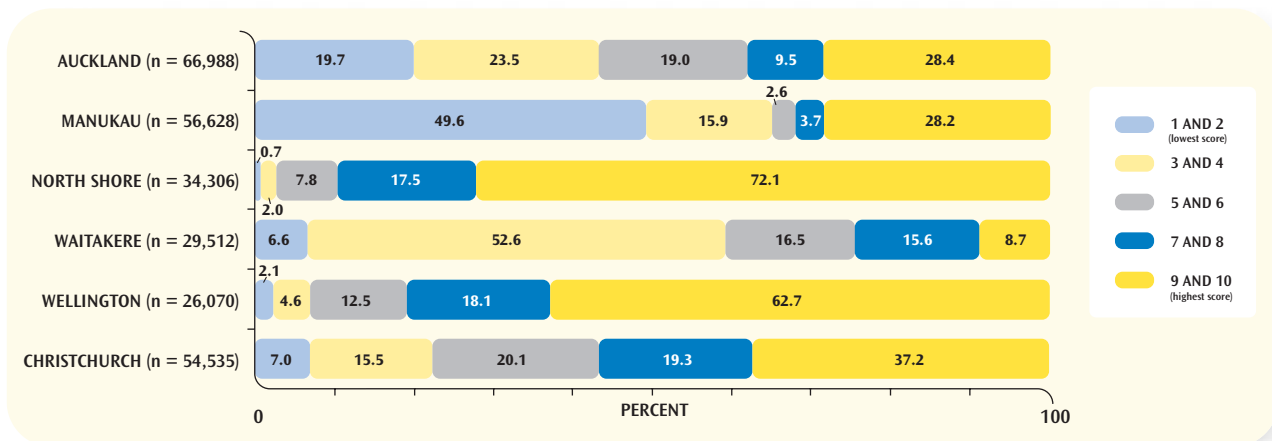
## What this is about...

The decile rating of a school is determined by the Ministry of Education and takes account of a number of factors including the socio-economic status of the families of the pupils at the school.<sup>104</sup> A low decile rating indicates a school with a significant number of disadvantaged children. Children at low decile schools face difficulties other than the level of resources at the school itself. Their families may be disadvantaged and the parents may have difficulty supporting the learning process.

## What did we find ?

- Two cities, Waitakere and Manukau, stand out as having a much larger proportion of children in low decile schools. Both have 60% to 65% in decile 1 to 4 schools, compared to the average of 35% across the six largest cities.<sup>105</sup>
- While school decile rankings are not directly comparable with socio-economic deciles, there is a high correlation to overall socio-economic conditions in the relevant city.

PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS WITHIN SCHOOL DECILE, BY CITY (1999)



Data Source: Ministry of Education  
Percentages are rounded

There may be connections between lower socio-economic status, which is reflected in the school deciles, lower participation in early childhood education, and high levels of school leavers with no qualifications. This applies to Waitakere and Manukau Cities particularly.

104 The decile rating for a school is used to determine school resourcing and is not directly comparable with socio-economic deciles. It is therefore possible that the decile ratings for schools may be more 'polarised' than the decile ratings of the supporting community. The rating is based on families with school age children and includes ethnic makeup, household income, benefit dependency, household crowding, and other factors. Some "cross border" issues may exist, such as boarding schools in main centres with children not normally resident in the area, and (particularly in Auckland) children from one city attending a school in another.

105 We would not expect an exact 10% of all schools or pupils in each decile for the following reasons: the criteria used are not aimed at producing this split as an average across the whole country; the rating is for the school, not pupils and therefore averages across all pupils; and the data above is not for the whole country. Given this, four deciles would theoretically include 40%, so at 35% the figures are comparable.