

Native schools, registered private primary schools, the lower departments of secondary schools, and special schools. The figures will then be:—

AVERAGE WEEKLY ROLL NUMBER.			
Public schools (less secondary departments of district high schools)		1916.	1917.
Native village and Native mission schools		181,670	185,549
Registered private primary schools		5,324	5,315
Lower departments of secondary schools		17,260*	18,594*
Special schools		466*	580*
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars		579	600
		205,299	210,638

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(E.—2, Tables B1, B2, and B3.)

The following figures show the average attendance at public schools in the Dominion during the years 1916 and 1917:—

		Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1917	168,711	166,510
Year 1916	163,156	160,980
Increase in 1917	5,555	5,530
Increase per cent.	3.4	3.4

As in the case of the roll number, it is satisfactory to note in the average attendance for 1917 a large increase over the figures for the previous year. The increase is, in fact, greater than in the case of the roll number, being 5,555, or 3.4 per cent., as compared with 3,898, or 2.1 per cent. This is unusual, the increase in average attendance being as a rule slightly lower than the increase in roll number, but in this connection it is to be noted that owing to various causes the attendance in the preceeding year was less regular than it had been for some years. The increase in average attendance during the last four years has been: 1914, 3.6 per cent.; 1915, 3.1 per cent.; 1916, 0.04 per cent.; 1917, 3.4 per cent. The average attendance taken as a percentage of the average weekly roll was 89.8 in 1917, as compared with 88.6 in the previous year and 90.1 in 1914—the highest record yet reached. Every education district shows an improvement in the regularity of attendance, Otago with a percentage of 92.6 having the best record, and Wellington coming next with 90.6 per cent.

The average attendance taken as a percentage of the average weekly roll is represented for the last six years by the following figures:—

	Attendance per Cent. of Roll.
1911	89.3
1912	88.9
1913	89.2
1914	90.1
1915	90.0
1916	88.6
1917	89.8

New Zealand appears to compare favourably with other English-speaking countries in the matter of regularity of attendance at public schools, as is shown by the following figures—the latest available—indicating the average attendance as a percentage of the roll number. In some cases the attendance percentage is given as a proportion of the net enrolment, not of the average weekly roll, thus making the figures lower than they would otherwise be.

	Attendance per Cent. of Roll.
New Zealand	89.8
England and Wales (1913-14)	88.7
London County Council	89.5
Scotland	89.1
Ireland	71.5
United States	76.1*
Queensland	74.2*
New South Wales	81.1
Victoria	72.9*
South Australia	78.6*
Western Australia	86.8
Tasmania	81.4

* Based on average daily attendance as proportion of net enrolment, or number of distinct children on rolls during the year.