



# Albury North Public School

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## ATTENDANCE GOAL

At least 80% of students at school 90% of the time

**CURRENTLY: 59%**



A possible new student led solution for an old school challenge



Will our kids come to school more often if we pay them ?

The idea to pay kids to come to school was the result of a workshop last week with our Years 5 /6 students. We want to have the best attendance rate of students in all of the Albury area.

Our senior students worked with Mr Smith so together we could understand the importance of good attendance but also to understand perhaps some of the reasons why some kids might not come to school on some days.

Whilst we had lots of ideas, and some of them we will try, our group of senior students decided that paying students to come to school was the best strategy to improve and reward attendance. This is just a trial for this year. The following pages share student thoughts on attendance, share the process we took to make this decision, and explains how the program will work. Because it is new we do expect some challenges but we really hope it works !

### Did you know ?

- At the end of 2021, we had only 50.7% of our students attending more than 90% of the time.
- Wednesday is the day that we have most kids at school
- Friday is the day we have the least kids at school

Why do students need to come to school ? Our Yr 5/6 thoughts :

- To pursue their dreams
- Because education matters if they want to get good jobs and make lots of money, we get to learn new skills and really cool facts
- So their parents can relax at home
- To make lots of new friends and learn to be more tolerant and use our PEACE skills



## The decision making process

Paying students to come to school is a new idea for our school so it needs to be thought out. Before we made the decision, we all needed to do a PMI (Plus, Minus, Interesting) workshop to see if it was really something we should do.

### What are some of the positive things about this idea ?

- We need to increase attendance so our friends can get a good job
- Students can have money to buy things that they might not have had like a canteen voucher or school uniform. That means we might see happier kids.
- It rewards great paper
- We are learning to become responsible for us

### What are some of the negative things about this idea ?

- It's a lot of money if it doesn't work and the kids don't come to school
- Parents should just make their children come to school even if they don't want to

### What are some of the interesting things about this idea ?

- Has this been tried before in any other school ?
- What if kids are naughty, should we take money away from them ?
- How will it work ?
- Where will the money be kept ?
- Will it be normal money ? That seems too hard. Maybe we could have our own currency.

## So how will it work ?

We thought of all the questions we thought you might want to know and then we tried to answer them. Because it is new idea though, we know there might be lots more questions that we will keep answering throughout the year.

### How much would we get paid ?

Every student would get \$0.50 per day to come to school - this could be \$104 if they came everyday.

### Where are we going to get the money from ?

The school, the P&C and our community donations. (Some kids might want to donate their money back to this program).

### What if my child does not want to part of this program ?

That's no problem. The money that we have allocated to support your child's attendance will be diverted back to the 'pay it forward' program. Just call the school to let us know if you do not want your child to participate.

### Will it be real money ?

No. It will be ANPS money. It can only be used at our school.

### Where will the money be kept ?

Because it is not real money, the office will keep a database of how much money each child has earned and how much each child has spent. This is a bit like a bank.

### How can students check how much money they have ?

Each fortnight (newsletter week) the kids will be given an 'ANPS bank statement' that tells them how much they have in their bank (just in case they spend something !)

### How can students check how much money they have ?

Each parent can access the Sentral Parent Portal which gives them how many days their child has been at school ie how much they have earned. Each fortnight the kids will be given an 'ANPS bank statement' that tells them how much they have in their bank (just in case they spend something !)

### Who decides on what children can buy with the money ?

We hope this becomes something that both the parents and the children can talk about at home.

### What can I buy with my ANPS money ?

You can decide to spend it on yourself (like excursions, canteen vouchers and uniforms), spend it on helping others in our school (like donations to our breakfast club, library, equipment) or a bit of both! Check out the poster that shares it all!

### How can parents use the money to pay for events or activities ?

There will now be an 'Attendance Matters' tick box for parents and carers to tick on every pink permission note (excursions, activities, uniforms etc). If you tick that box, then the office will just deduct the money from your balance. You can use a combination of 'Attendance Matters' money and real money to pay for things.

To buy other other things, the 'ANPS Bank' will be open from 8.40am - 9.00am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This is found in the front office.

### If I am sick, will I get paid ?

No but we will give every child \$2.50 at the beginning of the year to help pay for 5 sick days in case they get COVID.

### Will I get paid if I am learning from home ?

Yes because all of our students have ipads so they can go to the Learning from home hub on the NSW DoE site.

### What if I don't spend all of the money this year ?

It will be donated back to the school 'Pay it Forward' programs we mentioned.

### How will we know if this program has worked ?

We hope to have much, much more than 50% of our students attending more than 90% of the time.

### What if children are naughty, do they still get paid ?

We had lots to discuss with this question, but in the end after we talked it through with Mr Smith, we think that they still should get paid because this program is about getting kids to school. There are lots of other things the school can do to help the kids better manage their behaviour.

### Will kids get paid for the full day or half day ?

This is our first year so it will be easy for us to pay them the same for both full or half day.

### What do the kids think of this program ?

We asked all of the 136 Year 3 to Year 6 children to vote to see if we should go ahead with the program. This is what the survey said:

123 Yes



4 Unsure

9 No