

# Attendance Policy

**'Every Day Counts'**



## RATIONALE

At Miallo State School, we recognise that 'Every Day Counts' and that missing even one day of school places students at a disadvantage to others. Students miss valuable work and teachers often have to spend time with the student when they return trying to 'catch them up'. Regular or prolonged non-attendance can have serious consequences for students' learning, and in some cases this is non-reversible – students slip further and further away from their peers in terms of their learning outcomes. We start school at 9am - it is also imperative that your child is at school ready to learn by this time (lunchbox and bag has already been put away). Students who are not present for the roll marking in the morning are marked as 'late'.

'Every Day Counts' is a statewide initiative addressing the issue of student attendance at school. It is designed to change parent, community and student attitudes to school attendance. At Miallo we recognise that optimal school attendance requires the support of both parents and the community. Our Attendance Policy is aligned with our school Attendance Improvement Plan.

## ATTENDANCE TARGET

✚ Our goal for attendance is 95%.

Attendance data is analysed each term by Principal in consultation with staff. Data enables setting of attendance targets and analysis of non-attendance data. Relationships to be investigated include factors such as: day of week, class or year level, gender, cultural group and custodial parent arrangements.

## STRATEGIES

The school employs a number of strategies to encourage maximum attendance by students:

- ✚ Perfect Attendance Awards given at end of semester to reward students with NO days away and attendance above 95%.
- ✚ Regularly reinforcing the message that 'Every Day Counts' on parade and in school newsletters
- ✚ Ensuring an accurate record of attendance data through One School and twice daily roll marking
- ✚ SWPBS embedded in school, including positive behaviour reward systems
- ✚ Phone call to parents of students with 2 or more days of unexplained absences by office staff
- ✚ A focus on quality, explicit teaching with regular feedback
- ✚ Principal to follow up family concerns with external agencies if required
- ✚ Liaise with Adopt-a-Cops [Aaron Port and Wayne Pitt] for support – invite to school events, speak at parade about the importance of school attendance, home visits
- ✚ Stress the importance of being on time and organised] for school: students are marked 'late' if they are not in class for roll marking at 9am.