

# SPORTS CARNIVALS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sports carnivals and other community events can effect school attendance and distract students. Going to these events is encouraged, but school should always come first! RSAS teams should remind families and students that school is more important than some events, such as rodeos and shows.

Below are some tips for how RSAS teams can work with schools and communities to boost attendance when events are on.

## ➤ **Try to keep students interested in school when events are on.**

- Work with the school to see if events can be included in school activities. For example, see if students can go to a dance festival as part of a drama or arts class.
- Encourage students to attend carnivals and events outside school hours. You could try set up a “no school, no event” incentive.
- Invite the community to have a meeting and set up a plan to keep students in school when events are on.

## ➤ **Promote positive messages about attending school every day and remind families that school is important.**

- Before the event, promote the importance of school attendance. You could do this by putting up posters and handing out fliers to families.
- Ask local role models to be champions of school attendance and talk about why school matters.
- Consider holding a school attendance event at the end of school holidays. You may want to have a theme like “school is deadly” and launch an attendance competition for the term. You could display a ‘star chart’ showing students’ progress throughout the term.

## ➤ **Ask organisers to hold their events outside school hours and support school attendance.**

- Create a list of events which might disrupt attendance and provide it to the school.
- Work with the school and families to support students who will miss school because of an event. For example, set up a travel plan for students leaving community for an event.
- Invite other local services, such as the Police, to come to the event and talk about the importance of school.