



Tara Shire State College

Attendance Policy

All children should be enrolled at school and should attend every school day.

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their child attends school on every school day for the educational program in which he/she is enrolled.

A parent of a young person in the compulsory participation phase is obliged to ensure their child is participating full-time in an approved education or training option.

Any time a student is not attending or participating in their educational program it is considered an absence and must be explained. Every Day Counts is a statewide initiative addressing the problem of student absences.

Full-time attendance requirements are as follows:

- ❖ You are expected to be at school before 8.45am and leave after 3pm each day and attend all classes and scheduled parades and activities in a prompt and prepared fashion.
- ❖ If you are late you must sign in at the office and provide a note from parents explaining your lateness. You will be provided with a late slip.
- ❖ If you need to leave early, you must have a parent or guardian sign you out from the main office.
- ❖ If you are absent from the college for any reason, the college must be provided with an explanation via phone call to the office or a note submitted to your form teacher. The college Attendance Officer will attempt to make contact with your parent/guardian in accordance with Same Day Notification policy.
- ❖ You are required to remain in the college grounds at all times, unless you are granted permission and formally signed out through the office.
- ❖ Should you arrive late or sign out early, part-day attendance will be recorded.
- ❖ If you fail to explain any absence, lateness or early leave, your absence will be deemed unexplained, and this may affect your Centrelink payments and enrolment*.

**Please note that Centrelink receives regular records from State Schooling of all student absences.*

Why is school attendance important?

School absenteeism and student attendance is a complex issue which includes a range of student behaviours including school refusal and truancy.

Parents, caregivers and schools can access strategies to improve student attendance through the Every day counts resources.

Every day counts is a state wide initiative that aims to assist in improving student attendance at school through a shared commitment by students, parents, caregivers, schools and the community.

To do this, Every day counts promotes four key messages:

- ❖ all children should be enrolled at school and attend on every school day
- ❖ schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance
- ❖ truancy can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices
- ❖ attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.