



## North Bundaberg State High School

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 Bundaberg North State High School

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Our school year has commenced well with students settling quickly into their routines with lots of learning progress made in the first week. I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the 2018 school year and to seek your assistance in improving our student attendance rate.

School attendance continues to be an issue of great concern to the school and one of the factors impacting on a large number of student's academic success. In 2017 our average attendance rate for North High students was 86.2% which meant that on average students missed 27 days of schooling. Further analysis of this data reveals that 32.7% of students had an attendance rate of 95% or better [absent for 10 or fewer days] with 54% of students achieving a rate of 90% or less [absent for 20 days or more] but disappointingly 77% of students had an attendance lower than our benchmark of 95%. I thank those families who make school attendance a priority and ensure everyday counts but we need a commitment from our entire school community to improve upon this performance. An attendance rate of 95% or 10 days of absence per year is seen as being an optimal attendance rate to ensure that students have the best chance of achieving an academic performance that reflects their ability.

Our aim is to improve student attendance to match a 95% attendance rate [absent for 10 days or fewer] and in response to this challenge the school will continue to implement its Attendance Improvement Action Plan. As part of this plan the school will be writing to all families including our families where students have an attendance rate of 85% or less offering support and seeking their assistance in addressing this issue. I am also asking all families to ensure that school attendance is given very high priority with all absences being for medical reasons and highly important business that cannot be scheduled for another time, only. Attending haircuts, driving lessons and tests, birthdays, helping with household chores, shopping etc. are not acceptable reasons for a student to miss a day of schooling - it is important to remember that every day counts.

In addition to the above I have attached separate information sheets in regards to school attendance for your information.

Please contact the school if you need our support and assistance to ensure your student's attendance pattern is not a barrier to their academic success. I look forward to your assistance in this matter so that we can make strong progress towards achieving our attendance goal and your student achieving great academic outcomes.

In conclusion I wish all students every success for the year ahead and I look forward to working with the school community again this year as together we can produce the best outcomes for your student.

Ross Robertson  
Principal