

# Increased student attendance

80% of students to be present for more than 90% of the term.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Education

LEAD AGENCY

Ministry of Education, Secretary for Education,  
Ellen MacGregor-Reid

## TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2026

Target	Baseline (Term 1, 2023)	Current (Term 1, 2026)	Status
80%	59.0%	68.8%	 Probable

## PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Proportion of students who are present for more than 90% of the term



## TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government's attendance action plan is progressing, including implementing school attendance management plans (AMPs) as part of clarifying the role that every student, parent, teacher and school must play in raising attendance, and the reformed Attendance Service which commenced in Term 1 of 2026.

In Term 1 of 2026, 68.8 percent of students attended school regularly, an increase of 2.9 percentage points from 65.9 percent in Term 1 of 2025. The prior result for Term 4 of 2025 was 57.3 percent, a 0.8 percentage point increase compared to Term 4 of 2024.

### The Government is focused on:

- Strengthening accountability.** From Term 1 of 2026, all schools were required to have an AMP in place, including communicating to their communities how they will respond to absences and investigate underlying causes and barriers to attendance. Accountability for parents and guardians is also critical, with the Ministry of Education continuing to receive and assess notifications for prosecution and progress investigations, which has led to students being re-enrolled at school.
- Supports and services.** The new Attendance Service Delivery Model went live in Term 1 of 2026, including additional funding for providers and a new Attendance Services Case Management System enabling better monitoring of outcomes for referred students. In response to fuel cost pressures, a targeted approach has been taken to supporting attendance, through an increase to financial support to families of eligible students facing longer distances to and from school or the nearest bus route.
- Promoting the importance of regular attendance.** The public information campaign is ongoing. The 2026 campaign is focused on two key drivers of irregular absence – illness and holidays in term time. The Ministry of Education continues to work with external parties to seek to share and amplify messaging, including social media influencers with wide public reach and organisations aligned with the health aspects of the campaign.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

The Ministry of Education will continue to publish attendance information and data on <https://www.educationcounts.gov.nz/statistics/attendance>

For information on the Government Targets go to [www.dPMC.govt.nz](http://www.dPMC.govt.nz)