Education Queensland Attendance Policy - summary

Each parent of a child who is of compulsory school age has the legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attends a state school or a non-state school, on every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse.

A child should be enrolled in and attend school in the year that they turn compulsory school age (six years and six months).

Each parent of a young person in the compulsory participation phase has a legal obligation to ensure that the young person is participating full-time in an eligible option, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse.

Prosecution of one or both parents may occur if the parent(s) do not fulfil their legal obligation in regard to enrolment and attendance of their child at school. An authorised officer from either the school or region can seek consent from the Director-General to prosecute for failure to enrol or attend. However there are a range of circumstances where the legal obligations of parents do not apply. When the prosecution involves multiple children (or young persons) at the same school or regional office, the authorised officer must ensure that separate notices and General Briefing Note are prepared for each individual child (or young person).

From time to time a student may be absent from their educational program. Parents comply with their compulsory schooling or compulsory participation obligation by providing a satisfactory reason [http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education-management/Pages/Roll-Marking-in-State-Schools.aspx](http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education-management/Pages/Roll-Marking-in-State-Schools.aspx) for these absences, unless the student is an adult or it is not appropriate to contact the student’s parents, in which case an explanation should be sought directly from the student. Parents should provide a reason for a child’s absence as soon as possible after the absence.