

Attendance

Information sheet

We know that schools have worked hard over recent years to increase school attendance rates, and we are starting to see the benefits of that.

However, the number of students and ākonga attending school regularly is still not good enough. We need all students to be regularly attending school and learning.

A comprehensive attendance action plan will progressively implement a range of initiatives designed to support existing efforts to increase attendance rates.

Campaign resources

As part of this action plan, we are about to start a public information campaign.

The first element of this will be a national social media campaign, using channels such as Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok to reach parents and whānau and older (intermediate and secondary school age) students. This will include the use of social media tiles (imagery and key messages). We have enclosed some posters, based on these tiles, that we hope you will display in your school.

More resources will be provided over the coming months. These will include flyers, posters, infographics and newsletter content. Please let your local Te Mahau Office know if you have any suggestions for the type of resources that would be of value to you.

Key facts and figures

Those missing school more frequently are likely to have bigger gaps in their learning which is why it is important to know how often individual students miss school.

We analyse this in terms of regular attendance rates, which tell us how often students are attending school each term, and how many are missing school frequently. We publish key data about regular attendance rates every term on Education Counts. This has been enhanced by the release of weekly reporting of daily attendance data.

We have also analysed attendance across the whole of 2023 (our first full year since the biggest impact of COVID was felt in mid-2022) and have included some key full-year statistics below.

What is regular attendance / daily attendance

Regular attendance is defined as 90% attendance during a term — the equivalent of missing less than five days of school in a standard 10-week term.

- › **Regular (90%) attendance over the full year would be the equivalent of missing less than 20 days of school throughout the year.**

What is our target

The Government has set a new (regular attendance) target of 80% of students to be present for more than 90% of the term by 2030.

How are we tracking towards that target Schools (Term 4 data)

In Term 4 2023, we had attendance data for 2,278 schools.

- › **Of these, only 2% of schools had 80% or more students attending regularly.**
- › **Half had between 50% and 70% of students attending regularly.**
- › **And almost 40% had less than 50% of students attending regularly**

The new Every Day Matters (EDM) Report, from Term 1 2024, focuses on your school's regular attendance rate. Do you know what your school's rate is?

Students

In Term 4 2023, just over half (54%) of those students attended regularly. This means that around 390,000 students missed more than 5 days of school during Term 4.

- › We have attendance data for almost all (approximately 850,000) students in 2023.
- › Less than 130,000 students (15%) attended school regularly every term during 2023.
- › Almost 200,000 students (23%) missed at least one week of school in every term. And over 14,000 students (almost 2%) missed more than three weeks of school in every term.

What does this mean

If a student misses 20 days of school every year, by the end of Year 12 they will have missed more than a year's worth of schooling.

- › **In 2023, almost 445,000 students (52%) missed more than 20 days of school.**

If a student misses 60 days of school every year, by the end of Year 12 missed more than three and a half years' worth of schooling.

- › **In 2023, over 85,000 students (11%) missed more than 60 days of school.**

Resources to help you understand and address attendance issues

More information about termly statistics published by the Ministry can be found on Education Counts:

www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/attendance

or scan QR code here:



ERO have published these 'getting back to school' guides which are a valuable resource:

www.ero.govt.nz/our-research/attendance-getting-back-to-school-a-guide-for-secondary-school-teachers

www.ero.govt.nz/our-research/attendance-getting-back-to-school-a-guide-for-parents-and-whanau

Update health guidance for parents is available here: <https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/attendance-every-day-matters/>

The School Attendance Quick Reference Guide (more information and resources will be released over the coming months and can be accessed here: www.education.govt.nz/student-attendance-guide-for-schools-and-kura/