

# STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Students who go to school every day are more likely to get better results. Going to school every day is a student's best chance of doing well at school and achieving their dreams. Missing just one day of school a week can have a big impact. Students are most likely to miss Mondays and Fridays. Helping students get to school on these days will improve overall attendance.

Below are some strategies which RSAS teams could use to help improve attendance.

- **Ask schools to put more popular classes and other fun activities on Mondays and Fridays.**
  - Students will want to come to school so they do not miss out on popular classes and fun activities. These could be:
    - Cultural activities or art sessions;
    - Guest speakers and excursions;
    - Sports and other games; or
    - Family events, such as fun food days or a BBQ, at the school.
- **Work with the school and community to set up rewards and incentives to encourage attendance, particularly on Mondays and Fridays. You could:**
  - Set up a school attendance competition. You might want to display a chart, like a 'star chart', showing students' progress for the week, month or term.
  - Target days when attendance is usually low, for example, after a long weekend. Where possible, use posters, flyers or community radio announcements to spread the word that school is important.
  - At the start of term hold a community event to encourage better attendance on Mondays and Fridays.
- **Work with schools to help students who are starting to miss school on Mondays and Fridays. Catch attendance problems early to stop bad habits forming.**
  - If students are missing Mondays or Fridays, talk to them about how important it is to go to school every day.
  - Remind families that missing just one day of school a week can add up to three years of missed school (after 12 years of school).
  - Ask families to help their children keep up in class by making sure they go to school every day possible.
  - If you are running an attendance competition, let families know how their children are going. Make sure you celebrate success!