

## *Policy: School enrolment and participation*

### Policy Purpose

To ensure that children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer are enrolled in school, and are supported to attend school, college, and training courses in order to achieve their educational goals.

### Policy Statement

Case Managers must ensure that a child in the care of the Chief Executive Officer, of compulsory school age, is enrolled in school, and that Carers understand their responsibility to ensure the child attends the school at which they are enrolled. All children in the Northern Territory must attend school while they are of compulsory school age.

Attendance is compulsory from 1 January of the year in which, as at 30 June, the child is 6 years of age.

Attendance ceases to be compulsory when the first of the following occurs:

1. The child has successfully completed Year 10, and is participating in one of the following two options:
  - full time in approved education or training;
  - are at least 15 years old and are in full time paid employment or a full time combination of approved education or training and paid employment; or
2. The child completes year 10 and is exempted from the further education or employment requirements above; or
3. The child reaches 17 years of age.

Children in care are often the most vulnerable students in the school system. Case Managers, Teachers and Carers have a responsibility to respond appropriately to issues affecting a child's readiness and capacity to learn; for example, fear of failure, mistrust, unresolved emotional issues, or developmental delays.

Case Managers must ensure the confidentiality of the child's records, monitor and maintain their involvement with education and ensure that the child has an appropriate care environment in which to learn and achieve their potential. If a child has been excluded from school the Case Manager must ensure that the child is provided with appropriate education and training, and is supported to resume full time education.

Refer to the [Joint Partnership Agreement for the Prioritisation of Services for Students in Care 2007](#) (updated November 2008) which articulates how the Department of Education and Territory Families work together to deliver prioritised services to children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer.

### Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Education Act s38](#)

## Standards

### [Standards of Professional Practice](#) 1, 5 and 6

Authorised by:

<b>Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:</b>	16/03/2015	<b>Active from:</b>	16/03/2015
<b>Version 1.0</b>	To ensure Case Managers understand their role in supporting children in care attend school, college, and training courses that promotes their learning and development.		
<b>Review due:</b>	March 17	<b>Maintenance:</b>	Policy <a href="mailto:tf.policy@nt.gov.au">tf.policy@nt.gov.au</a>

Current Version V1.01

<b>Active from:</b>	6/02/2017	<b>Authorised by:</b>	Director, Policy
<b>Update:</b>	Rebranding and included an emphasis on compulsory school attendance.		