

points in 2015 compared with 2014 while secondary attendance decreased by only 0.5 percentage points.

However, secondary students' attendance rates remain almost five percentage points below primary school students. In 2015 primary attendance averaged 93.9 per cent compared with 89.5 per cent for secondary students.

Secondary attendance rates declined between 2010 and 2012, probably as a result of raising the school leaving age at the beginning of 2010. Previously students could leave school before the end of Year 10, however they must now remain enrolled at school until age 17, unless they have gained work or enrolled in other study. Some of these students are likely to have low attendance rates.

Attendance rates for secondary students increased from 2012 to 2014 then decreased in 2015. The secondary attendance rate is now 0.3 percentage points lower than in 2006 (89.8 per cent).

Junior secondary attendance decreased by 0.5 percentage points, from 90.3 per cent in 2014 to 89.8 per cent in 2015.

Senior secondary attendance decreased by 0.5 percentage points between 2014 and 2015, the same rate of decline as junior secondary attendance. However it remains 0.8 percentage points lower than the junior secondary attendance rate.

Table 1

Students attendance rate by education level, Semester 1 2006-2015: NSW government schools

School Level	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Primary	94.0	94.0	94.1	93.9	94.3	94.2	94.1	94.6	94.8	93.9
Secondary	89.8	89.9	89.9	89.7	89.8	89.1	89.0	89.8	90.0	89.5
Junior Secondary	89.9	90.0	90.0	89.8	90.0	89.4	89.3	90.1	90.3	89.8
Senior Secondary	89.7	89.6	89.8	89.4	89.4	88.3	88.3	89.1	89.5	89.0
NSW	92.3	92.3	92.3	92.1	92.4	92.1	92.0	92.6	92.9	92.2

Attendance rates by remoteness

Figure 2 and Table 2 show attendance rates by remoteness. Over the last ten years the attendance rate at schools in metropolitan areas was more than 92.5 per cent on average. In 2015 the attendance rate was 92.7 per cent, a fall of 0.8 percentage points compared with 2014. The attendance rate at provincial schools was two percentage points lower than at metropolitan schools, at 90.7 per cent. However attendance

at provincial schools declined less in 2015 than at metropolitan schools, falling by only 0.4 percentage points.

Attendance at schools in remote/very remote NSW declined 0.8 percentage points from 86.9 per cent in 2014 to 86.1 per cent in 2015. This was the same fall observed in metropolitan schools. Since 2006, the gap in attendance rate between remote/very remote and metropolitan schools has decreased by one percentage point from 7.6 percentage points to 6.6 percentage points in 2015.

Figure 2

Students attendance rate by remoteness, Semester 1 2006-2015: NSW government schools

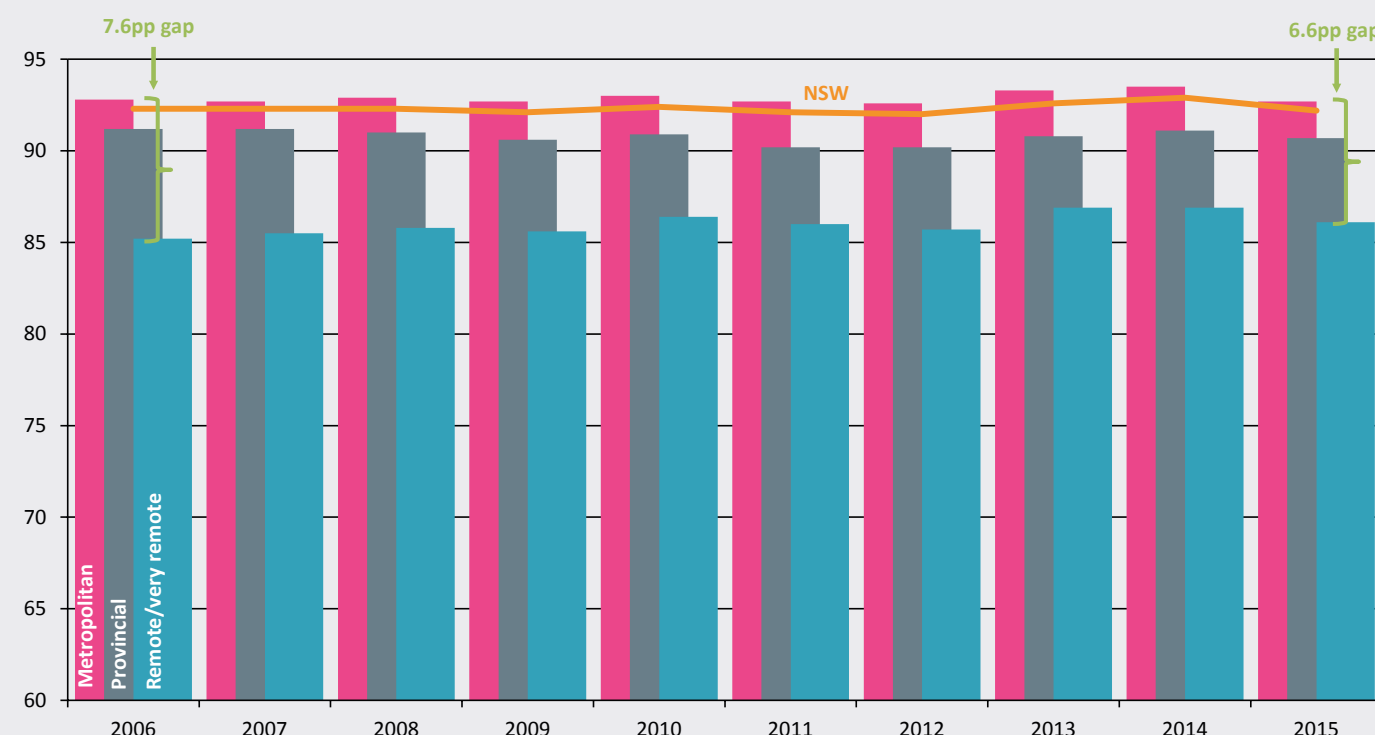


Table 2

Students attendance rate by education level, Semester 1 2006-2015: NSW government schools

Remoteness	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Metropolitan	92.8	92.7	92.9	92.7	93.0	92.7	92.6	93.3	93.5	92.7
Provincial	91.2	91.2	91.0	90.6	90.9	90.2	90.2	90.8	91.1	90.7
Remote/Very Remote	85.2	85.5	85.8	85.6	86.4	86.0	85.7	86.9	86.9	86.1
NSW	92.3	92.3	92.3	92.1	92.4	92.1	92.0	92.6	92.9	92.2

Aboriginal students' attendance rates

In November 2013 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a range of measures to improve Aboriginal school attendance. This included new initiatives and monitoring of attendance rates, with the aim of closing the gap in attendance between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

Figure 3 shows attendance rates for Aboriginal students attending NSW government schools by remoteness from 2006 to 2015. The highest student attendance rates were recorded

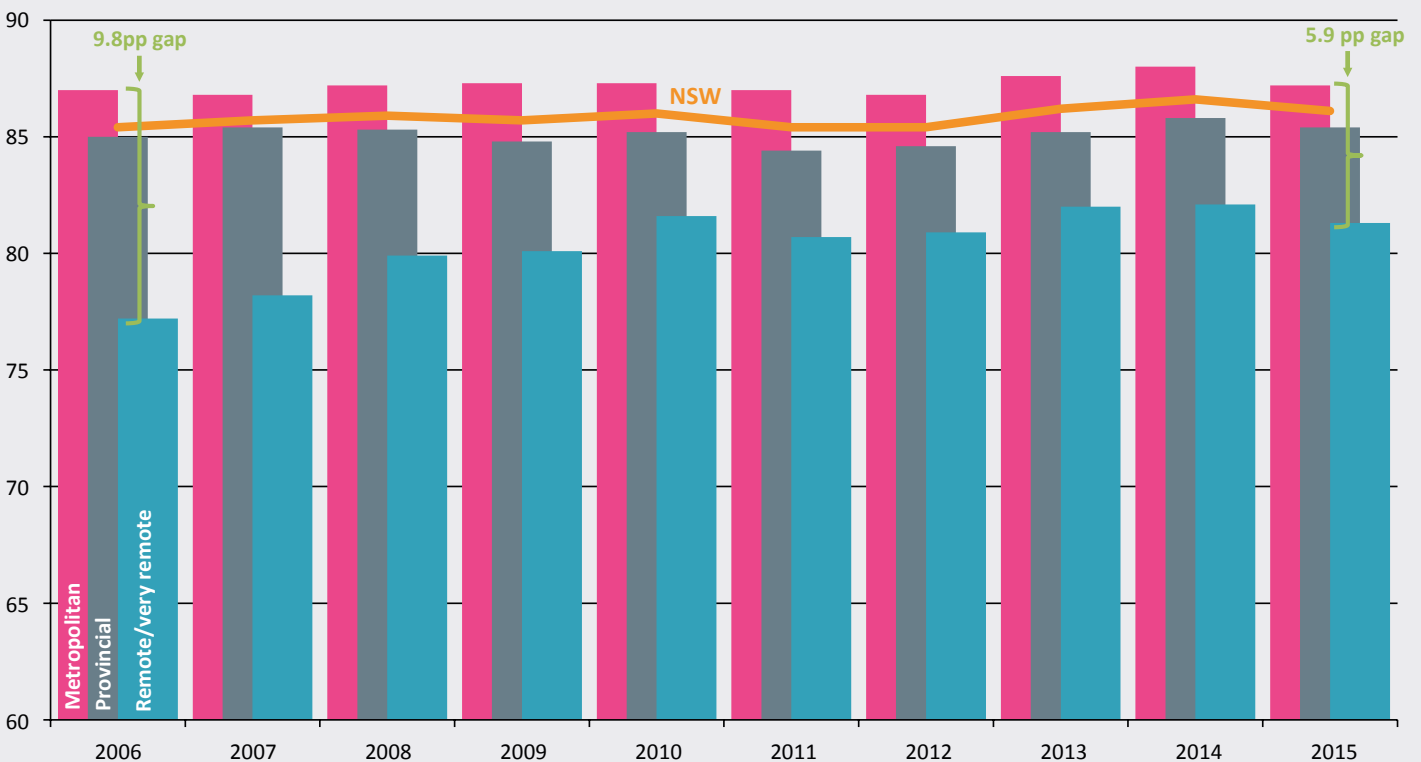
at schools in the metropolitan area, followed by provincial and then remote/very remote areas.

The average attendance rate for Aboriginal students was 86.1 per cent in 2015, which is 0.5 percentage points lower than 2014. Attendance rates for Aboriginal students did not fall by as much as all students between 2014 and 2015.

In metropolitan schools, the Aboriginal attendance rate was 87.2 per cent in 2015, similar to the attendance rate observed from 2008 to 2010. This was a 0.8 percentage point decrease from 2014.

Figure 3

Aboriginal students attendance rate by remoteness, Semester 1 2006-2015: NSW government schools



The Aboriginal attendance rate at schools in provincial NSW was 85.4 per cent in 2015. This was 0.4 percentage point decrease from 2014 but a 0.2 percentage point increase from 2013. In remote/very remote areas the student attendance rate in 2015 was 81.3 per cent, a 0.8 percentage point decrease from 2014.

It is clear from Figure 3 that the gap between Aboriginal attendance rates at remote/very remote and metropolitan schools has narrowed over the period. In 2006 the difference was almost ten percentage points, 77.2 per cent in remote/very remote schools compared with 87.0 per cent in

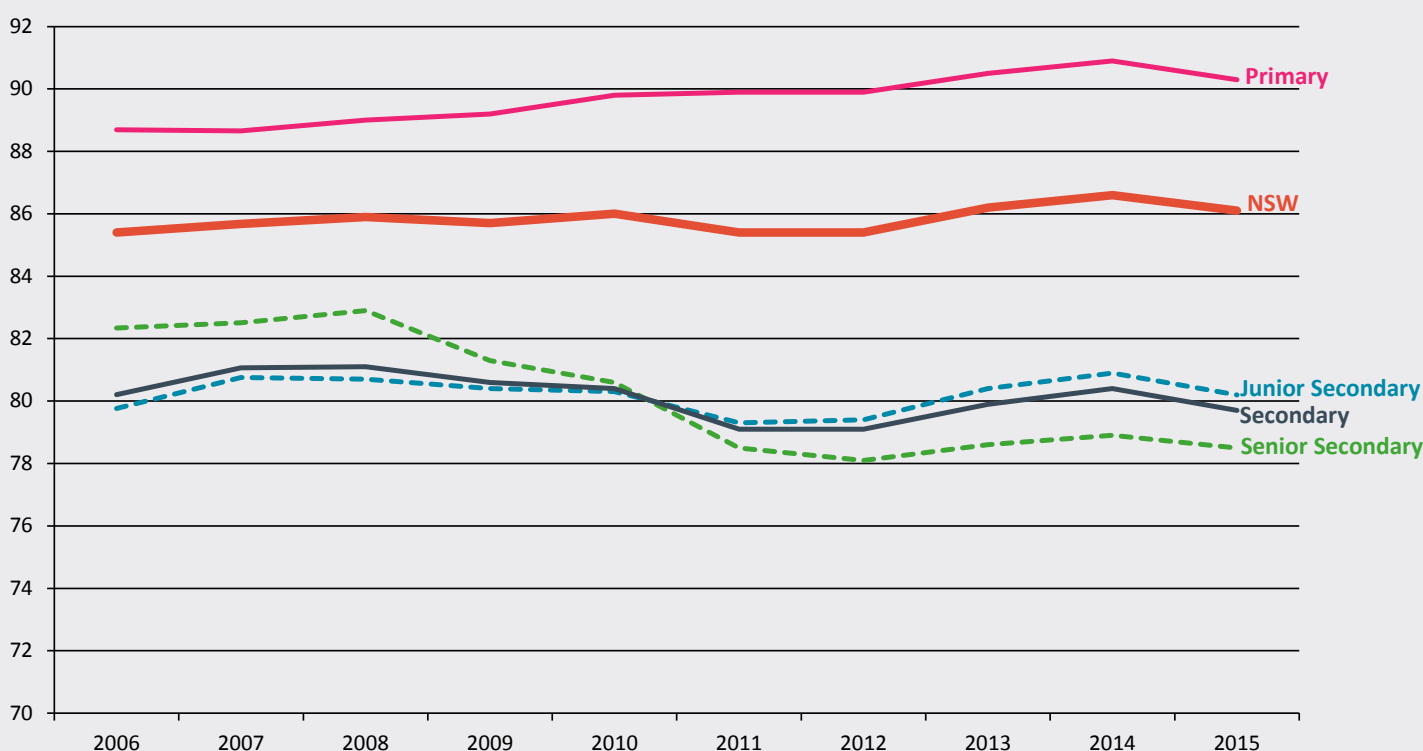
metropolitan schools. By 2015 the gap had narrowed to 5.9 percentage points, with 81.3 per cent attendance at remote/very remote schools and 87.2 per cent at metropolitan schools.

Figure 4 and Table 3 show attendance rates for Aboriginal students by level of education. Primary attendance decreased by 0.6 percentage points in 2015 compared with 2014, while secondary attendance decreased by 0.7 percentage points.

Aboriginal secondary students' attendance rates remain over ten percentage points below primary school students. In 2015 primary attendance averaged 90.3 per cent compared with 79.7 per cent for Aboriginal secondary students.

Figure 4

Aboriginal students attendance rate by education level, Semester 1 2006-2015: NSW government schools



Over the period shown in Figure 4, primary attendance rates increased by 1.6 percentage points, from 88.7 per cent in 2006 to 90.3 per cent in 2015.

Table 3 shows that Aboriginal students' attendance rates decreased by 0.5 percentage points, from 86.6 per cent in 2014 to 86.1 per cent in 2015. The secondary attendance rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points from 80.4 per cent in 2014 to 79.7 per cent in 2015.

Aboriginal senior secondary attendance rates declined markedly from 82.9 per cent in 2008 to 78.1 per cent in 2012 as the raised school leaving age was implemented.

Attendance rates increased to 78.9 per cent in 2014 before falling by 0.4 percentage points in 2015 to 78.5 per cent. The secondary attendance rate is still 3.8 percentage points lower than in 2006 (82.3 per cent).

Junior secondary attendance decreased by 0.7 percentage points, from 80.9 per cent in 2014 to 80.2 per cent in 2015.

Over the period from 2006 to 2015, the gap between primary and secondary attendance rates for Aboriginal students has widened from 8.5 percentage points in 2006 to 10.6 percentage points in 2015.

Table 3

Aboriginal students attendance rate by education level, Semester 1 2006-2015: NSW government schools

School Level	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Primary	88.7	88.7	89.0	89.2	89.8	89.9	89.9	90.5	90.9	90.3
Secondary	80.2	81.1	81.1	80.6	80.4	79.1	79.1	79.9	80.4	79.7
Junior Secondary	79.8	80.8	80.7	80.4	80.3	79.3	79.4	80.4	80.9	80.2
Senior Secondary	82.3	82.5	82.9	81.3	80.6	78.5	78.1	78.6	78.9	78.5
NSW	85.4	85.7	85.9	85.7	86.0	85.4	85.4	86.2	86.6	86.1

Attendance rates by FOEI and region

The Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI) is a school-level index of educational disadvantage related to socio-economic background. It is used as the basis of the equity loading for socio-economic background in the Department’s Resource Allocation Model.

FOEI is constructed from parental education and occupation information collected from student enrolment forms. FOEI uses a statistical regression model to produce a weighted combination of school-level parental education and occupation variables based on the extent to which each variable uniquely predicts average school performance.

The technical report about the construction of FOEI can be accessed at <http://www.cese.nsw.gov.au/publications>.

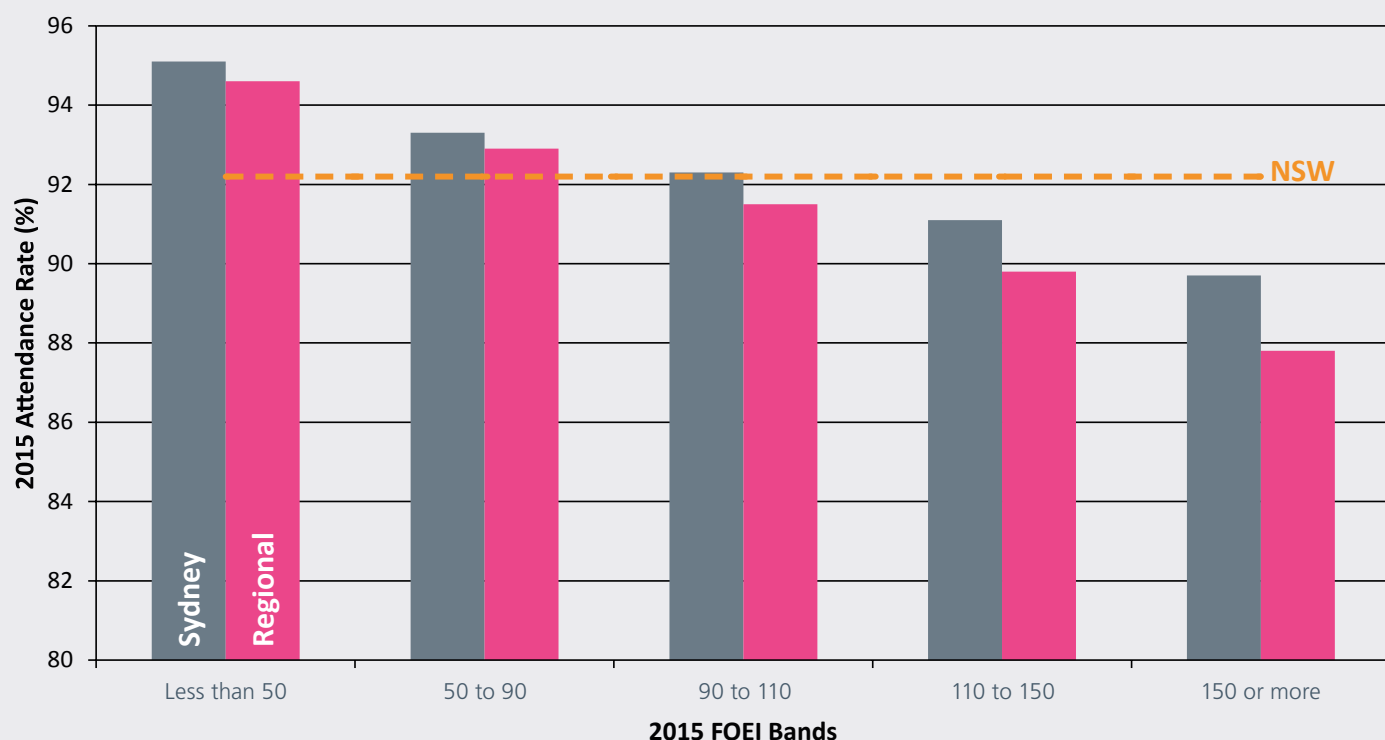
FOEI is a score ranging from 0 to approximately 300, with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 50. Higher FOEI scores indicate higher levels of need (i.e. lower socio-economic status).

Figure 5 presents attendance rates for all students by FOEI bands and also provides a Sydney / regional split. The chart shows that attendance rates are higher at schools with lower FOEI scores i.e. with a higher socio-economic status.

For FOEI scores of up to 90, there is only a small difference between attendance at schools in Sydney compared with regional schools. However schools in Sydney with a FOEI score of 110 or more recorded attendance rates at least 1.3 percentage points higher than schools in regional areas.

Figure 5

Students attendance rate by FOEI and Sydney / regional split, Semester 1 2015: NSW government schools



Attendance rates by Term

Figure 6 presents student attendance rates for Terms 1 and 2 for Aboriginal and all students from 2006 to 2015. Attendance rates are consistently higher in Term 1 than in Term 2 for both Aboriginal and all students. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors, including increased sickness in the late autumn and winter months of Term 2.

From 2006 to 2015 attendance rates for Term 1 have tended to be more stable than for Term 2. The Term 1 attendance rates varied between 92.7 in 2008 and 93.3 per cent in 2014, a variation of 0.6 percentage points. Term 1 2015 attendance rate was 92.9 per cent, which was 0.4 percentage points lower than in 2014.

By contrast, Term 2 attendance rates varied between 91.0 in 2011 and 2012 and 92.2 per cent in 2014, a variation of 1.2 percentage points. The Term 2 2015 attendance rate was 91.4

per cent, which was 0.8 percentage points lower than Term 2 2014.

Aboriginal student attendance patterns for Terms 1 and 2 followed the same pattern as all students, with higher and more stable attendance in Term 1. However the gap between Term 1 and Term 2 attendance rates is greater for Aboriginal students. For example, in 2015 Term 1 attendance was 1.5 percentage points higher than Term 2 for all students, at 92.9 per cent in Term 1 compared with 91.4 per cent in Term 2. For Aboriginal students, Term 1 attendance was 2.2 percentage points higher than Term 2, at 87.1 per cent in Term 1 compared with 84.9 per cent in Term 2.

Over the period from 2006 to 2015, the gap between all students and Aboriginal students has averaged around six percentage points in Term 1. The average attendance rate gap for Term 2 was around seven percentage points.

Figure 6

Aboriginal and all students attendance rates, Terms 1 and 2 2006-2015: NSW government schools

