



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN QUEENSLAND SNAPSHOT

The Independent school sector in Queensland is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This snapshot provides an overview of the key characteristics of the 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, except where otherwise indicated.

2024 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

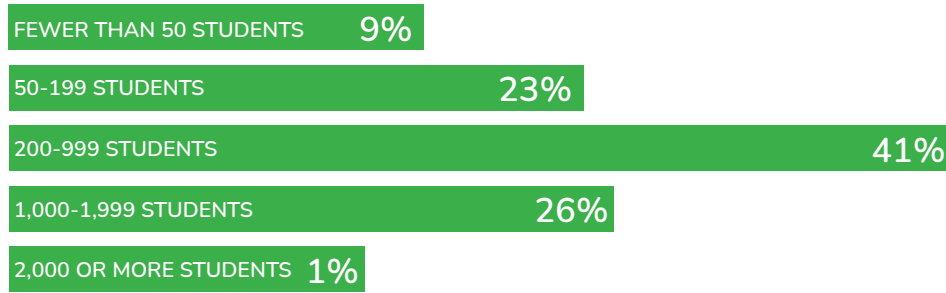
AUTONOMOUS GOVERNANCE
ARRANGEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

SCHOOL METRICS

In 2023, there were 235 Independent schools of which 32 were boarding schools. Most Independent schools in Queensland are co-educational.

SIZE OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



NUMBER OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRIMARY	34	14%
SECONDARY	21	9%
COMBINED	150	64%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	30	13%
TOTAL	235	100%

TYPE OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

BOYS' SCHOOLS	4%
GIRLS' SCHOOLS	4%
CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS	92%

235 SCHOOLS
+54 CAMPUSES



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN QLD

627



AVERAGE NUMBER
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A
QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

455



AVERAGE NUMBER OF
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A
QLD GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE

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



79%

QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

AFFILIATIONS OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY NUMBER OF ENROLMENTS 2023

AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
CHRISTIAN	41	29,329	19.9%
ANGLICAN	23	28,050	19.0%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL	43	22,646	15.4%
LUTHERAN	26	20,663	14.0%
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	10	6,762	4.6%
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA	7	6,093	4.1%
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL	6	5,707	3.9%
BAPTIST	7	3,971	2.7%
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	10	2,987	2.0%
BRETHREN	3	2,781	1.9%
STEINER	6	1,174	0.8%
MONTESSORI	4	749	0.5%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	10	8,190	5.6%
OTHER	39	8,168	5.5%



QLD SCHOOL LOCATIONS

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.

Forty-seven (20 per cent) Independent schools in Queensland operate within an approved system authority. These include the Lutheran, Anglican and Seventh Day Adventist Systems.

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



61%

MAJOR CITIES



37%

REGIONAL

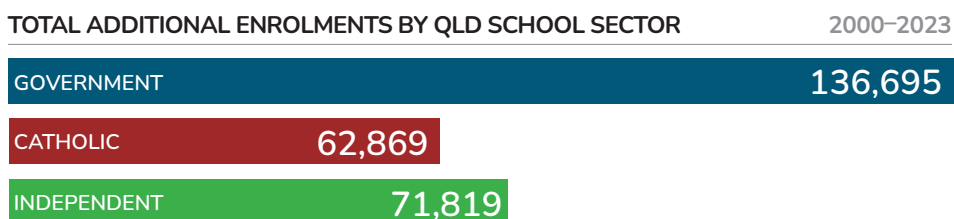
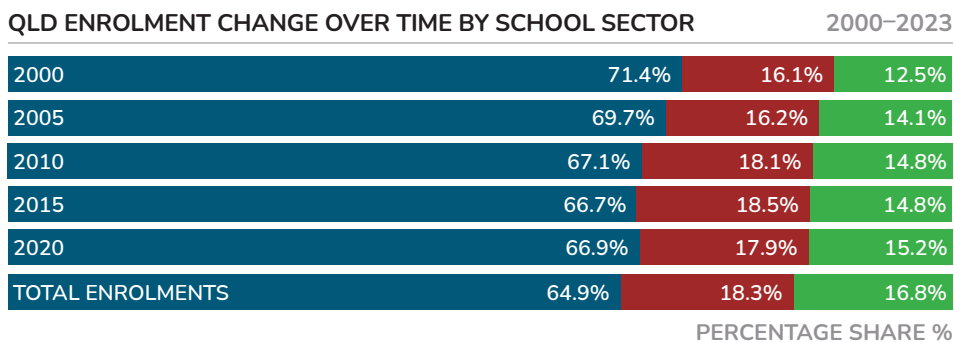
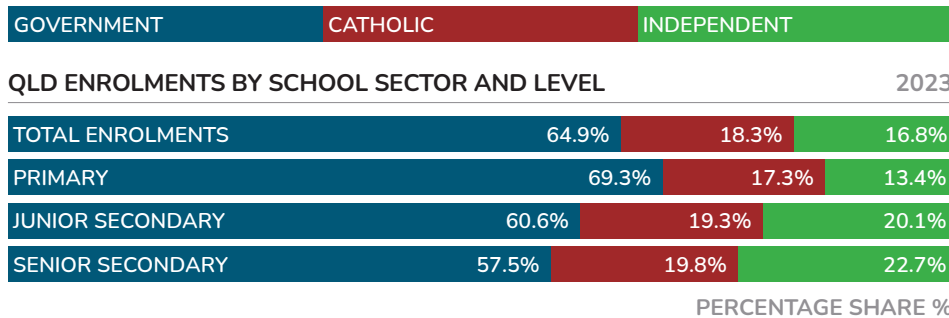


2%

REMOTE

STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth of the Independent school sector has been increasing. In 2023, enrolments in QLD Independent schools grew by 4.1 per cent.



	ENROLMENTS IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS			2023
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
PRIMARY	31,953	32,163	64,116	
SECONDARY	41,163	41,990	83,152	
TOTAL	73,116	74,153	147,268	

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (est.)*		2023
SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE		7,500
SUPPLEMENTARY		12,600
SUBSTANTIAL		5,800
EXTENSIVE		700

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



4.1%

MAJOR CITIES 4.6% REGIONAL 2.7%

GROWTH IN ENROLMENTS IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



147,268

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



6,519

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS



1,193

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



3,797

BOARDING STUDENTS



26,600

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (est.)

SOURCES OF INCOME

Most of the income of Independent schools comes from families. Governments save an estimated \$1.2 billion in funding due to the contribution to Queensland Independent schools from families and other private sources.



\$1.2 BILLION

SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT FROM
QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



\$5,455

MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE
2022

GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Government funding for schools is provided by the Australian Government and the Queensland state government. The Australian Government is the main government funding source for QLD non-government schools, providing 79 per cent of total government recurrent funding while the state provides 21 per cent. The state government is 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 QLD \$ BILLION FY 2021-22

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT QLD 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:

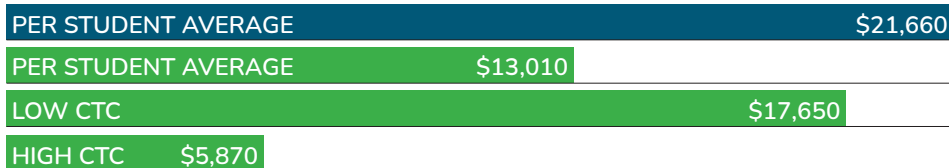
- SCHOOL LOCATION
- SCHOOL SIZE
- SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE
- INDIGENEITY
- LOW ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER QLD STUDENT

FY 2021-22

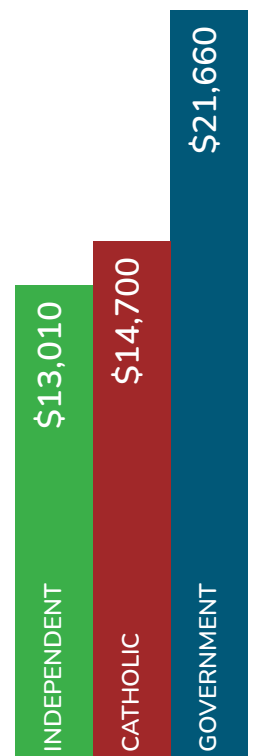
TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER QLD STUDENT COMPARISON

FY 2021-22



QLD GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS QLD 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

Parents and communities contributed \$1.5 billion (recurrent and capital) to Queensland Independent schools.

Many Independent schools in Queensland rely on government funding to support the education of students in areas of need.

43%

PRIVATE SOURCES
OF FUNDING

12%

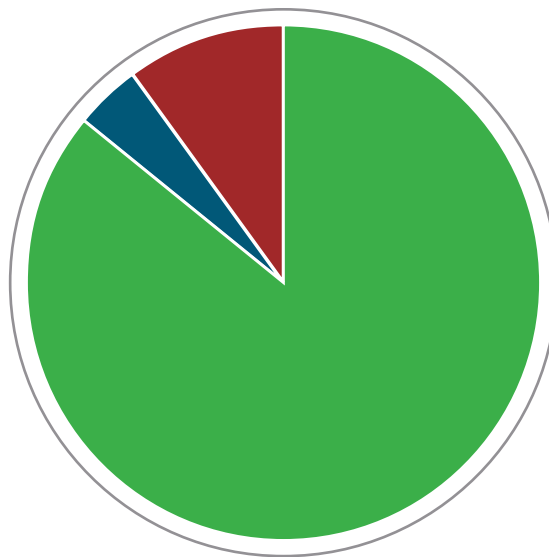
QUEENSLAND
GOVERNMENT

45%

AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT

MAIN SOURCES OF CAPITAL INCOME

On average, parents and communities provide 86 per cent of capital funding for Independent schools in Queensland. The amount of capital funding in Queensland Independent schools from private sources in 2022 was \$262 million.



86%

PRIVATE SOURCES
PARENTS AND DONORS

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

4%

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL
GRANTS PROGRAM FOR QLD

In 2022 the Australian Government provided \$11.7 million in capital grants to Queensland Independent schools. In 2023 it is estimated that grants for the Queensland Independent sector will total approximately \$19.0 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.

10%

QLD STATE CAPITAL
FUNDING

In 2022 the Queensland Government provided \$31.2 million in capital grants to Queensland Independent schools.

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ more than 19 per cent of all teachers in Australian schools. **Queensland Independent schools employ more than 17 per cent of all teachers in Queensland schools.**



17.1%

QLD TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

TEACHERS IN THE QLD INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL (FTE) 2023

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
PRIMARY TEACHERS	824	3,386	4,210		
PER CENT %	19.6%	80.4%	100%		
SECONDARY TEACHERS	2,893	4,113	7,006		
PER CENT %	41.3%	58.7%	100%		

11,216

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

12,255

NUMBER OF TEACHERS HEAD COUNT

23,604

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF

QLD STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS

CHANGE 2000 – 2023

	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	CATHOLIC PRIMARY	CATHOLIC SECONDARY	INDEPENDENT PRIMARY	INDEPENDENT SECONDARY
2000	16.7	12.5	18.1	13.3	16.6	12.6
2005	15.5	13.0	17.1	13.1	15.1	11.9
2010	15.4	12.6	18.1	12.9	16.7	11.9
2015	14.8	12.7	17.2	12.8	15.5	12.1
2020	14.3	12.1	16.3	12.3	15.5	11.9
2023	14.2	12.0	16.1	12.3	15.3	11.8



STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)

2023

INDEPENDENT	13.1 TO 1
CATHOLIC	14.0 TO 1
GOVERNMENT	13.2 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 2021-22, OR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, STUDENT ENROLMENT FIGURES ARE FULL TIME EQUIVALENT.

PRODUCED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA



Independent Schools Queensland

choice & diversity