**Managing student absences and enforcing enrolment and attendance at state schools**

# **Alteration to a student’s educational program**

In some instances (such as for students experiencing long-term illness, elite sportspeople, young carers, pregnant and parenting students, and students employed in the entertainment industry), a student’s educational program may be altered so they remain enrolled in the school but do not attend the same hours as their peers.

Discussions should be held between parent/s, the student and relevant school staff to ensure that an alteration to the student’s educational program is the best option in meeting the student’s educational needs. No formal approval is required **as long as the program remains full-time equivalent** (that is, equal to the level of participation by the rest of the students in the program determined by the school). The school should document the negotiated outcome from discussions.

If the program is not full-time equivalent, then an approved partial [exemption](https://ppr.mpe.qed.qld.gov.au/pp/exemptions-from-compulsory-schooling-and-compulsory-participation-procedure) (for compulsory participation students) or an agreed arrangement (for compulsory school-aged students) is required.

In some cases, it may be possible to make explicit the learning opportunities offered by cultural events which interrupt student attendance at school (e.g. initiation or cultural exchange in Indigenous communities) and negotiate an alteration to a student’s educational program so that learning outcomes from the events are acknowledged.