

## Domestic Boarding Student Enrolments, 2010-2020

### Key Points

In 2020 there were 33 more boarding students attending independent schools than in 2019 (3,424 boarding students compared to 3,391 students in 2019). This equates to 1% growth. This was the first time that growth was recorded since 2015, when Year 7 transferred to secondary. Enrolments in Catholic schools also increased from 2019 to 2020, at a higher rate, 4.6% (+89 students). Much of the growth experienced in both sectors can be attributed to a full year complement being achieved across all year levels in 2020 (i.e. Year 12 numbers in 2019 referred to the cohort impacted by the change to the school commencement age in 2007).

In the last decade domestic students enrolled as boarding students in Queensland non-government schools has decreased by 11% or 648 enrolments; having decreased from 6,091 students in 2010 to 5,443 students in 2020. Reductions were experienced in this timeframe in both independent and Catholic schools. Enrolments decreased by 176 students in Catholic schools (8% reduction), while enrolments in independent schools reduced by 472 students (12% reduction).

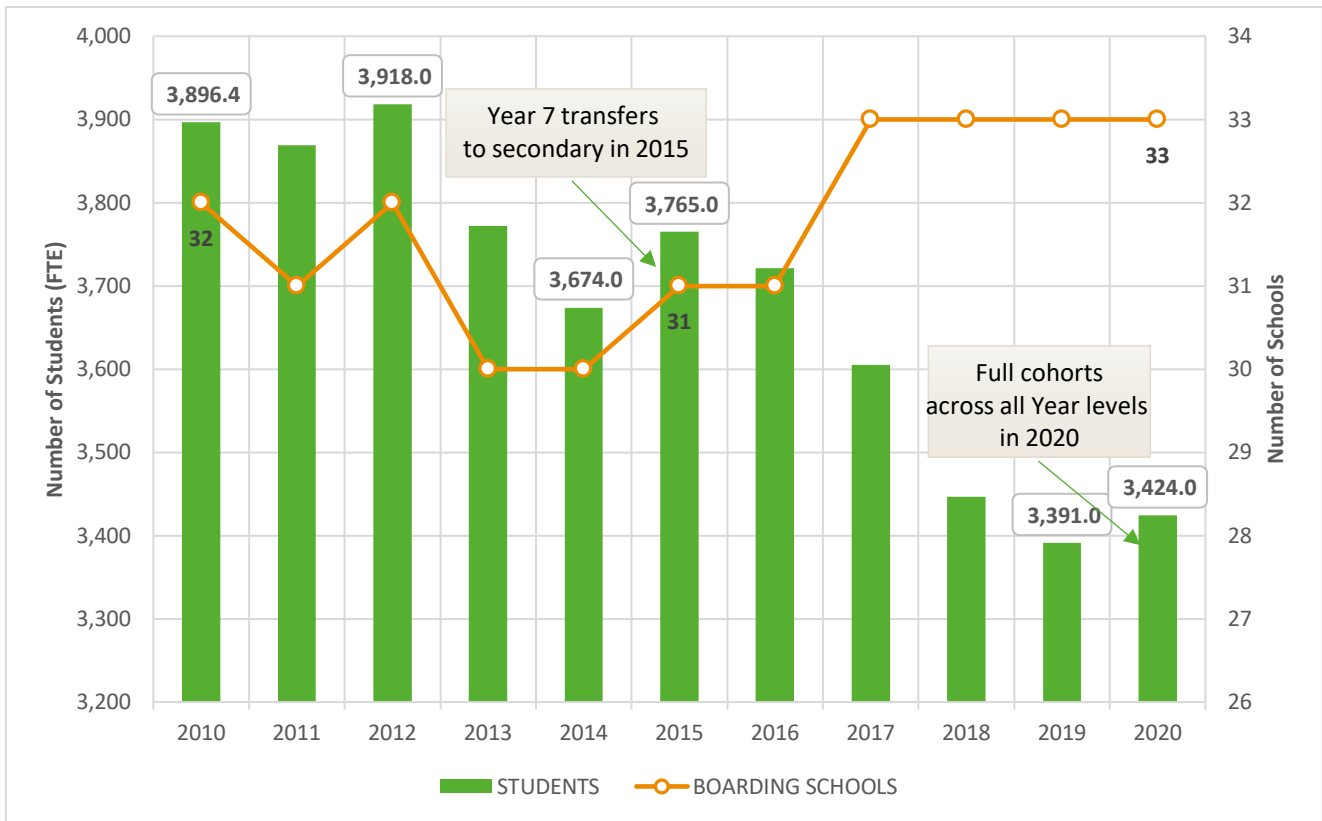
While growth occurred in enrolments from 2019 to 2020, boarding student enrolments increased in both coeducational and female only schools but decreased in male only boarding schools. This contrasts with an overarching pattern of decline in coeducational boarding student enrolments, and to a lesser degree in female only boarding student enrolments, and modest growth in male only boarding student enrolments over the last decade.

### Enrolments

In 2020 the independent school sector catered for 3,424.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) boarding student enrolments, an increase of 33 FTE boarders from 3,391 boarding student enrolments in 2019. This represents a 1.0% increase in enrolments in the past year (refer Figure 1 and Table 1). It is the first time since 2015 that boarding student enrolments have increased. The 2015 growth corresponded to the transfer of Year 7 to secondary, while growth in 2020 corresponded to full year level cohorts being achieved across all year levels in Queensland schools for the first time since the 2007 change to the school starting age.

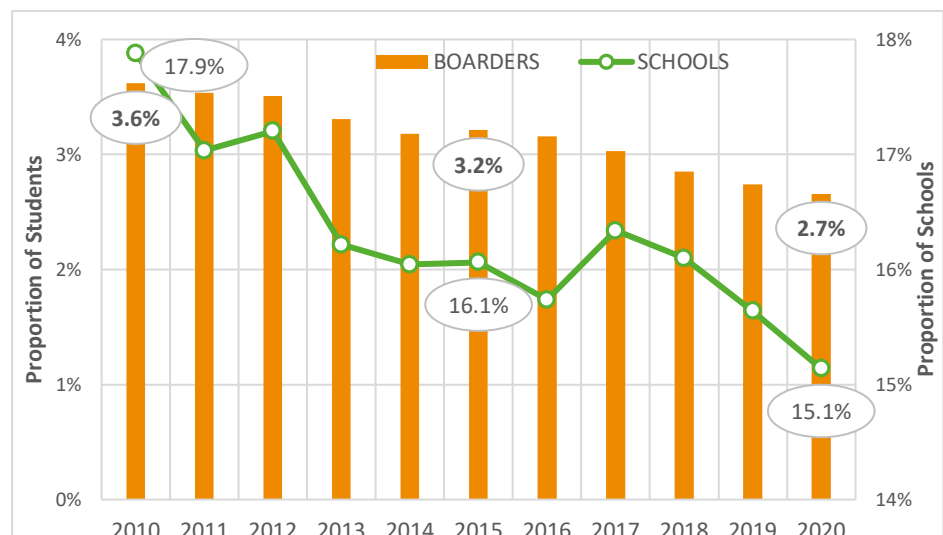
Boarding students in 2020 were catered for by 33 independent schools, the same number of boarding schools that enrolled domestic boarders in the previous three years. In preceding years, from 2010 to 2016 the number of independent schools catering for boarding students ranged from 30 to 32, in a period where, while boarding enrolments were decreasing, they were higher than evidenced in recent years (refer Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Boarding Student Enrolments & Number of Schools Attended, 2010-2020**



**Figure 2: Boarding Student and Boarding School Share of Independent School Enrolments and Schools, 2010-2020**

In 2020 domestic boarding student enrolments represented 2.7% of all FTE enrolments at independent schools, the same proportion as in 2019 (refer Figure 2). Five years earlier, in 2015, boarding student enrolments represented 3.2% of all FTE enrolments at independent schools, while in 2010 boarding student enrolments represented 3.6% of FTE enrolments.



Similarly, over the last ten years the proportion of independent schools that have enrolled boarding schools has reduced. In 2010 nearly 18% of independent schools enrolled boarding students. This decreased to just over 15% of independent schools in 2020 enrolling boarding students.

## Year Level Structure

Most boarding students are enrolled in secondary year levels, with 98.7% of boarding students in 2020 (3,379 boarders) enrolled in secondary years (refer Table 1 below).

Only 45 students were enrolled as boarders in primary year levels, with 38 of these 45 students enrolled in Year 6 (representing 84% of primary boarders). Ten years earlier, in 2010, Year 6 enrolments were in the order of 53 students and have subsequently reduced slightly over time, within a context of modest fluctuations.

In 2020 there were 428 boarding students enrolled in Year 7, a decrease from 459 Year 7 boarding students enrolled in 2019. Highest enrolment levels were in Year 11 with 680 boarding students followed by 636 Year 10 boarding students and 602 boarding students in Year 12 (refer Table 1). Year 12 boarding students in 2020 were significantly higher than in 2019, when the Year 12 cohort reflected the smaller 2007 Prep cohort.

**Table 1: Independent Boarding Students by Grade, 2010-2020**

Year	Prep	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Ung.	Total	Primary	Secondary
2010	0	1	0	2	10	11	53	182	611	695	765	818	741	7	<b>3,896</b>	259	3,630
2011	0	0	0	0	5	10	42	194	621	636	785	804	772	0	<b>3,869</b>	251	3,618
2012	0	0	0	1	4	10	43	229	587	684	763	824	773	0	<b>3,918</b>	287	3,631
2013	0	0	0	0	2	14	42	195	595	617	758	785	714	0	<b>3,722</b>	253	3,469
2014	0	0	1	0	3	12	47	166	526	635	715	853	716	0	<b>3,674</b>	229	3,445
2015	0	0	0	1	3	14	49	443	392	577	708	796	782	0	<b>3,765</b>	67	3,698
2016	0	0	0	0	5	8	40	419	545	480	679	782	762	1	<b>3,721</b>	53	3,668
2017	0	0	0	2	4	7	42	457	481	570	560	745	737	0	<b>3,605</b>	55	3,550
2018	0	0	0	1	2	6	46	433	515	538	632	596	678	0	<b>3,447</b>	55	3,392
2019	0	0	1	0	1	6	32	459	458	577	631	671	555	0	<b>3,391</b>	40	3,351
2020	0	0	0	1	1	5	38	428	505	528	636	680	602	0	<b>3,424</b>	45	3,379

## Trends in Progression

Progression identifies the extent of movement of students into and out of individual year levels. They reflect a comparison of the number of students in one year level to the number of students that were in the year level that was one year level lower in the preceding year (e.g. a comparison of Year 8 in 2020 to the number of students in Year 7 in 2019). In the case of boarding students these progression levels provide an indication of the size of the market that exists for independent schools annually.

Since Year 7 became the first year of secondary in 2015, highest progression of students into boarding occurs from Year 6 to Year 7. In 2020 there were 396 more boarding students in Year 7 than had been enrolled in boarding in Year 6 in the previous year (refer Table 2).

**Table 2: Boarding Students, Apparent Progression by Year Level, 2010-11 to 2019-20**

Period	Apparent Progression (Number)												Apparent Progression Rate (%)	
	P-Y1	Y1-2	Y2-3	Y3-4	Y4-5	Y5-6	Y6-7	Y7-8	Y8-9	Y9-10	Y10-11	Y11-12	Y10-11	Y11-12
2010-11	0	-1	0	3	0	31	141	439	25	90	39	-46	105%	94%
2011-12	0	0	1	4	5	33	187	393	63	127	39	-31	105%	96%
2012-13	0	0	0	1	10	32	152	366	30	74	22	-110	103%	87%
2013-14	0	1	0	3	10	33	124	331	40	98	95	-69	113%	91%
2014-15	0	0	0	3	11	37	396	226	51	73	81	-71	111%	92%
2015-16	0	0	0	4	5	26	370	102	88	102	74	-34	110%	96%
2016-17	0	0	2	4	2	34	417	62	25	80	66	-45	110%	94%
2017-18	0	0	1	0	2	39	391	58	57	62	36	-67	106%	91%
2018-19	0	1	0	0	4	26	413	25	62	93	39	-41	106%	93%
2019-20	0	0	0	1	4	32	396	46	70	59	49	-69	108%	90%

In the past year, from 2019 to 2020, an additional 46 Year 8 students were gained. This is nearly double the number of students that entered Year 8 in the preceding period from 2018 to 2019 but is the second lowest number of students that entered Year 8 since the 2015-2016 period when Year 8 became the second year of secondary.

The number of students entering Year 9 as boarders has increased for the past three years with 70 more students in Year 9 in 2020 than were in Year 8 in 2019 (refer Table 2). This net gain was slightly higher than the net gain of 62 student into Year 9 in 2019, which was slightly higher than the net gain of 57 Year 9 students in 2018. This compares to only an additional 25 students entering Year 9 in 2017.

In 2020 there were 59 more students in Year 10 than were in Year 9 in 2019 (refer Table 2). This is the lowest number of Year 10 entering boarding schools in the last ten years, with the second lowest number of Year 10 students entering boarding schools in 2018, with 62 more boarders were in Year 10 than were in Year 9 in 2019. The highest number of Year 10 boarding students entered boarding schools in 2012, with 127 more boarders in Year 10 in 2012 than were in Year 9 in 2011.

In the past year the Year 10-11 progression rate was in the order of 108%, reflecting 49 more students attending boarding schools in 2020 than there were Year 10 students in 2019 (refer Table 2). This was slightly higher than rates of 106% evidenced in the previous two years, from 2018 to 2019 and from 2017 to 2018. These rates are all significantly lower than the 10-11% net gains in the previous three years, but akin to levels evidenced from 2010 to 2011, from 2011 to 2012 and from 2012 to 2013.

Year 11 to Year 12 progression is the only transition where boarding students are lost from boarding schools, indicated by progression rates of less than 100%. From 2019 to 2020, 90% of Year 11 students progressed to Year 12, representing a net loss of 69 boarding students. This progression rate is the second lowest progression rate that has occurred from Year 11 to Year 12 in the last ten years. In that period the lowest progression from Year 11 to Year 12 occurred from 2012 to 2013, when only 87% of Year 11 students progressed to Year 12. The highest progression rate from Year 11-12 occurred in 2016 and 2012, when Year 12 represented 96% of the previous year's Year 11 students.

## Size of Boarding Schools

Of the 33 schools catering for boarding students in 2020, three schools catered for more than 250 boarding students and a further four schools catered for more than 150 to 250 boarding students (refer Table 3). These seven schools catered for 45.0% of boarding student enrolments at independent schools. A further 48.2% of boarding students attended 17 schools where total boarding student enrolment ranged from more than 50 students to 150 students. The balance of boarding students, 5.1% attended nine schools where boarding student enrolments totalled 50 or fewer students.

**Table 4: Boarding Student Enrolments as a Percentage of Each Schools' Total Enrolment, 2020**

Boarders as Percentage of Total Enrolment	Number of Schools	Percentage of Boarding Students
>0%-2.5%	4	1.7%
>2.5%-5%	1	1.8%
>5%-10%	12	26.8%
>10%-20	7	30.1%
>20%	9	39.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3: Size of Boarding Student Enrolments, 2020**

Boarding Enrolment Range	Number of Schools	Percentage of Boarding Schools	Percentage of Boarding Students
>0-10	3	9.1%	0.7%
>10-25	3	9.1%	1.8%
>25-50	3	9.1%	3.3%
>50-100	10	30.3%	22.9%
>100-150	7	21.2%	25.3%
>150-250	4	12.1%	20.4%
>250	3	9.1%	25.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The majority of boarding students attend schools where boarding students represent more than 10% of the school's total enrolment (96.5% of boarding students; 28 schools).

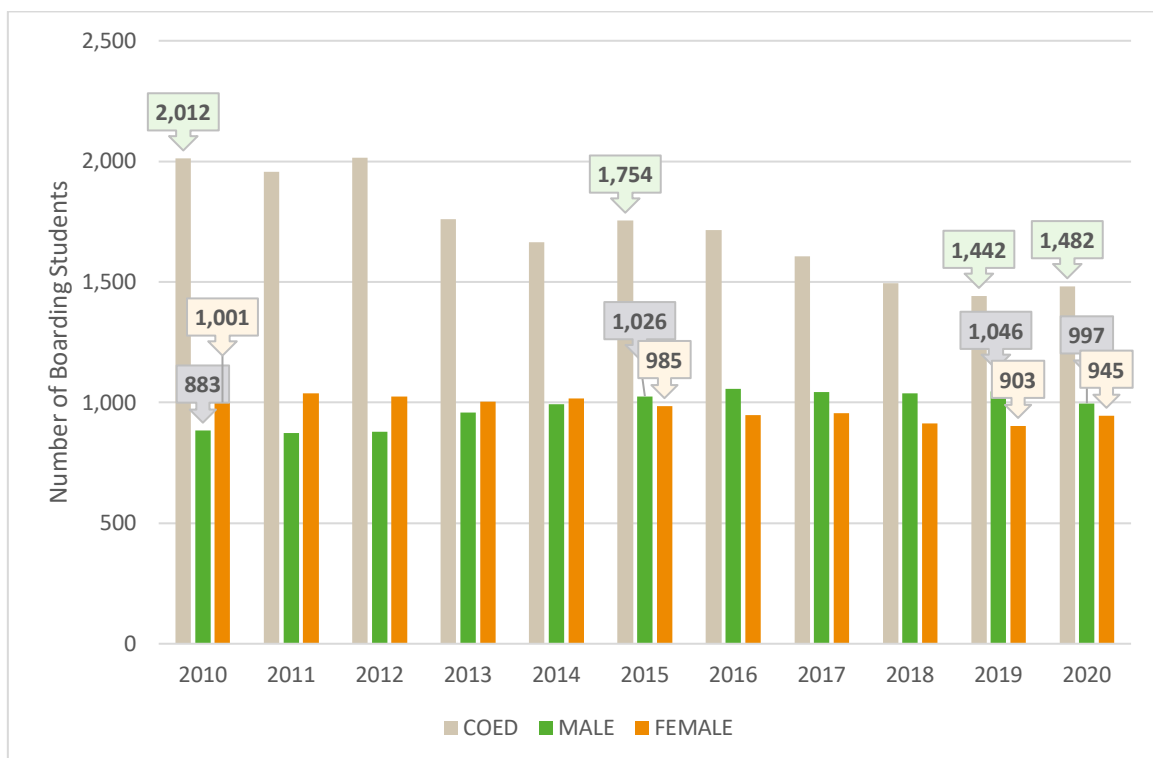
Boarding students in 2020 represented more than 20% of the schools' total student body in nine schools, with another seven schools having >10-20% of total enrolments as boarding students (refer Table 4). Approximately 40% of boarding students attended schools where the boarding school component represented more than 20% of the student body. Another 30% of boarders attended schools where the boarding school component represented >10-20% of the student body.

## Gender

Most boarding students attend schools offering coeducational schooling. In 2020 six schools catering for only male boarders, nine schools catered for only female boarders and 18 schools were co-educational. This distribution of boarding school types has been relatively unchanged over the last ten years, in 2010 there were eight female only schools, six male only schools and 17 coeducational boarding schools.

As indicated by a comparison between Figure 1 on page 2 and Figure 3 below, the majority of the decline in boarding school students in independent schools over the 2010 to 2020 period has occurred at coeducational boarding schools. While overall boarding student numbers decreased by 12% in the ten year period, with a decline of 472 boarding students, coeducational boarding student enrolments decreased by 26% (-530 students). Girls' only boarding student numbers also decreased, however by only 6% over the timeframe (-56 students). In contrast, enrolments in male only boarding student enrolments increased by 13% (+114 students), offsetting some of the decline in other boarding school enrolments.

**Figure 3: Boarding Student Enrolments by Gender, 2010-2020**



It is of interest to note that in the past year, from 2019 to 2020, the overarching pattern of decline in coeducational schools and female only boarding schools and growth in male only boarding school enrolments reversed. Boarding student enrolments in coeducational schools increased by 40 students, while boarding enrolments in girls only schools increased by 42 students. In contrast, boarding student enrolments in male only boarding schools decreased by 49 students. Much of the growth in coeducational schools can be attributed to a full Year 12 cohort being gained in Year 12

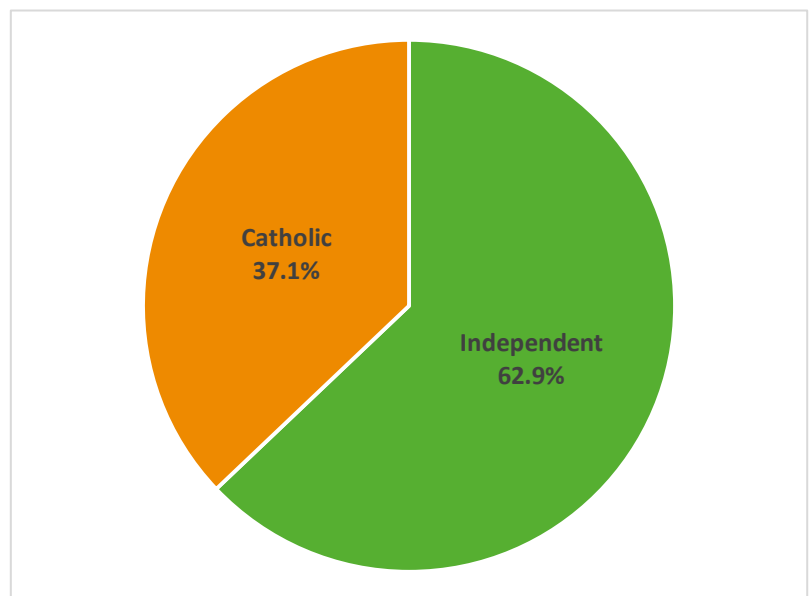
in 2020, with Year 12 in 2019 reflecting the smaller 2007 Prep cohort (when the age of school commencement changed). In 2020 the number of Year 12 students were 32 more than had been enrolled in Year 12 in 2019 (80% of net growth from 2019-2020). Female only boarding was also impacted by the full cohort in Year 12, albeit to a lesser degree with Year 12 enrolments increasing by 14 students (accounting for 33% of net growth from 2019 to 2020). In the case of male only boarding, with enrolments decreasing from 2019 to 2020, Year 12 numbers were largely unaltered between 2019 to 2020 (+1 student).

## Non-Government Sector Comparison

Independent schools continue to be the main provider of schooling for boarding students in Queensland. In 2019 independent schools catered for 62.9% of boarding students. The balance of boarders (37.1%) attended Catholic schools (refer Figure 4).

In the previous year, 2019, independent school market share was higher, with 63.7% of boarding students attending non-government schools enrolled in independent schools. In the last decade independent school market share has ranged from 63% in both 2013 and 2019 to a peak of 65% from 2014 through to 2016.

**Figure 4: Distribution of Non-Government School Boarding Students by Sector, 2020**



As occurred in the independent sector, enrolments in Catholic boarding schools increased in the past year. In 2020 there were 2,019 boarding students attending Catholic schools, 89 more than in 2019 when 1,930 students were enrolled (refer Figure 5). This compares to the independent sector gaining only 33 students in the same period. As such, Catholic schools catered for 73% of the net growth of 122 boarding students in Queensland non-government schools from 2019 to 2020, albeit that Catholic schools cater for only 37% of non-government boarding students. It is worth noting however that much of the net growth in Catholic school enrolments was associated with Year 12 being a full cohort in 2020, with growth in Year 12 enrolments from 2019 to 2020 representing 92% of net growth in Catholic school boarding enrolments.



**Figure 5: Boarding Students by Sector, 2010-2020**

