







Hero



Hero is a powerful and secure online sharing platform that can be customised to reflect the curriculum, vision and values of any school. Built by teachers, school leaders and parents to help schools reduce workload, increase student agency and support parents to understand progress.

School Communications can be complicated and confusing...



-  Payments App
-  TxT
-  School App
-  Emails
-  Portfolio App
-  Student Management System



...or it can be Heroic!

It's amazing what students can do with a Hero in their life

The Hero your students deserve

Making a difference to student's learning is at the heart of Hero's vision. We know that students learn best when they are happy, engaged and have agency over their own learning. LINC-ED Hero enables students to easily understand their progress, achievement, next steps and to grow their agency around this.

Goal Setting

The Hero Progressions toolset enables schools to fully customise the progressions and goal sets through any curriculum or subject. Schools can build their own set of progressions or use the wide array of preloaded progressions. Hero schools have adapted a wide variety of curricular to reflect their own school values and expectations. These progressions are mapped to the school's expectations for key milestones, so that data collection and analysis is seamless. By aligning next steps and goal setting to the school's own curriculum, Hero releases teachers to focus on the most important thing - the students.



Digital Badges

Goal sets can be grouped together as micro-credentials so that digital badges can be awarded to students when they have completed all the goals within that set. Students can select the badges they wish to work on, set their own goals and then share evidence.



Digital badges are not limited to the curriculum, badges can be created for a wide range of purposes, including values or service.

One size does not fit all and so personal goals can be created for individual students with Hero's Personal Learning Plan option. As this is all shared with parents via the Hero App, it is easier than ever to build a shared understanding and language around learning. Teachers, students and parents all have access to the same information.

Using the Hero App is simple and easy for students, from setting their goals to uploading a video and tagging evidence, all this can be done by students of any age.

Security and privacy are essential in any app that is being accessed by students. Hero uses best-practice security protocols to ensure that student access and data is protected. Individual passwords are used by the students to access the app so that they learn good security habits from a young age and so that unauthorised access cannot happen.

THE HERO YOUR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND BOARD NEEDS

Make Data-Driven Decisions Easily with Hero

To make informed, data-driven decisions, school leaders and governing bodies require quality, accurate and consistent data. This can lead to increased workload for teachers as they gather and record data in multiple places. Hero minimises teacher workload, whilst also providing high quality, school-wide data that makes a difference.



Hero is built to be flexible and to reflect the curriculum, vision and values of the school so that the focus for teachers is on individual students and their progress. This means that generating data is part of the teaching and learning process, rather than a separate task. Best fit algorithms, powerful tagging options and data analysis tools are gathered together as 'insights' for any group or class to help teachers to share learning without the administrative overload. Manual manipulation of spreadsheets is no longer needed with Hero, saving school leaders valuable time.

Using "big data", generated by Hero, School Leaders and Boards can clearly see the difference they are making to inform future decisions and strategic planning.

Hero is a Holistic Education Reporting Option. Data analysis tools extend beyond assessments and achievement information. In Hero, there is a focus on the whole child and their well-being.

Streamline School Communication for Parents and Increase Engagement

One of the frustrations for parents is app and email overload and dealing with paper at the bottom of the school bag. Hero brings together all school communication into one place. Notices, event updates, progress and achievement, goals and next steps, work samples and learning stories all come together. In addition, parents have the ability to view and pay for activities online.

Download the Hero app from the app store, turn on notifications and important information can be easily accessed. Parents with children across multiple Hero schools can see ALL school information through the one Hero app.

Private and Secure

Hero takes protecting your security and privacy seriously. We use the latest security industry best practices to protect our users and ourselves. Robust measures have been put in place to protect the integrity of your information. We carry out an independent software audit annually.

LINC-ED does not own the content you add to Hero.

LINC-ED will never sell your data or student data.

LINC-ED will not advertise in Hero.

LINC-ED Hero is a New Zealand Ministry of Education Approved Student Management System.



Importantly, sharing and permissions are tightly controlled by school approved administration. Student work is private to those who are given access by the school.

THE HERO OUR OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS NEED

Improve Efficiency of New Enrolments

Remove the need for manual data entry of new student information by putting our online enrolment form in the hands of the parents, while still retaining control over the data that is populated in Hero SIS. In line with the Hero vision to bring a customisable solution to schools, our templated online enrolment form can be easily customised by you, with the specific fields your school requires. Share with prospective parents on your website or via email - you choose.

Comprehensive Attendance System

Our New Zealand Ministry approved attendance system is fully integrated as part of the Hero Suite, keeping all student information in one place. Hero SIS has a user-friendly, fast and efficient interface. Absences can be followed up in a timely manner to keep your students safe. In-app notifications and the activation of text messaging further streamlines this process.



Accessing the Data You Need

Build custom lists or generate the most commonly used pre-made lists through Hero's powerful List Builder. Sorting and filtering features can be used to obtain key information quickly and effectively.

Office Administrators can also access data for analysis purposes such as, attendance patterns, medical or demographic information through Hero's Insights feature. Hero insights take away the need for manual spreadsheet manipulation.

Student Billing Made Easy

Invoices can be easily added in bulk to a selected group of students or individually to meet a specific student's requirements. With the ability for parents to view and pay their financial accounts online through the Hero app, emailing statements can be a thing of the past. Making it easy for parents improves collection rates for the school and reduces follow up for Finance Administrators. Processing the payments is as easy as the click of a button. Hero Billing caters for the unique scenarios specific to the school context!

Communicate with your Community

Office Administrators have fine-grain control over sending the right information to the right people, with parents only receiving the information relevant to their family.

Hero is designed to automate processes and efficiencies for school Office Administrators to support them in their specific and important role within the school.

We care about what teachers care about - because we are teachers too!

THE HERO OUR TEACHERS DESERVE

Intuitive and Easy to Use

Student information is easily accessible at any time, from any place and on any device. All information is together in one place.

Hero's fully featured mobile app, with its simple navigation, makes life easy for busy teachers, whether they are in the classroom, out in the playground or on a school trip. Everything from taking the attendance through to capturing learning on the fly, with video and photo, is easy with Hero!



Meaningful Reporting

Hero reporting fosters student agency and helps build partnerships between home and school through an easy to use interface. Teachers can work smarter, improving efficiencies and reducing double and even triple handling.

Hero offers real-time reporting, whilst meeting Ministry requirements, and enables parents to receive up-to-date information about their children's learning. It is not about teachers always "being on", it is about the technology working smarter to enable timely and effective communication.

Improve Workflow, Reduce Workload

Remove the administrative burden of spreadsheet and app overload for teachers. Add data once, in one place and let Hero do the heavy lifting.

The software works smarter, presenting data in visual and useful ways to inform teacher planning, monitor student progress, and reporting to parents.

Staff can easily create groups for entering data, tracking learning and contacting parents. It has never been simpler to coordinate your sports team with Hero.

The school has complete control over what is shared, when and with whom. Features can be turned on or off for parents and students at any time to align with the school's requirements. With Hero, data tells a story about the whole child and is designed to make a difference.

Our schools are filled with Heroes and every student, parent and teacher deserves LINC-ED Hero.

The Hero your parents want

Everything in one place

The challenge for the busy parent is keeping up and knowing where and how to access all current and past information quickly. Whilst technology has enabled more effective communication parents can become overwhelmed with app overload, a full email inbox and digging around for paper at the bottom of the school bag.

Reporting Progress

The real power of Hero is what it offers for parents to enable them to keep in touch with their children's learning. We all know that reporting to parents can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for schools and often by the time the parent receives the report the child's learning has moved on.

LINC-ED Hero has simplified this process for schools to enable real-time reporting to take place. Our reporting tools give parents live updates of where their children are working in the curriculum and what their next steps are, at any given time. As these next steps are calibrated to the school's expectations, parents can be shown extra detail that helps them to understand more about the school's curriculum and grow a shared language of learning.

These can then be combined with personalised teachers comments, student reflections, work samples and even digital badges that have been awarded. Parents can be part of the learning conversation through posting, commenting or reacting to content.

Hero enables an ongoing learning story to be built over time. This supports new relationships between staff and students. At the beginning of a school year, a new teacher has a rich history of their students. Not only are they up to speed on progress and achievement, but they have a head start in getting to know the children. What their passions are, what are they proud of and what makes them sparkle. It is these relationships that are key to our children's happiness and success.

The Hero App

Busy parents can download the Hero app, turn on notifications and important information is easily accessed. One of the really exciting things for families with children across multiple Hero schools is ALL school information can be accessed through the one Hero app.



Security and Privacy



We use the latest security industry best practices to protect you and us.



LINC-ED does not own the content you add to Hero.



LINC-ED will never sell your data or student data.



LINC-ED will never advertise in Hero.



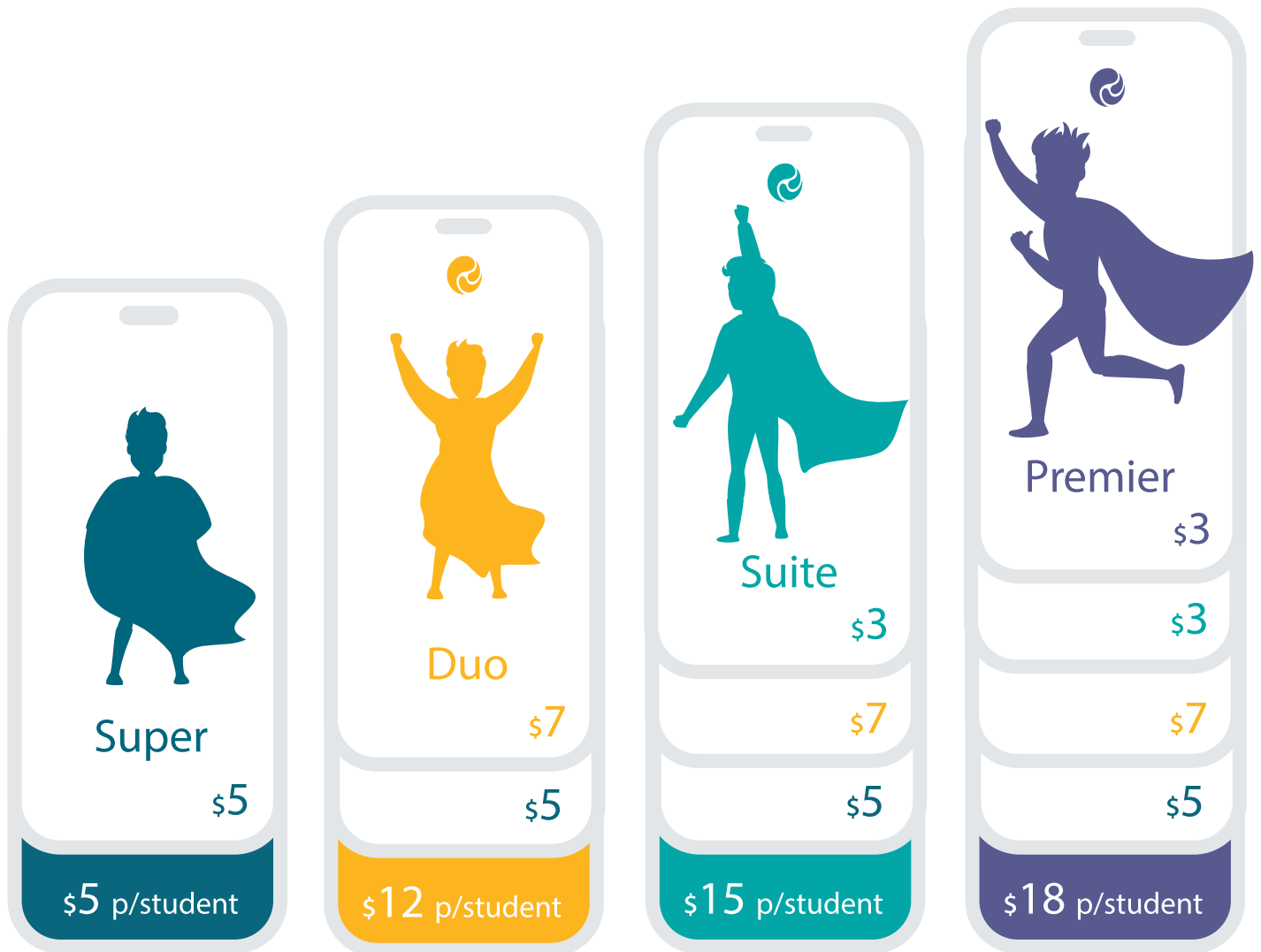
Student work is private to those who are given access by the school.



We are transparent about our practices and will notify you if things change.

Hero takes protecting your security and privacy seriously and we've put a number of measures in place to protect the integrity of your information.

Pricing



All prices are per student per year and are exclusive of GST.

The minimum annual subscription fee is \$2,000 per year for schools with fewer than 200 students.

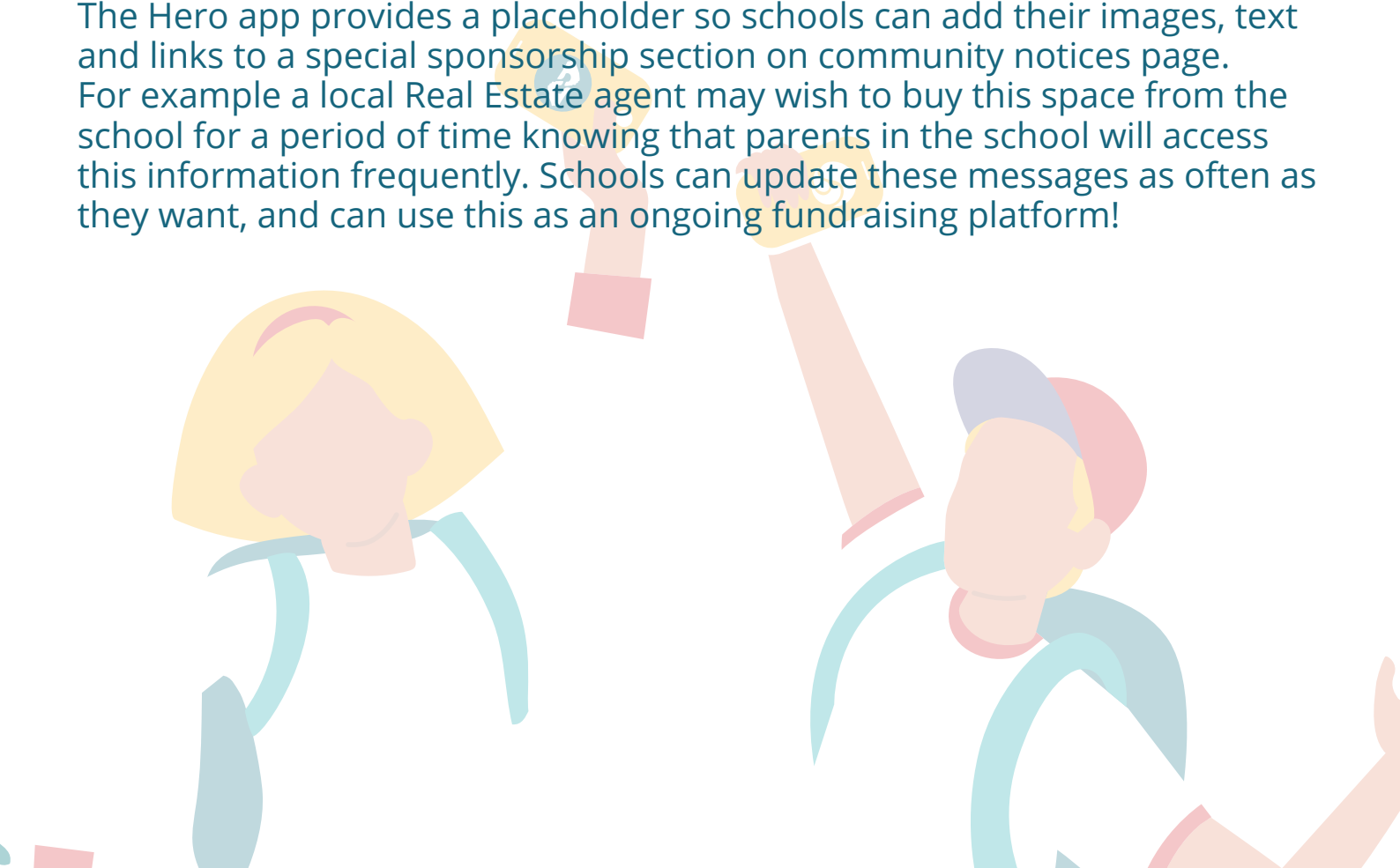
Encourage others to be the Hero that offsets your costs.

The new Hero app gives your school the chance to leverage sponsorship opportunities with local businesses. In short, local heroes can support your school by promoting their timely messages through Hero.

Through LINC-ED's new Hero app, parents and caregivers will regularly see notices, student learning and payment information. This provides schools with the ability to leverage sponsorship opportunities within the school community, and provide success metrics for sponsors.

Better than a banner on the school gate, better than a logo on the website, Hero sponsorship shines a light upon companies and organisations committed to helping your school and community.

The Hero app provides a placeholder so schools can add their images, text and links to a special sponsorship section on community notices page. For example a local Real Estate agent may wish to buy this space from the school for a period of time knowing that parents in the school will access this information frequently. Schools can update these messages as often as they want, and can use this as an ongoing fundraising platform!



Features

Feature	Super 	Duo 	Suite 	Premier 
Mobile app with push notifications	●	●	●	●
Targeted parent notices	●	●	●	●
Customised Pages and Tags	●	●	●	●
Personalised Student and Teacher posting	●	●	●	●
Automatic Grouping.	●	●	●	●
Post and Tag Analysis	●	●	●	●
Student progressions and goal setting		●	●	●
Use any curriculum to report and track progress.		●	●	●
Insights.		●	●	●
Customised data collection points		●	●	●
Templated and customised assessments		●	●	●
Importing of assessment data from third parties		●	●	●
Powerful, targeted, aggregated data analysis tools		●	●	●
Personalised student goal setting and evidence collection		●	●	●
Assessments and visual progress indicators for parents on the app		●	●	●
Printing of summary reports for students		●	●	●
List Builder with powerful filtering and sorting		●	●	●
Easily customised online enrolment form			●	●
Simple attendance register			●	●
Full student management and quick processing			●	●
Powerful Board reporting tools			●	●
Smart workflows for office administrators			●	●
Powerful and unified contact management			●	●
Invoicing by individual student and group			●	●
Payment reminders*				●
Online payments and in-app statements				●
Absence notifications in mobile app*				●
School contact details in mobile app*				●
School Calendar in mobile app*				●
School Term dates in mobile app*				●
Permission slips*				●

* Coming in 2020

The techie bit...

Hero uses TLS security at the network level to ensure all account information and data is transmitted securely.

Post Content (e.g., photos, video, audio, and other content you add to Hero) is encrypted at rest.

All passwords are salted and hashed using Argon2id.

Hero conducts a yearly, 3rd party security audit to verify the security and integrity of our systems and internal controls.

Account information is stored in highly secure, access-controlled Microsoft Azure data centers.

We have adopted an internal data access policy that restricts access to personally identifiable information to a limited number of employees with a specific business need (such as for technical support).

All employees undergo a background check before beginning employment at Hero, sign a nondisclosure agreement, and immediately lose access to all internal systems and data when terminated.

We routinely monitor our systems for security breaches and attempts at inappropriate access.

Data Migration - what you need to know

We have made the data transfer possible for schools to action themselves. The conversion and import process uses smart technology with a modern and user-friendly interface to make the process smooth.

The migration of data from a legacy SMS requires a person with technical expertise and we suggest allocating 1-2 days to this task.

If you would like to outsource this work, we have a partnership relationship with a New Zealand based, IT company to support schools with this.

Data Migration Process:

1. Extract the data files from the legacy SMS in .csv format.
2. Upload all the data files into the Hero conversion tool. This tool will cleanse the data, convert the files into one single file ready to be uploaded to Hero. It's very clever!
3. Finally, the data file will be uploaded to Hero.

What data can be migrated?

1. Current Student Enrolment Data and Basic Information
2. Pre-enrolled Students' Data and Basic Information
3. Leavers (to a maximum of 2 years)
4. Assessment data for current students
5. Financial data (opening balance)

It is recommended that guidance and attendance data is downloaded and stored for access, should this be required.

Outstanding Onboarding

As a team of teachers, we understand the importance of having the resources available to support schools with a smooth and successful onboarding experience.

Step 1 - Your Administration Heroes

Training and support for office administration is delivered by former office administrators who understand the role. Your administration team can be reassured that they are not only receiving a world class Student Management System, but will be well supported on their journey. Introductory and ongoing training for Office Administrators will be via a series of interactive webinars or workshops held in the main centres by our Administration Heroes.

Step 2 - Establish your Change Leadership Team

This team should consist of those with the following skills and responsibilities:

School leader(s)

SENCO

A leader who has a good overview of assessments (junior and senior) and reporting

A key staff member who will lead school wide Hero professional development - someone with digital expertise

A classroom teacher

(Aim for approximately 6 people)

Identify who your school's Hero Lead/Liaison will be.

Step 3 - A Hero Onboarding Consultant for you

Your consultant will have a combination of strong pedagogical knowledge, change leadership skills and software expertise.

Step 4 - Working in Partnership

You will work with your onboarding consultant to customise the software to meet your needs, vision and direction. The Hero software is intuitive and can be personalised to reflect your school's local curricu-