



SMART\$ is a Theatre-in-Education performance designed to provoke thinking and conversation around everyday financial decisions and opportunities impacting young people.

Designed specifically for New Zealand rangatahi, the audience follows three characters as they reflect on financial decisions they made as young people and the subsequent impact.

Concepts covered include saving, deferred payment schemes, credit cards and KiwiSaver. SMART\$ aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum and aims to increase young people's life skills and knowledge, enabling them to become confident managers of money and contribute to their communities.

Why financial literacy education is important in New Zealand

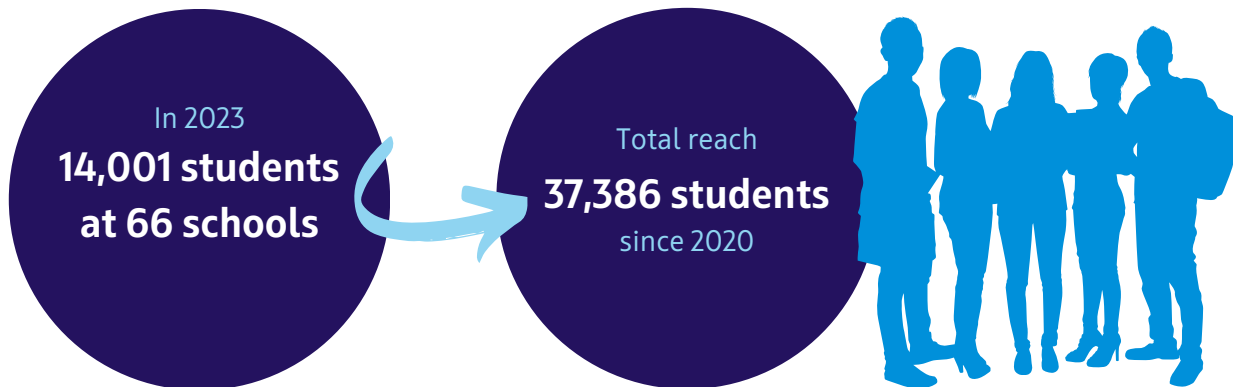
New Zealand's financial environment is challenging for young people growing up today. Financial education is patchy in schools despite widespread recognition of its importance.

The poverty trap and intergenerational impact of poor financial skills is real. Without skills and knowledge to apply to real life situations involving financial decisions, strategies to lift household income will have limited impact.

The Commission For Financial Capability (CFFC) contracted the New Zealand Council for Educational Research to assess financial capability in secondary schools. **Teachers believe that students' money management skills are low. Importantly though, 82% of secondary students want to learn more about how to manage their money, and see the value of obtaining advice on money issues.**



Programme reach



Feedback

Teachers reported:

100% strongly agreed or agreed SMART\$ explored the issues and key concepts of everyday financial decisions well .

87% strongly agreed or agreed students knowledge improved after participating in SMART\$.

100% strongly agreed or agreed it was important for students to learn more about everyday financial decisions.

Students shared:

"A lot of it was new information and think it will be helpful for my future."

"I learnt about the benefits of having a Kiwisaver account which has inspired me to start my own."

"Don't get into debt because it gets you into a lot of sticky situations."