

English as an Additional Language/Dialect

Key Points

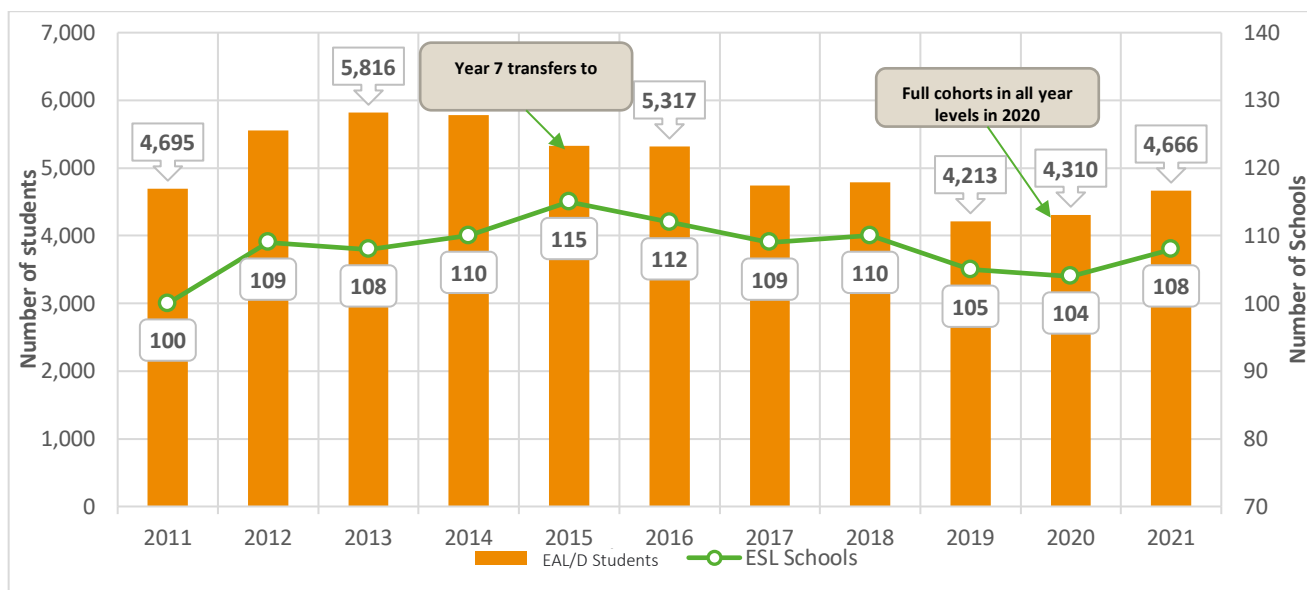
The number of English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D/D) students attending independent schools in Queensland increased by 8% from 2020 to 2021, with enrolments increasing from 4,310 full-time equivalent (FTE) students in 2020 to 4,666 FTE students in 2021. Just under half of independent schools (48% of schools) catered for EAL/D students in 2021, the same proportion of independent schools that catered for EAL/D students in 2020.

Two schools enrolled more than 300 EAL/D students; together, they cater for nearly a quarter (24%) of EAL/D student enrolments at independent schools. In five schools, EAL/D students represent more than 50% of each school's total enrolments.

Enrolments

In 2021, the independent school sector catered for 4,666.0 FTE EAL/D student enrolments, an increase from 4,309.6 EAL/D student enrolments in 2020 (refer Figure 1). This increase of 356.4 FTE enrolments is equivalent to an 8.3% increase in enrolments. This growth rate is higher than the growth rate experienced by all FTE enrolments in independent schools from 2020 to 2021 (+4.75%).

Figure 1: EAL/D Student Enrolments & Number of Schools Attended, 2011-21



This is the second consecutive year in which growth in EAL/D enrolments has occurred with EAL/D enrolments having increased by 2.3% from 2019 to 2020 (+97 students). Between 2011 and 2021, EAL/D enrolments decreased by 29

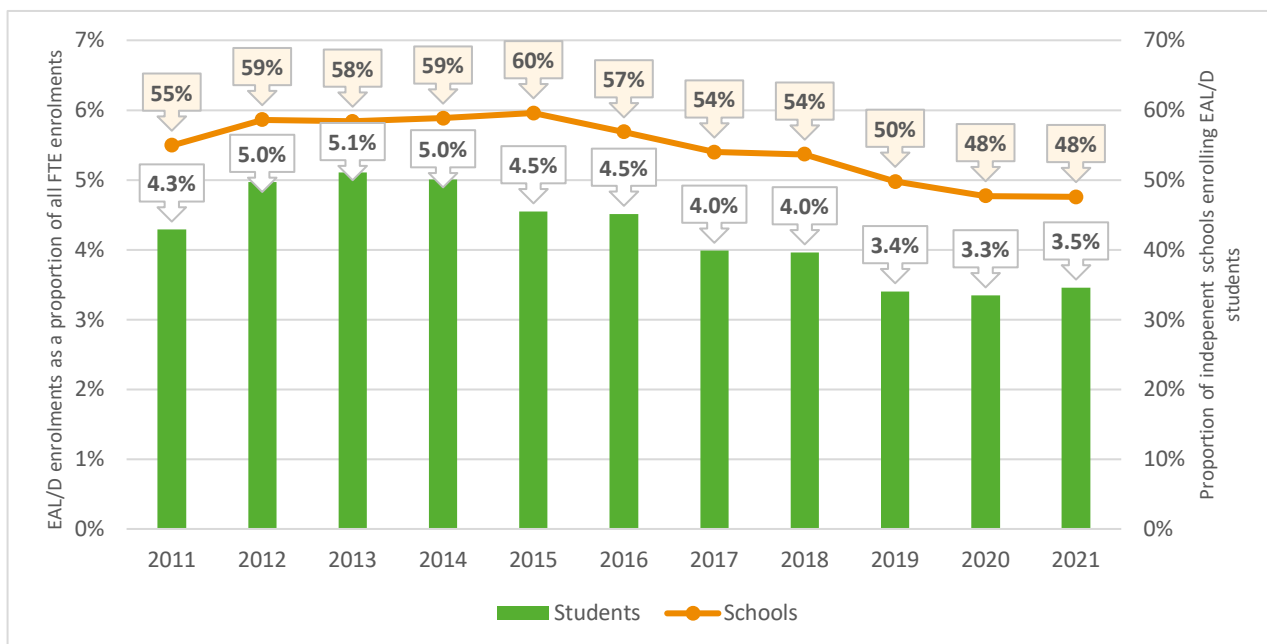
students, which represents a 0.6% decrease in the number of FTE enrolments over the ten year period. However, in the interim period enrolments increased to reach a peak of 5,816 (2013) before enrolments presented a general pattern of decline through to 2019, before increasing over the past two years.

EAL/D students in 2021 attended 108 independent schools, four more than the number of schools that enrolled EAL/D students in 2020 (refer Figure 1).

EAL/D Enrolments and Schools as a Proportion of All Enrolments and Schools

In 2021, EAL/D student enrolments represented 3.5% of all EAL/D enrolments at independent schools, down from a peak of 5.1% in 2013, but a slightly higher proportion of schools than evidenced in 2020 and 2019 (3.3% and 3.4%, respectively. Refer Figure 2).

Figure 2: EAL/D Student and School Share of Independent School Enrolments and Schools, 2011-2021

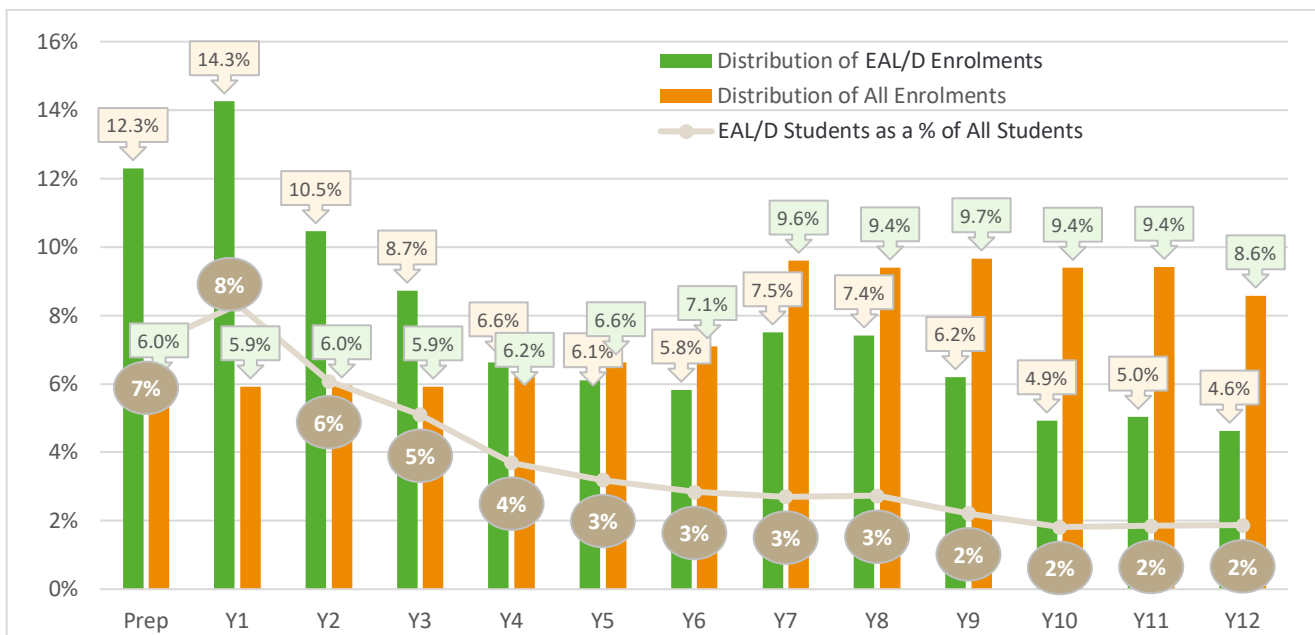


Similarly, over the last ten years the proportion of independent schools that have enrolled EAL/D students has reduced. In both 2020 and 2021, approximately 48% of independent schools enrolled EAL/D students. This is a decrease from nearly 60% of independent schools in 2015 catering for EAL/D students in 2015.

Distribution of EAL/D Students

A higher proportion of EAL/D students are primary students than secondary students. Overall, 64.3% of EAL/D enrolments are in primary year levels and 35.7% of EAL/D enrolments are in secondary year levels. This compares to primary year levels representing 43.8% of all enrolments at independent schools in 2021 and secondary year levels representing 56.2% of all enrolments at independent schools in 2020.

Figure 3: Distribution of EAL/D Students and All Students at Independent Schools by Year Level, 2021



When year levels are considered, it is evident that highest numbers of EAL/D students are enrolled in lower primary years, with EAL/D students representing 7% and 8% of all Prep and Year 1 independent school students respectively. This proportion decreases to only 2% of all students in each year level from Year 9 to Year 12 (refer Figure 3).

This pattern is also similar when the distribution of EAL/D students across year levels is considered. Higher proportions of EAL/D students are evidenced in lower primary year levels, with 37% of EAL/D students enrolled in Prep to Year 2 (12.3% of Prep students, 14.3% of Year 1 students and 10.5% of Year 2 students) (refer Figure 3 above). In comparison, only 18% of all students attending independent schools are enrolled in Prep to Year 2. Lowest proportions of EAL/D students are in secondary grades, with approximately 5% of EAL/D students enrolled in each grade from Year 10 to Year 12, compared to approximately 9% of all independent school students being enrolled in each grade from Year 10 to Year 12.

Size of EAL/D Enrolments at Schools

Of the 108 schools catering for boarding students in 2020, two schools catered for more than 300 EAL/D students and a further three schools catered for more than 150 students to 300 EAL/D students (refer Table 1). These five schools catered for over one-third (36%) of EAL/D student enrolments at independent schools. A further third (33%) of EAL/D students attended one of 19 schools where EAL/D student enrolments ranged from more than 50 students to 150 students. The balance of EAL/D students, 30% of EAL/D students, attended one of 84 schools where EAL/D student enrolments totalled 50 or fewer students.

Table 1: Size of EAL/D Student Enrolments, 2021

EAL/D Enrolment	Schools		Total EAL/D Enrolment	
	No.	%	No.	%
>0-5	24	22%	55	1%
>5-10	12	11%	96	2%
>10-25	24	22%	429	9%
>25-50	24	22%	843	18%
>50-100	16	15%	1,185	25%
>100-150	3	3%	360	8%
>150-300	3	3%	558	12%
>300	2	2%	1,140	24%
Total	108	100%	4,666	100%

Table 2: EAL/D Student Enrolments as a Percentage of Each Schools' Total Enrolment, 2021

EAL/D Proportion of Total School Enrolment	Schools		Total EAL/D Enrolment	
	No.	%	No.	%
0%	119	52%		
>0-2.5%	50	22%	583	12%
>2.5-5%	21	9%	670	14%
>5-10%	19	8%	955	20%
>10-25%	9	4%	1,105	24%
>25-50%	4	2%	245	5%
>50-75%	3	1%	997	21%
>75%-<100%	2	1%	111	2%
Total	227	100%	4,666	100%

Over half of independent schools (52%) did not cater for EAL/D students.

EAL/D students in 2021 represented more than 75% of the schools' total student body in two schools, with another three schools having >50-75% of total enrolments as EAL/D students (refer Table 2). These five schools catered for nearly a quarter of EAL/D students (23%). Another 29% of EAL/D students attended 13 schools where the EAL/D school component represented at least 10% to 50% of the student body.

In nearly 40% of independent schools (90 schools), EAL/D students were enrolled but represented 10% or lower proportions of school enrolments. These 90 schools catered for 46% of all EAL/D students.

Non-Government Sector Representation

Of those EAL/D students enrolled in non-government schools (independent and Catholic schools) in 2021, independent schools catered for 36.9% of EAL/D students with the balance of EAL/D students, 63.1%, attending Catholic schools (refer Figure 4).

In 2020, independent schools catered for 35.3% of EAL/D students attending non-government schools.

Figure 4: EAL/D Students by Non-Government School Sector, 2021

