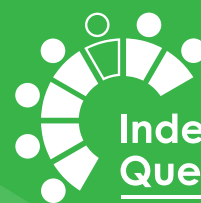


INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN QLD SNAPSHOT

2025 EDITION



Independent Schools
Queensland

choice & diversity

LATEST AVAILABLE FACTS AND FIGURES

The Queensland Independent school sector is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This snapshot provides an overview of the key characteristics of Independent schools, the students, the teaching and non-teaching staff, and how these schools are funded.

The Independent school figures in this snapshot include independent Catholic schools, except where otherwise indicated.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- ✓ Choice for parents
- ✓ Strong community links
- ✓ Diversity of school type, size and focus
- ✓ Autonomous governance arrangements
- ✓ Comprehensive accountability

SCHOOL METRICS

In 2024, there were 234 Independent schools in QLD, including 33 boarding schools.



234

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



154,266

TOTAL STUDENTS

TYPES OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

64% (149)

COMBINED

14% (33)

PRIMARY

9% (20)

SECONDARY

14% (32)

SPECIAL/SPECIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOOLS



LOCATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

61.5%

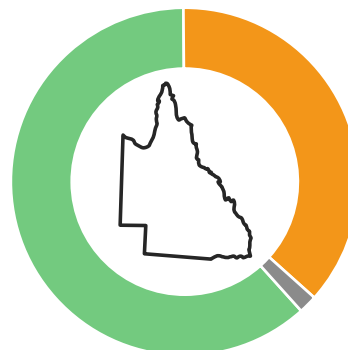
MAJOR CITIES

36.8%

REGIONAL

1.7%

REMOTE



STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth in Independent schools has been increasing.
In 2024, enrolments in QLD Independent schools grew at a rate of 4.8%, higher than government (-0.4%) and Catholic (+1.5%) schools.



QLD ENROLMENTS BY SCHOOL SECTOR AND LEVEL (%) 2024

| | GOVERNMENT | CATHOLIC | INDEPENDENT |
|------------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| SECONDARY SCHOOL | 58.8 | 19.6 | 21.6 |
| PRIMARY SCHOOL | 68.7 | 17.4 | 14.0 |
| TOTAL ENROLMENTS | 64.1 | 18.4 | 17.5 |

QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2024:



7,266
ABORIGINAL and
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER
STUDENTS



1,498
OVERSEAS
STUDENTS



3,831
BOARDING
STUDENTS



31,000
STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITY
(ESTIMATED)

QLD ENROLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME BY SCHOOL SECTOR (%)

| | GOVERNMENT | CATHOLIC | INDEPENDENT |
|------|------------|----------|-------------|
| 2000 | 71.5 | 16.1 | 12.4 |
| 2005 | 69.7 | 16.2 | 14.1 |
| 2010 | 67.1 | 18.1 | 14.8 |
| 2015 | 66.7 | 18.5 | 14.8 |
| 2020 | 66.9 | 17.9 | 15.2 |
| 2024 | 64.1 | 18.4 | 17.5 |

Shown as percentage of total enrolments.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ENROLMENTS BY QLD SCHOOL SECTOR 2000-2024

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| INDEPENDENT | 78,817 |
| CATHOLIC | 65,229 |
| GOVERNMENT | 134,487 |

ENROLMENTS BY GENDER AND LEVEL QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2024

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|
| PRIMARY | 33,207 | 33,484 | 66,691 |
| SECONDARY | 43,287 | 44,288 | 87,575 |
| TOTAL | 76,494 | 77,772 | 154,266 |

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (EST.) QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS* 2024

| | |
|--|--------|
| SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE | 8,300 |
| SUPPLEMENTARY | 15,200 |
| SUBSTANTIAL | 6,500 |
| EXTENSIVE | 1,000 |

* More information on the levels of adjustment for students with disability is available at www.nccd.edu.au

SCHOOL FUNDING

Parents and communities contributed over 43% of all QLD Independent school funding (recurrent and capital combined).



FAMILIES CONTRIBUTED
\$1.6 BILLION
(RECURRENT AND CAPITAL)
TO QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2023



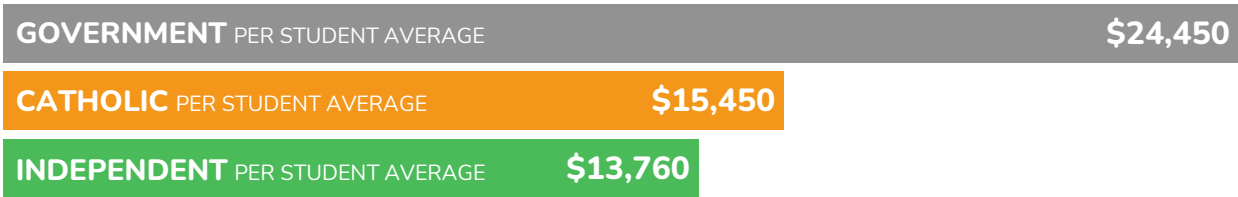
AN ESTIMATED SAVING OF
\$1.5 BILLION
TO GOVERNMENTS



MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE
FOR QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN 2023
\$5,764

Each QLD Independent school student received **\$10,000 less government funding** (on average) compared to students in government schools

AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER QLD STUDENT FY 2022-23



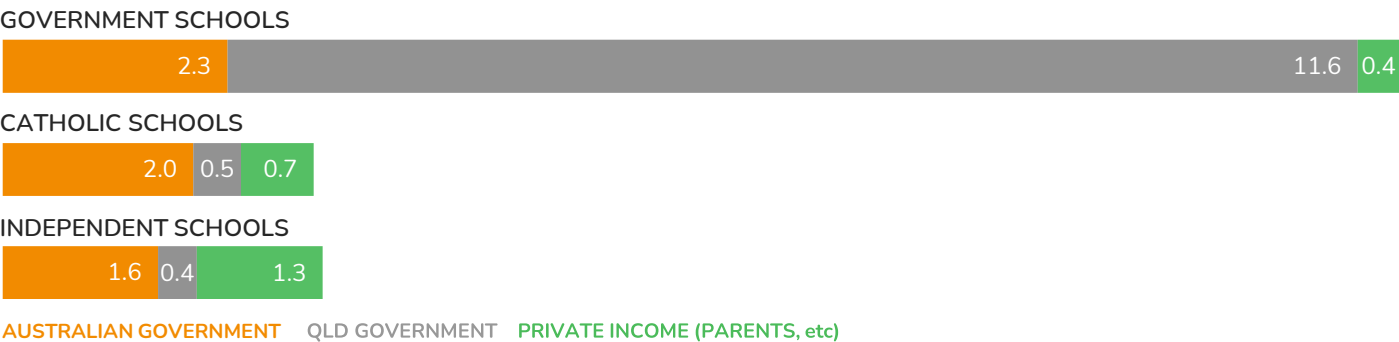
The Australian Government is the primary funding source for non-government schools, with the QLD Government the primary source for government schools. The Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) is a needs-based funding model that includes base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage.

Base funding for Independent schools is adjusted according to families' estimated capacity to contribute (CTC), assessed on parental income tax data. Schools with a higher CTC score receive less per student base funding, and schools with a lower CTC receive more.

Example of funding for two
QLD Independent schools:



RECURRENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION IN QLD \$BILLION FY 2022-23



CAPITAL FUNDING

Parents and communities of Independent schools contribute the vast majority of capital investment – through fees, fundraising and voluntary contributions.

SOURCES OF CAPITAL FUNDING QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2023



PRIVATE SOURCES (parents and donors)

\$278 MILLION (85%)

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

QLD GOVERNMENT

\$42 MILLION (13%)

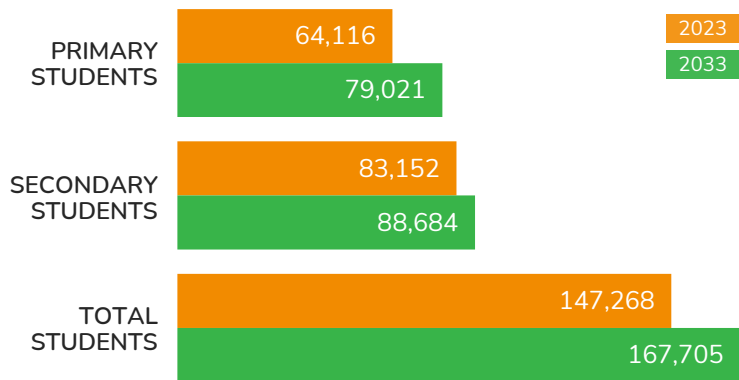
The QLD Government assistance for capital funding is limited.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM

\$7 MILLION (2%)

Australian Government grants are distributed to Independent schools on a needs-basis through Block Grant Authorities, with priority given to disadvantaged school communities with the least capacity to raise funds.

PROJECTED ENROLMENT GROWTH IN QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2023-2033

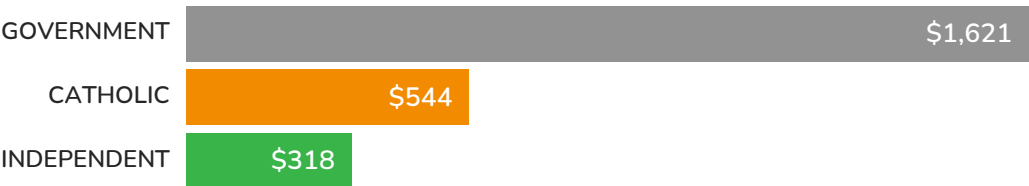


40 NEW SCHOOLS
will need to be built in
QLD by 2033

(Based on average Independent school size)

In 2023, total government capital expenditure per student for government schools was over **5 times more** than in Independent schools in QLD

TOTAL GOVERNMENT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PER QLD STUDENT COMPARISON 2023



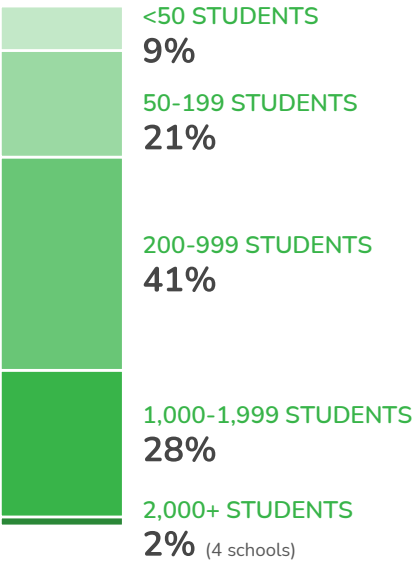
SCHOOL PROFILE

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

AFFILIATIONS OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2024

| AFFILIATION | NUMBER of SCHOOLS | STUDENTS FTE | STUDENTS % |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| CHRISTIAN | 41 | 30,858 | 20.0% |
| ANGLICAN | 23 | 28,873 | 18.7% |
| NON-DENOMINATIONAL | 42 | 24,190 | 15.7% |
| LUTHERAN | 26 | 21,142 | 13.7% |
| ASSEMBLIES OF GOD | 10 | 7,011 | 4.5% |
| UNITING CHURCH | 7 | 6,308 | 4.1% |
| INTER-DENOMINATIONAL | 6 | 5,944 | 3.9% |
| BAPTIST | 7 | 4,218 | 2.7% |
| SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST | 10 | 3,114 | 2.0% |
| BRETHREN | 3 | 2,995 | 1.9% |
| STEINER | 6 | 1,226 | 0.8% |
| MONTESSORI SCHOOL | 4 | 737 | 0.5% |
| OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION | 10 | 8,537 | 5.5% |
| OTHER | 39 | 9,114 | 5.9% |

SIZE OF QLD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



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.

About 20% of QLD Independent schools operate within an approved system authority. These include the Anglican, Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist systems.

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

SCHOOL TEACHERS

Independent schools employ more almost 18% of all teachers in QLD schools. The ratio of student to teacher in Independent schools is the lowest of the school sectors.



11,866

NUMBER OF TEACHERS
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT
IN 2024



13,065

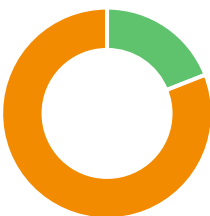
NUMBER OF TEACHERS
HEADCOUNT IN 2024



25,088

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND
NON-TEACHING STAFF
HEADCOUNT IN 2024

TEACHERS IN THE QLD INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL 2024



PRIMARY TEACHERS

19.0% (835)
MALE

81.0% (3,549)
FEMALE



SECONDARY TEACHERS

41.1% (3,072)
MALE

58.9% (4,410)
FEMALE

QLD STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS BY SCHOOL LEVEL 2005-2024

| | PRIMARY SCHOOLS | | | SECONDARY SCHOOLS | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | GOVERNMENT | CATHOLIC* | INDEPENDENT | GOVERNMENT | CATHOLIC* | INDEPENDENT |
| 2005 | 15.5 | 17.1 | 15.1 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 11.9 |
| 2010 | 15.4 | 18.1 | 16.7 | 12.6 | 12.9 | 11.9 |
| 2015 | 14.8 | 17.2 | 15.5 | 12.7 | 12.8 | 12.1 |
| 2020 | 14.3 | 16.3 | 15.5 | 12.1 | 12.3 | 11.9 |
| 2024 | 14.1 | 16.1 | 15.1 | 11.8 | 12.3 | 11.6 |

QLD STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE) 2024



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
12.9 to 1



GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
13.0 to 1



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS*
14.0 to 1

* Independent Catholic schools are included with Catholic schools.

SOURCES

Figures in this 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 2022–23, or for the calendar year 2023. Unless otherwise specified, student enrolment figures are full-time equivalent.

Produced by Independent Schools Australia.

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