Independent schools operate autonomously and are not members of government or Catholic systems. All independent schools in NSW are registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and are educationally and financially accountable to their Boards and to the Australian and NSW Governments.

NSW Enrolments by Sector

Government
Total 791,040 – 65.5%

Independent
Total* 199,359 – 16.5%

Catholic System
Total 218,072 – 18.0%

NSW Schools by Sector

Government
Total 2,151 – 67.8%

Independent
Total* 482 – 15.2%

Catholic System
Total 540 – 17.0%

Number of NSW Independent Schools by Level

TOTAL 482
K-12 Combined 298 – 61.8%
Primary Only (K-6) 78 – 16.2%
Secondary Only (7-12) 66 – 13.7%
Special 40 – 8.3%

Enrolments by State and Sector

NSW
Vic
Qld
WA
SA
Tas
ACT
NT

Sources: Data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, and the Productivity Commission. Depending on the availability of data, enrolment figures are either full-time or full-time equivalent (FTE).

* Independent Catholic school figures are included as independent. Some figures may not add due to rounding.

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NSW Independent Schools at a glance 2017

NSW Independent Schools by Regional Location

Metropolitan schools account for 59% of all NSW Independent schools.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enrolments by Regional Location

73% of independent schools have an SES in the lower range of the distribution.

Socio-economic status (SES) is calculated by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and used for school funding. Schools with low SES receive more funding per student than those with higher SES. SES scores have been grouped for the purposes of this publication only. Individual school SES scores are available at www.education.gov.au.

Regional location is based on NSW Department of Planning and Environment data.

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