

Starpath Strategies for Success

Starpath is an academic counselling and target setting programme designed to raise student achievement, improve communication with parents and whānau and provide appropriate advice to students on academic pathways based on their NCEA achievement records and aspirations for the future. The Starpath programme is based on the encouragement of high expectations of student success to support aspirational targets, with a focus on equity and excellence. A clear goal of the project is to increase the numbers of Maori, Pasifika and low socio-economic status students gaining entry into degree courses.

The Starpath team has worked collaboratively with the partner schools to develop, trial and test a whole-school programme consisting of the following key strategies:

Establishing an evidential database

Building and maintaining an evidential database to allow for the systematic storage and management of real-time data by appointed and trained staff to inform decision making.

Ongoing target setting by a specially trained Student Achievement Manager (SAM)

Using longitudinal data to set individual academic targets and aggregate these with other data to set specific group and school targets.

Tracking and monitoring of student learning and academic progress

Using real-time student achievement data to monitor student learning and academic progress. A 'traffic light' system to record teachers' expectations of students' achievement in individual subjects as part of monitoring and aligning academic targets and progress to ensure timely interventions with students at risk of not achieving targets.

Academic counselling (two way conversations) to support students' progress toward set targets

Providing the opportunity for students to meet with trained teachers two to three times each year to review their academic progress, goals and plans and the strategies required to achieve them.

Enhanced family/whānau engagement

Enhanced parent-student-teacher conferences (three way conversations) to provide schools with the opportunity to discuss students' progress. Plans and strategies are reviewed with students and their family/whānau using real-time data and other relevant information. These conversations

are typically 20 minutes with the Academic Counsellor held once or twice a year.