



# NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL WELFARE BOARD AN BORD NÁISIÚNTA LEASA OIDEACHAIS

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**To:**

Boards of Management of Primary and Post Primary Schools  
Principals of Primary and Post Primary Schools  
Vocational Education Committees

## ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 2004/2005

I am writing to thank you for your co-operation in submitting your *Annual Attendance Report* in accordance with the Education (Welfare) Act.

This is the second year that comprehensive attendance data concerning levels of attendance will be available at national level. The level and quality of response from schools provides a solid basis for planning and research. The data has been analysed and validated by MORI Ireland.

Preliminary findings were presented to the Department of Education & Science and a summary of these is outlined in the appendix to this letter. The overall attendance levels were consistent with the figures for 2003/2004. It is worth noting that the study identified improvements in certain areas which have Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs). A more detailed report will be published soon and will be available on our website at <http://www.newb.ie/research.shtml>.

The findings formed a major part of the Board's pre-budget submission to Government. In our submission, we requested additional EWOs to address:

- Areas of greatest need identified in the analysis of the *Annual Attendance Report* data.
- Counties which do not have any EWO at present.
- The high caseload of individual EWO's in areas where there is an educational welfare service.
- The need to develop models of best educational welfare practice.

### REPORTING OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ABSENCES

Guidance has issued to schools on the reporting of individual student absences. Our focus here is to enable schools to fulfill their obligations under the Act, while at the same time providing adequate information so that individual children can be prioritised for follow up action by an EWO.

Again, on behalf of the Board, thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Eddie Ward, Chief Executive  
January, 2006