

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN NEW SOUTH WALES SNAPSHOT

The New South Wales Independent school sector is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This is a snapshot of the key characteristics of the NSW Independent school sector, those who are enrolled, those who work in Independent schools, and how these schools are funded.

The Independent school figures in this snapshot include Independent Catholic schools.

2023 EDITION

LATEST AVAILABLE FACTS AND FIGURES

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR

BROAD CHOICE FOR PARENTS

STRONG COMMUNITY LINKS

DIVERSITY OF SCHOOL TYPE,
SIZE AND FOCUS

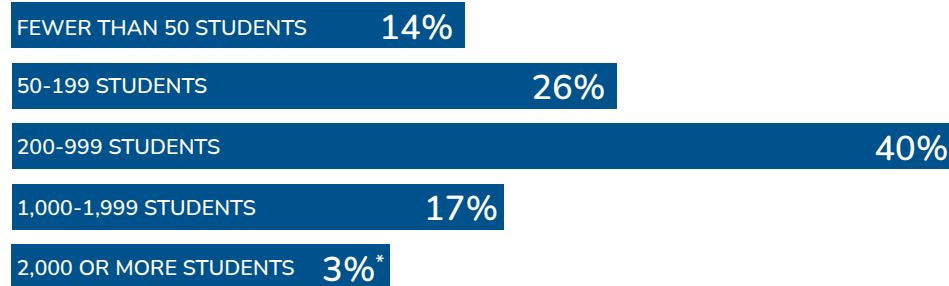
AUTONOMOUS GOVERNANCE
ARRANGEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

SCHOOL METRICS

In 2022, there were 511 Independent schools and campuses in NSW of which 51 offered boarding services. Most Independent schools in NSW are co-educational.

SIZE OF NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



* OR 11 SCHOOLS.

NUMBER OF NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRIMARY	75	18%
SECONDARY	32	8%
COMBINED	252	59%
SAS/SPECIAL SCHOOLS	63	15%
TOTAL	422	100%

TYPE OF NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

BOYS' SCHOOLS	24	6%
GIRLS' SCHOOLS	31	7%
CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS	367	87%

422 SCHOOLS
+89 CAMPUSES



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN NSW

542



AVERAGE NUMBER
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A
NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

368



AVERAGE NUMBER OF
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A
NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE

Independent schools have diverse religious or philosophical affiliations. They represent a range of approaches to teaching and learning.



83%

NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

AFFILIATIONS OF NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY NUMBER OF ENROLMENTS

2022

AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
ANGLICAN	60	58,340	25.5%
INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC	49	39,371	17.1%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL	73	31,209	13.7%
CHRISTIAN	52	22,323	9.8%
ISLAMIC	24	20,773	9.1%
UNITING CHURCH	8	11,958	5.3%
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	17	7,382	3.2%
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL	6	5,754	2.5%
PRESBYTERIAN	6	4,976	2.2%
BAPTIST	12	3,997	1.8%
STEINER	21	3,874	1.7%
JEWISH	6	3,433	1.5%
PENTECOSTAL	6	2,910	1.3%
GREEK ORTHODOX	3	1,951	0.9%
OTHER ORTHODOX	5	1,583	0.7%
MONTESSORI	16	1,079	0.5%
BRETHREN	12	1,040	0.5%
LUTHERAN	4	847	0.4%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION*	6	2,093	0.9%
OTHER**	36	3,711	1.6%

* OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS INCLUDE ANANDA MARGA AND HARE KRISHNA.

** OTHER INCLUDES SPECIAL SCHOOLS, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS, INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.



NSW SCHOOL LOCATIONS



69%

MAJOR CITIES



31%

REGIONAL



<1%

REMOTE

GOVERNANCE

Independent schools are generally not-for-profit institutions founded by groups in the community. All Independent schools are registered with the relevant state or territory education authorities.

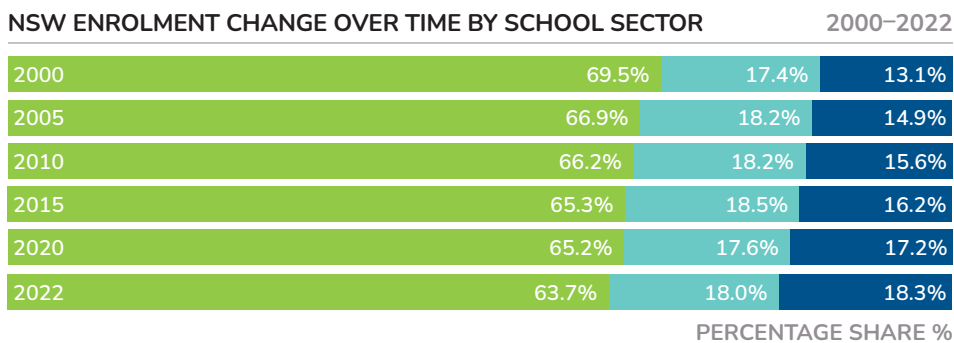
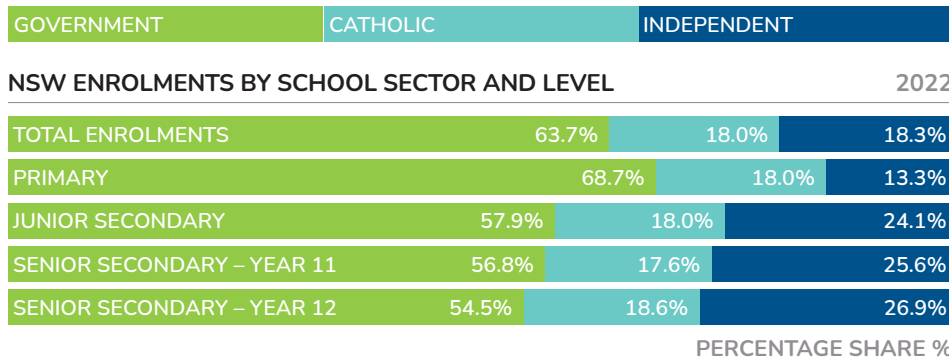
Independent schools are primarily accountable to their parent and school communities.

About 10 per cent of Independent schools in NSW operate within approved system authorities. These include the Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist or Lutheran Systems.

All NSW Independent schools comply with relevant state and federal education legislation and regulation.

STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth of the Independent school sector has been increasing. In 2022, enrolments in NSW Independent schools grew by 3.1 per cent.



ENROLMENTS IN NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	2022		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PRIMARY	47,787	45,935	93,722
SECONDARY	68,504	66,376	134,880
TOTAL	116,291	112,311	228,602

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY IN NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (est.)*	2022
SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE	19,300
SUPPLEMENTARY	16,600
SUBSTANTIAL	4,900
EXTENSIVE	2,900

*MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF ADJUSTMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU



3.1%

MAJOR CITIES 2.7% REGIONAL 5.0%

GROWTH IN ENROLMENTS IN NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



228,602

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



5,327

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



900

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



5,041

BOARDING STUDENTS



43,700

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (est.)

SOURCES OF INCOME

Most of the income of Independent schools comes from families. Governments save an estimated \$2.2 billion in funding due to the contribution to NSW Independent schools from families and other private sources.



\$2.2 BILLION
PER ANNUM

SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT FROM
NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



\$5,443

MEDIAN ANNUAL TUITION FEE
2021

GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Government funding for schools is provided by the Australian Government and state and territory governments. The Australian Government is the main government funding source for non-government schools, providing 76 per cent of total government recurrent funding while the NSW Government provides 24 per cent. State and territory governments are the main funding source for government schools. The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

RECURRENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NSW \$ BILLION FY 2020–21

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NSW GOVERNMENT PRIVATE INCOME (Parents, etc)

FUNDING MODEL

The current funding model for schools, the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) comprises base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage. Base funding for Independent schools is adjusted according to the school community's estimated capacity to contribute (CTC) to the costs of education, assessed on parental income tax data. This methodology is known as the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). Schools with a higher CTC score receive less per capita base funding.

LOADINGS:

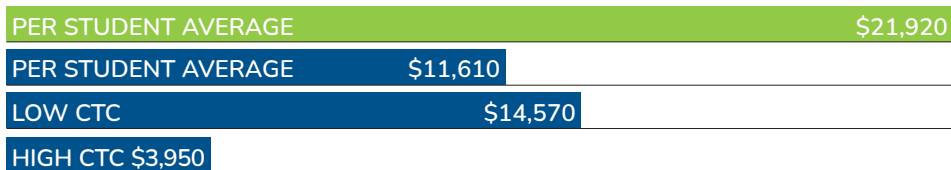
- SCHOOL LOCATION
- SCHOOL SIZE
- SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE
- INDIGENEITY
- LOW ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER NSW STUDENT

FY 2020–21

TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER NSW STUDENT COMPARISON

FY 2020–21



NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS NSW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

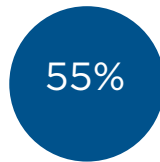
ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED FROM ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SCHOOL.



SOURCES OF INCOME

The majority of NSW Independent school funding (recurrent and capital) comes from private sources.

Parents and communities contributed \$3.2 billion (recurrent and capital) to NSW Independent schools.



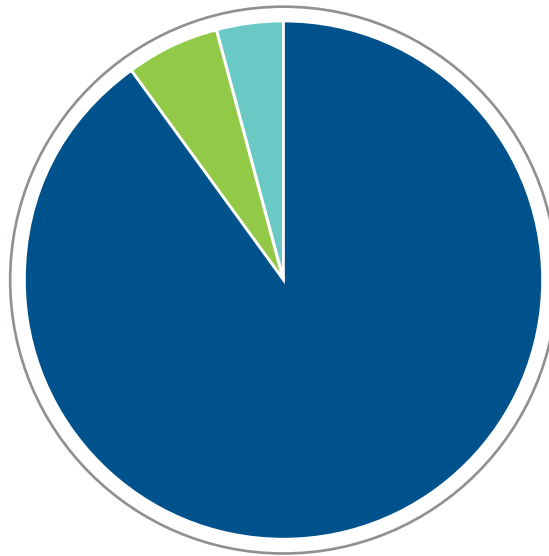
**PRIVATE SOURCES
OF FUNDING**



**ALL GOVERNMENT
SOURCES**

MAIN SOURCES OF CAPITAL INCOME

On average, parents and communities provide 90 per cent of capital funding for NSW Independent schools. The amount of capital funding in NSW Independent schools from private sources in 2021 was \$409 million.



90%

PRIVATE SOURCES PARENTS AND DONORS

Most capital funding is sourced through borrowing, fund raising, levies on parents or school reserves.

6%

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR NSW

In 2021 the Australian Government provided \$28.8 million in capital grants to NSW Independent schools. In 2022 it is estimated that new capital grants for the NSW Independent sector will total approximately \$23.7 million.

In the Independent sector Australian Government capital grants are distributed on a needs basis through Block Grant Authorities, with priority given to disadvantaged school communities with the least capacity to raise funds.

4%

NSW STATE CAPITAL FUNDING

In 2021 the NSW Government provided \$20.3 million in capital grants to NSW Independent schools.

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ more than 19 per cent of all teachers in Australian schools. NSW Independent schools employ more than 21 per cent of all teachers in NSW schools.



21%

NSW TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

TEACHERS IN THE NSW INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL (FTE) 2022

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
PRIMARY TEACHERS	1,348	5,280	6,628		
PER CENT %	20.3%	79.7%	100%		
SECONDARY TEACHERS	5,185	7,814	12,998		
PER CENT %	39.9%	60.1%	100%		

19,626

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

21,925

NUMBER OF TEACHERS HEAD COUNT

35,914

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF

NSW STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS

CHANGE 2000 – 2022

	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	CATHOLIC		INDEPENDENT	
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
2000	17.7	12.6	19.6	13.5	16.1	10.8
2005	16.7	12.4	18.4	13.0	14.9	10.2
2010	15.7	12.5	18.3	13.1	14.4	10.3
2015	15.8	12.5	17.9	13.0	14.0	10.2
2020	16.0	13.4	16.1	12.2	14.1	10.0
2022	15.0	13.0	15.8	12.1	14.1	10.0



STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)

2022

INDEPENDENT	11.5 TO 1
CATHOLIC	13.7 TO 1
GOVERNMENT	14.2 TO 1

SOURCES: FIGURES IN SNAPSHOT ARE DERIVED FROM DATA PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AND THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY. SOME FIGURES MAY NOT ADD DUE TO ROUNDING. FUNDING FIGURES IN THE SNAPSHOT USE THE LATEST AVAILABLE FINANCIAL DATA WHICH IS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21, OR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, STUDENT ENROLMENT FIGURES ARE FULL TIME EQUIVALENT.

PRODUCED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA



empowering independent education