



27 May 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *Any documents (in their final form) that evaluate policies, initiatives or tools utilised in countries or states outside of New Zealand to improve student attendance at school. I would like any documents matching this description produced within the last ten years.*

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

In August 2018, the Ministry's Behavioural Insights Team published a report on attendance and how it can be improved. Part of this report looked into how New Zealand compared with other nations and policies they have been trying to also boost school attendance. This report has been made publicly available on the Ministry's website at the below link, so I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is already publicly available.

https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/187257/BIT-Final-Using-behavioural-insights-to-reduce-unjustified-school-absences.pdf

You may also be interested to know that New Zealand participates in several international studies such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) which are run by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Association for the Evaluation of Education Achievement (IEA), respectively. These studies and the data they produce are valuable tools for policy makers, schools and educators as they provide insights into the entire education sector.

While these studies are primarily about measuring students reading, maths and science literacy, the studies do conduct surveys around attendance from specific year levels and at intervals over three, four or five years. The studies do not follow and track any particular school or region, and so while the attendance data is useful in furthering our understanding of attendance, we do not use the data to analyse specific attendance policies for New Zealand as our data is better suited for this.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

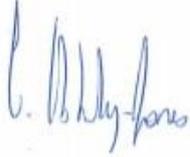
OIA: 1257273

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Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Ashley-Jones'.

Cathryn Ashley-Jones
Group Manager
Evidence, Data and Knowledge