

Improving Māori Academic Achievement by improving Māori Attendance

A research project through NZEI Te Riu Roa by Rangī Williams, Student Engagement Officer

Purpose of the project

This Project aims to contribute towards education by focusing on a group of Māori students and strengthening their knowledge of increased attendance leading to improved academic outcomes. This Project aligns with NZEI Te Riu Roa policy and the focus areas of leading the profession with identifying areas that need improvement and utilising the current Student Engagement Officer (SEO) role to support academic achievement for Māori. When Māori succeed, we all succeed. This will highlight a success model framework that can be applied at all levels of education. This new way of thinking will involve whānau in the decision-making process including follow up and be whānau led with school supported services.

Achievements aligned with the proposal as submitted

Dec - Completed Attendance Roadmap Management Plan analysis and report.

Nov-Dec - Downloaded NCEA results for Years 11-13

Nov - Downloaded attendance data for Years 9-13

Feb-Dec - Implementing Attendance Roadmap Management Plan

Change

There were 3 areas of change implemented from the attendance management report. The first was the way attendance was reported during period 1 compared with periods 2-5 each day. The second change was the implement whānau teachers as front facing each day and direct contact to whānau if contact needs to be made. The last change has been the removal of punitive consequences for lateness and the use of a 3 strikes system then contact home to discuss with whānau.

The Attendance Officer role was traditionally an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff functioning role but was changed to a front facing role with building relationships with students who come in late and korero with whānau when the school attendance management system recognises absences and follow up after three days being absent but not explained.

Implementation of rewards for students with 100% attendance.

Next steps, as a result of the research undertaken

- Identifying Focus group (40 taura) for tracking in from Onewhero whanau group
- Creating taura profiles with contact info
- Contacting taura and whānau to be involved in research project
- Send Intro survey to taura, whānau and kaiako, 100 participants
- Host 1st whānau hui to discuss how the project will work and what the outcomes will be
- Participants to fill in survey for creating Academic Profiles/pathways
- Present Milestone 1 report to BOT and NZEI Te Riu Roa
- Track attendance data with whānau group
- Review implementation of attendance report for each taura

Liaison/interaction with NZEI Te Riu Roa members and/or community groups

- Collaboration with Student Engagement Officer at another local college
- Collaboration with NZ Police and Project Rock On with visits to truant students over 16
- Collaboration with Wai Whānau with visits to truant students under 16