

The percentage increase in the average attendance is noticeably small, having fallen from 3·6 in 1914 to 3·1 in 1915, and further to 0·04 in 1916. As a rule the increase in the average attendance is slightly smaller than the increase in the average weekly roll number, but in 1916 the figures were 2,827 and 64 respectively, showing a marked difference. The result is that the average attendance when taken as a percentage of the average weekly roll has fallen to 88·6—the lowest figure reached for six years. It was 90·1 per cent. in 1914 and 90·0 per cent. in 1915. This fall has been general to a greater or less extent through all the education districts excepting Otago and Southland, both of which districts show an improvement on the preceding year. Otago, with a percentage of 92·5, has the best record for the year; Southland comes next with a percentage of 89·6, and Wellington third with a percentage of 89·2. The irregular attendance is attributed in the districts where it occurred to numerous and severe epidemics.

The following figures indicate the attendance per cent. of roll for the last six years :—

	Attendance per Cent. of Roll.
1911	89·3
1912	88·9
1913	89·2
1914	90·1
1915	90·0
1916	88·6

The following figures indicate the percentage of regularity in other English-speaking countries as compared with New Zealand. The figures were not obtained in England since the year 1913–14, where war conditions have probably affected adversely the school attendance. New Zealand does not, as in previous years, hold pride of place in the list, although its percentage still falls very little short of the highest shown. It must be borne in mind, with reference to several of the Australian States and the United States of America, that 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	88·6
England and Wales (1913–14)	88·7
London County Council	89·5
Scotland	89·1
Ireland	72·6
United States	73·2*
Queensland	76·8*
New South Wales	80·6
Victoria	73·7*
South Australia	77·2*
Western Australia	86·4
Tasmania	80·4

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

The following figures represent the total number of children in average attendance at registered schools giving primary instruction :—

	1915.	1916.
Public schools (excluding secondary departments of district high schools)	160,895	160,980
Native-village and mission schools	4,745	4,622
Chatham Island schools (included in public schools in 1916)	77	...
Registered private primary schools	14,366	15,199
Lower departments of secondary schools	378	403
Special schools	731	570
Totals	181,192	181,774