



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 44

Answered on 5 October 2026

Second Meeting 2026-2027 Session – Fourth Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY**

**MR. ROY TATUM
ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF RED BAY**

TO

**THE HONOURABLE ROLSTON M. ANGLIN
MINISTER OF EDUCATION & TRAINING**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister say what measures is the Government taking, or proposing to take, to improve attendance in government schools in response to the findings of the Ministry of Education's Data Report for the Academic Year 2024-2025, and what level of improvement does it aim to achieve, and by when?

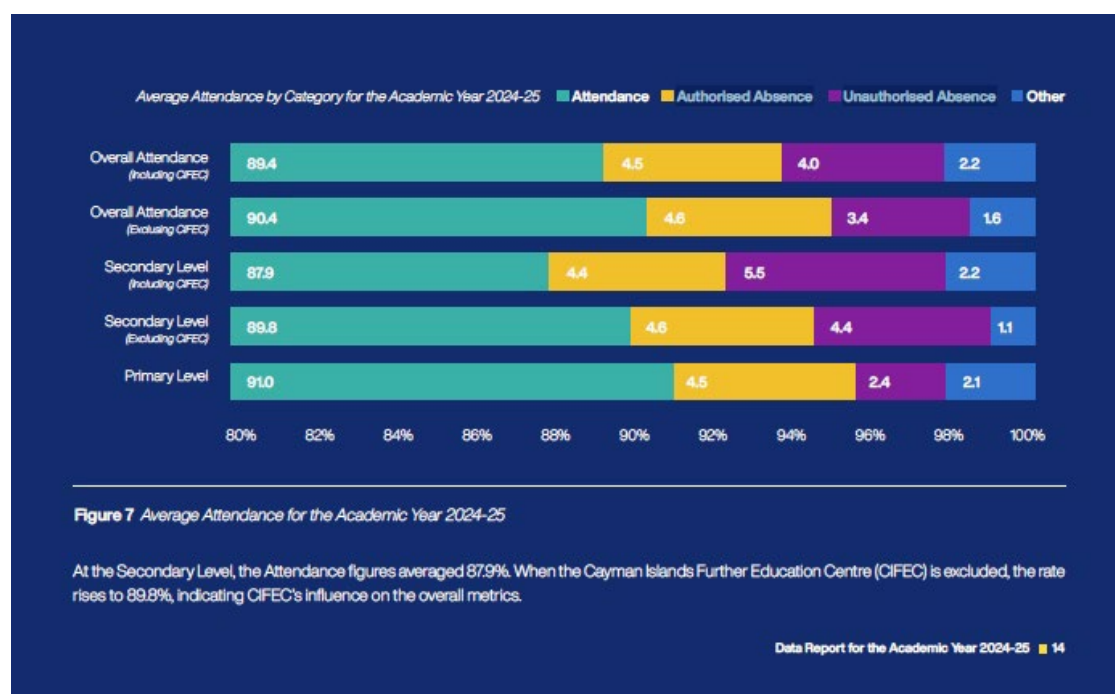
ANSWER:

Mister Speaker, the Government recognises that regular school attendance is essential to student learning and remains committed to improving attendance across government schools.

A National Attendance Policy is in place which establishes clear responsibilities for schools, DES, parents and the Ministry. Schools are required to maintain accurate records, monitor and follow up absences, engage parents, implement appropriate interventions and, where necessary, refer cases of unlawful failure to attend to School Attendance Officers.

For 2024–25, the overall recorded attendance rate was 89.4%, with primary attendance at 91.0% and secondary attendance at 87.9%. Excluding CIFEC, secondary attendance was 89.8% and the national rate was 90.4%.

It is important to place these figures in context. Not every absence represents truancy or an attendance concern. Authorised absences reflect legitimate reasons for students being away from school, including medical circumstances. As reflected in Figure 7 of the Ministry of Education and Training Data Report for the 2024–25 Academic Year, when authorised absences are considered, the figures move to 95.5% for primary, 93.9% nationally including CIFEC, and 95.0% nationally excluding CIFEC, reflecting the attendance data.



The data also include records categorised as other or missing. The Ministry and DES are working urgently to significantly reduce these occurrences and strengthen the accuracy of attendance records. Since the last academic year, Attendance and Truancy Officers have increased their monitoring of government schools, providing regular updates on incomplete registers and attendance marks that may not align with approved absences. This closer oversight is helping schools address discrepancies promptly, maintain accurate registers and ensure that genuine attendance concerns are properly identified and addressed.

The Ministry and DES are strengthening the use of attendance data to identify concerns earlier, distinguishing between different causes of absence and target support where it is most needed. Schools are also expected to engage parents and may use appropriate recognition and incentives to encourage good attendance and punctuality.

This work is being further strengthened through the development of a revised Truancy Policy to support a consistent response to persistent and unlawful absence.

Using the 2024–2025 academic year as the baseline, the Ministry considers an improvement in overall attendance in the order of 1 to 2 percentage points over the next five years to be a reasonable system-level ambition, alongside a sustained reduction in the proportion of students who are persistently absent.

This is broadly consistent with the scale and timeframe of improvement being pursued internationally. England, for example, has established an ambition to increase its national attendance rate by 1.3 percentage points over five years, from its 2023–2024 baseline to the 2028–2029 academic year.

The Ministry will monitor progress annually at both school and system level. This is not intended to prescribe an identical rate of improvement in every year or for every school. Rather, it provides a reasonable longer-term direction of travel, with annual performance used to identify where progress is being made and where further targeted intervention is required.