



16 JAN 2018

Jake Beleski
FYI-request-6916-fddb7c28@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jake

Thank you for your request of 30 November 2017, for the following information

- *Break down of student absences from Wairarapa secondary schools in 2017;*
- *information broken down into individual schools;*
- *percentage that were unexplained.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We become aware of individual students' absences when this is brought to the attention of a regional attendance service provider. This is done when a student has been unjustifiably absent without a satisfactory explanation, and a school is not able to return the student to school, then a school can make an unjustified absence referral. The referrals are sent to attendance services providers to follow up on.

In 2013, the Ministry set up an integrated attendance service to get more children engaged in schooling. Schools can refer regularly unjustifiably absent students to their local attendance service for additional support, when contact with the student's family or whānau doesn't improve attendance. We contract sixteen regional attendance service providers around the country to work with students and families.

Our website provides information for parents about non-attendance, and what they can do to encourage their children to attend school regularly. You can find this information at: <http://parents.education.govt.nz/when-your-child-is-ditching-school/>.

We collect data on student attendance through an annual attendance survey of state and state-integrated schools in term two of each year. This data is used to provide a week-long snapshot of national attendance and an analysis of national attendance over all of term two.

A report based on the 2016 attendance data was published in June 2017, and we anticipate the 2017 report will be available in March. As we are still collating and finalising the data for use in the 2017 attendance report, I am refusing this request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not yet exist.

Once the 2017 attendance report is finalised, it will be available on our Education Counts website at: www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/2503.

Thank you again for your request. If you have any further questions about this issue, please feel free to contact our Media Team in the first instance, by emailing Media.Team@education.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to refer this response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Susan Howan
Acting Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support