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Evaluations of school performance: Meeting the needs of various audiences

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The New Zealand Education Review Office (ERO) is responsible for evaluating the quality of education provided for students in New Zealand schools and reporting these findings to individual schools, to parents and communities, and to the New Zealand Government.

Although it is a commonly held premise that evaluations cannot effectively serve several purposes this presentation will discuss an innovative evaluation methodology implemented by ERO for its reviews of schools. This methodology has the flexibility to provide useful evaluation findings to all three audiences.

The presentation will describe that ways in which the evaluations are undertaken to provide evaluative information for various audiences, how this information is promulgated and what use audiences make of it. While there is considerable evidence that schools and education policy makers use the information, the challenge for ERO now is to make information more readily available to parents and school communities.