Independent schools are non-government schools and include Independent Catholic schools. They operate autonomously, are registered, and their teachers accredited by the NSW Education Standards Authority. They are educationally and financially accountable to their Boards, and the Australian and NSW Governments. Information is sourced from the Australian Government Department of Education, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and NSW Independent schools.

**NSW Independent Schools**

- Australia’s largest independent school sector
- Australia’s 6th largest school education sector
- Supporting geographic, cultural and socio-economic diversity

**NSW Enrolments by Sector**

- Government: 802,182 (64%)
- Independent: 221,744 (18%)
- Catholic: 220,562 (18%)

**Enrolment Growth in NSW Independent Schools 2015-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>191,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>195,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>199,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>203,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>208,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>214,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>221,744</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Independent Schools in NSW**

504 SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES

- 71% Combined Primary/Secondary Schools
- 19% Special Assistance Schools/Special Schools
- 50 Boarding Schools

29,246 EMPLOYED (FTE)

- 19,156 Teachers (FTE)
- 10,090 Non-teaching staff (FTE)

221,744 STUDENTS

- 91,163 Primary students
- 130,581 Secondary students
- 4,971 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- 4,813 Boarding students

* Student enrolment data based on headcount

© 2021 The Association of Independent Schools of NSW
Students in Independent Schools

Number of Schools by Affiliation

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

Special and Special Assistance Schools Enrolment

Percentage of Independent Schools by Enrolment Size

Direct Measure of Income of Schools

© 2021 The Association of Independent Schools of NSW