

Attendance Processes & Interventions

Q: Other than the system that we have for lateness, what is something that we can do if the child is still continuously late to school either by a day or more in a week?

A: Consider using the Individual Attendance Plan that is part of the STAR framework to better understand the reasons for lateness. This may help the student and whānau to understand how much school is being missed by being late and the importance of being on time. Find any specific barriers the student is having to get to school. Eg. Is the student dependent on transport provided by someone else who is the reason.

Q: When students are absent for an entire half day to attend medical appointments should this be classified as a D (which counts as a present code) or M?

A: A student will need to have been present on site for part of each half day for the D code to be applied. Use the M code if absent all day.

Q: Can longer lessons impact half day attendance?

A: Half-days are measured by total time recorded against present and absent codes during a day. A student requires a minimum of 120 minutes present to have one half-day present, and 240 minutes to have two half-days present.

Q: We have a late lunch break. So our morning is longer than the afternoon sessions so it's not half a day in the morning and half a school day in the afternoon

A: Provided the total recorded attendance time is at least 240 minutes we will be able to calculate 2 half-days for a student's attendance.

Example:

A primary school has a timetable of 300 minutes in a day, divided into 210 minutes in the morning session and 90 minutes in the afternoon.

What this means:

- If a student is present for both morning and afternoon sessions, they were present for more than 240 minutes in the day. So, we will count them as attending two half-days.
- If a student was present for the morning session, but absent from the afternoon session, we count them as present for one half-day. This is because they were present for the minimum of 120 minutes.

- If a student was absent from the morning session, but present for the afternoon session, we count them as absent for both half-days – even though they were present in the afternoon. This is because they were only present for 90 minutes that day – that’s less than the minimum required for one half-day.

Data Understanding & Reporting

Q: How to understand the data and to relay this data to Board.

A: Your EDM report will sort students into four categories, depending on their percentage of attendance during the term. The four categories are Regular Attendance (Students with over 90% attendance during a term), Irregular Absence (Students with attendance between 80-90% attendance) Moderate Absence (Students with 70-80% attendance) and Chronic Absence (Students attending 70% or less).

These categories are broken down to a school level and year level, ethnicity and gender. You can use these breakdowns to show the board how many students have high attendance, how many may need more attention and the outcomes of any attendance strategies.

Q: If we are wanting to do a 4 weekly report to report to our Board/Senior Leadership Team - do you have recommendations on what to include in this to align with MoE reporting and I am assuming that the best place to get the data would be our SMS?

A: While we do not have full visibility of what reporting is available in your SMS, they may have reports that present a term-to-date outlook on attendance rates for students in the term. However, check the calculation method. These reports are usually based on average attendance for the relevant period (e.g., term-to-date, year-to-date). They do not sort the students into the four categories and report on them as the EDM reports do.

It should be noted that while AMP thresholds are similar to the student attendance categories for EDM, they are not a 1-to-1 comparison so while they might present a close approximation of your attendance, they are not a perfect match.

Q: Can that overall 68.8% statistic be split into national regular attendance for primary schools, secondary schools etc. - so we can compare like with like.

A: Our published statistics on Education Counts (found here [Attendance | Education Counts](#)) will have regular attendance breakdowns by school type so you can also view these statistics for Primary Schools.

On the webpage, click on the Excel file on the right hand side called “Data: Regular attendance 2022 – 2026” (see red arrow in snip below):

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Attendance

This page provides statistics on regular attendance and reasons for student absence. Attendance statistics are from state and state integrated schools in Aotearoa.

Last updated: May 2026

Introduction

This page contains information on the number of students that attend school regularly, including analysis on reasons for absences (covering justified and unjustified absence).

More information about the collection, including when data are scheduled for release, can be found on the [Attendance Data Collection](#) page.

Starting with the publication of Term 1 2025 regular attendance data, there are some reporting changes to regular attendance and the details can be found [here](#).

Statistics

Downloads

Term 1 2026: Attendance report (PDF, 1.3 MB)

Term 1 2026: Reasons for student absence (PDF, 673.0 KB)

Data: Regular attendance 2022-2026 (XLS, 474.3 KB)

Data: Regular attendance 2019-2021 (XLS, 334.5 KB)

Data: Term 2 regular attendance 2011-2018 (XLS, 152.9 KB)

When you have opened the spreadsheet, scroll through the bottom tabs to “School Type”. Click on that to see the comparisons.

Student Attendance by School Type, 2022 - 2026

* The calculation of the proportion of Half-Days Present, Justified or Unjustified is based on time in half-days that students attended or were absent fr

Year	Term	School Type	Total Students (n)	Students Attending more than 90% (n)	Students Attending more than 80% up to 90% (n)	Students Attending more than 70% up to 80% (n)	Students Attending 70% or less (n)	Students Attending more than 90% (%)
2026	1	Contributing	214,006	155,723	35,090	11,929	11,264	72.8
2026	1	Full Primary	175,896	126,304	31,226	10,178	8,188	71.8
2026	1	Intermediate	54,367	39,291	9,494	3,105	2,477	72.3
2026	1	Composite	40,972	25,594	8,889	3,516	2,973	62.5
2026	1	Secondary	309,784	200,616	63,497	22,756	22,915	64.8
2026	1	Specialist School	5,057	2,729	1,058	482	788	54.0
2026	1	All	800,082	550,257	149,254	51,966	48,605	68.8
2025	4	Contributing	238,050	151,050	50,364	18,848	17,788	63.5
2025	4	Full Primary	190,315	118,302	43,226	15,667	13,120	62.2
2025	4	Intermediate	55,444	31,020	13,590	5,602	5,232	55.9
2025	4	Composite	38,989	19,743	9,621	4,602	5,023	50.6
2025	4	Secondary	283,083	142,265	62,295	31,625	46,898	50.3
2025	4	Specialist School	4,886	2,316	1,149	533	888	47.4
2025	4	All	810,767	464,696	180,245	76,877	88,949	57.3
2024	3	Contributing	234,551	177,422	64,109	24,175	18,845	54.3

Data Accuracy & Discrepancies

Q: I have noticed that the regular attendance report is a couple of percentages lower than what my SMS says for the term. What could be the reason for this?

A: There can be a number of reasons for this. EDM reports only include students who:

- have at least 20% of the term's half-days of attendance data recorded and

[UNCLASSIFIED]

- are regular students, international fee-paying students, or exchange students.

Your SMS likely shows all enrolled students regardless of these criteria which could result in some differences.

Another reason could be that some attendance data may have been updated late into the term and not been included in your daily attendance data. You may need to submit a corrections file to us, to re-sync the data.

Lastly, the EDM report calculates attendance rates based on half days. Your SMS may be measuring attendance under a slightly different metric such as number of codes or length of time in minutes which can lead to small discrepancies.

Reporting Tools & Access

Q: can you get a "mini everyday attendance report" mid term?

A: Your SMS provides regular reporting throughout the term. You are welcome to email EveryDayMatters@education.govt.nz if you have specific requests, or if you have feedback on the current reports.

Q: Do you only receive the fortnightly Quality Report if there are issues to fix?

A: You will receive a fortnightly Quality Report if you have a student with a missing NSN. If you do, you will receive a report including all your issues.

Q: Who does the data quality reports get sent to in the first place?

A: Data Quality Reports are sent to the admin email address we have in our records but if a school has a designated attendance contact, it will go to them with the school administrator copied in so both obtain a copy.