

Independent School Boarding Student Enrolments, 2020

In the five-year period from 2015 to 2020 boarding student enrolments in Queensland independent schools decreased by 408.4 FTE students, an average decline of 2.1% per annum.

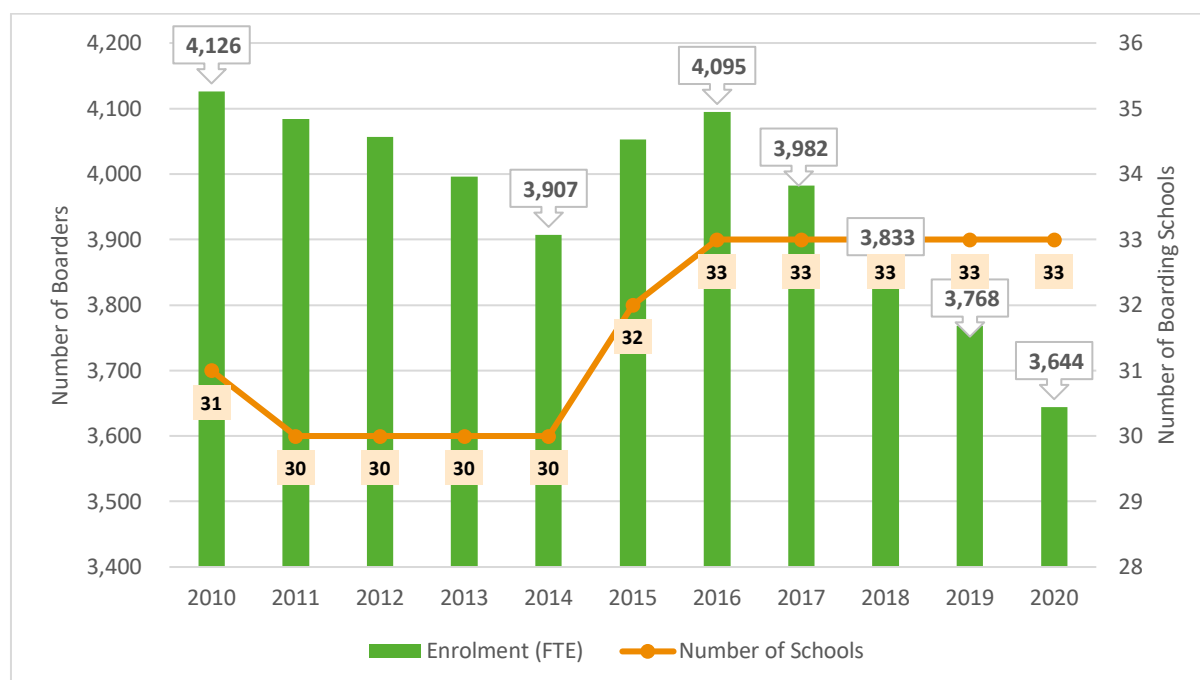
In the past year, from 2019 to 2020, boarding student enrolments at independent schools continued to decrease, with boarding student enrolments decreasing by 124 students from 3,768 students in 2019 to 3,644 students in 2020. This is the fourth consecutive year of enrolment decline.

Enrolments

Boarding student enrolments in Queensland independent schools reduced for the fourth consecutive year, following a period of growth from 2014 to 2016 (refer Figure 1). In 2020 there were 3,644 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) boarding enrolments, 124 FTE fewer enrolments than in 2019.

The reduction in enrolments from 2019 to 2020 reflects a 3.3% reduction in boarding student enrolments from 2019 when there were 3,768 FTE boarding student enrolled and compares to a reduction of 1.7% that occurred in the previous year from 2018 to 2019.

Figure 1: Boarding Student Enrolments and Number of Providers – Queensland Independent Schools, 2010-20



Number of Schools

The number of independent schools remained unchanged, with 33 schools offering boarding each year from 2016 (refer Figure 1).

In 2010 there were 31 independent schools that enrolled boarding students. Twenty-nine schools have consistently catered for boarding students throughout the 2010 to 2020 period, while four schools commenced offering boarding during this period and two schools ceased offering boarding.

Boarding Students in Independent Schools

In 2020 there were 53 primary students enrolled as boarders in independent schools, similar to the number of primary boarding students in 2019 and approximately 20 fewer than primary boarding student enrolments from 2016 to 2018.

Secondary enrolments decreased in the past year by 127 enrolments decreasing from 3,718 students in 2019 to 3,591 students in 2020, a 3.4% reduction. This was the lowest number of secondary boarding student enrolments within the past six years from 2015 to 2020 (refer Table 1). In the previous year, from 2018 to 2019, secondary enrolments declined by 45 secondary students.

Table 1: Boarding Student Enrolment History, 2015-20

Year	PREP	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	P-12	Primary	Secondary
2015	-	-	-	2	3	19	59	454	424	627	778	861	825	4,052.4	83.0	3,969.4
2016	-	-	1	2	5	12	47	431	571	559	789	872	806	4,094.6	67.0	4,027.6
2017	-	-	1	2	4	12	50	486	515	620	647	841	804	3,982.1	69.0	3,913.1
2018	-	1	-	-	5	10	54	442	542	596	744	687	752	3,833.2	70.0	3,763.2
2019	-	-	1	-	1	9	39	469	506	611	746	765	621	3,768.0	50.0	3,718.0
2020	-	-	-	1	1	6	45	428	506	579	692	729	657	3,644.0	53.0	3,591.0

Higher numbers of boarding students tend to be in the senior years of secondary (Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12) (refer Table 1). In 2020, the highest boarding enrolment was in Year 11 (729 students), the second highest number of boarding students was in Year 10 (692 students), while Year 12 enrolled the third highest number of students (657 boarders).

Apparent Progression

Trends in boarding student numbers are strongly influenced by intakes into the first year of secondary, as well as immigration into other secondary levels.

Intakes into the first year of secondary, Year 7 from 2015, have decreased slightly over the five-year period within a context of fluctuation. In 2015 there were 454 Year 7 boarding students, decreasing to 428 Year 7 students in 2020. In the interim period from 2016 to 2019, Year 7 intakes have ranged from a low of 431 students in 2016 to a high of 486 students in 2017 (refer Table 1 above).

While boarding intakes into the first year of secondary have fluctuated each year, boarding students tend to enter not just Year 7 but other year levels as well. For example, in 2016 there was a net gain of 867 boarding students. This

reflects the number of boarders enrolled in Year 1 to Year 12 in 2016 being 867 more than the number of boarders in Prep to Year 11 in 2015 (who became the Year 1 to Year 12 cohort in 2016). This is the highest net gain of boarding students in the five-year timeframe from 2015 to 2020. In subsequent periods through to 2018-2019 in-migration ranged from +655 students to +693 students. In the past year however net gain of students into Years 1 to 12 reduced significantly, with a net gain of 497 new boarding students entering boarding schools between 2019 and 2020. It is considered possible that this reduction may reflect, at least in part, the impact of the pandemic on overseas and domestic student enrolments.

Table 2: Apparent Progression, 2015-16 to 2019-20

Period	ENROLMENT CHANGE												PROGRESSION RATES						NET GAIN
	P-Y1	Y1-2	Y2-3	Y3-4	Y4-5	Y5-6	Y6-7	Y7-8	Y8-9	Y9-10	Y10-11	Y11-12	Y6-7	Y7-8	Y8-9	Y9-10	Y10-11	Y11-12	
2015-16	0	1	2	3	9	28	372	117	135	162	94	-56	731%	126%	132%	126%	112%	94%	867
2016-17	0	1	1	2	7	38	439	84	49	88	52	-68	1034%	119%	109%	116%	107%	92%	693
2017-18	1	0	-1	3	6	42	392	56	81	124	40	-89	884%	112%	116%	120%	106%	89%	655
2018-19	0	0	0	1	4	29	415	64	69	150	21	-66	869%	114%	113%	125%	103%	90%	687
2019-20	0	0	0	1	5	36	389	37	73	81	-17	-108	1097%	108%	114%	113%	98%	86%	497

The highest component of the net gain in boarders annually is comprised of students entering Year 7 as boarders. The next year level that historically experiences the second highest level of in-migration is Year 10. In most years since 2016, more than 100 Year 10 students have entered schools as boarders. The exception was from 2016 to 2017 when the number reduced considerably, falling to only 88 students, approximately half the number of Year 10 students that entered schools in 2016 (refer Table 2). This was, however, the 2007 prep cohort year, which may explain the reduction. In 2020 in-migration decreased, with a net gain of 81 students entering Year 10, the second lowest level over the previous five-year period, reflecting an apparent progression rate of 113% from Year 9-10.

There has also been a consistent and significant reduction in the number of students entering Year 11 as boarders. In 2020 the number of Year 11 boarders was 17 fewer than the number of Year 10 students in 2019 (98% apparent progression). This compares to 2018-2019 when the number of Year 11 boarders was 21 more than the number of Year 10 students in 2015. The reduction in students from Year 10-11 from 2019-2020 was the first time in recent years where there has been a net loss of students from Year 10 to Year 11.

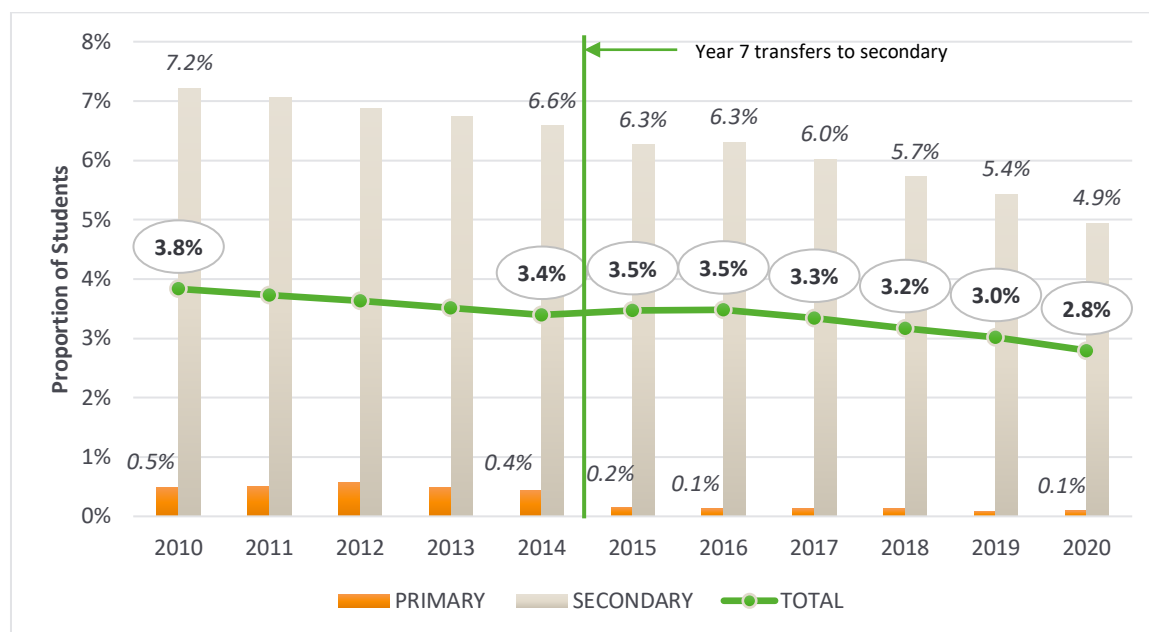
In 2020 there were 108 fewer boarding students in Year 12 than there had been in Year 11 in 2019. This reflects an 86% apparent progression rate, the lowest apparent progression rate in recent years (refer Table 2).

Share of Independent School Enrolments

Boarding student enrolments represented 2.8% of all enrolments in independent schools in Queensland in 2020 (refer Figure 2). Most boarding school students are secondary students, with 98.5% of boarding students in 2020 being enrolled in secondary. In terms of secondary enrolments, secondary boarding student enrolments represent 4.9% of all secondary students attending independent schools. Primary students attending independent schools as boarders represented only 0.1% of all primary students enrolled at independent schools in 2020.

Over time the proportion of students attending independent schools as boarding students has decreased significantly. In 2010 boarders accounted for 3.8% of all students (7.2% of secondary enrolments and 0.5% of primary student enrolments). Ten years later, in 2020 boarders accounted for 2.8% of all students (4.9% of secondary enrolments and 0.1% of primary student enrolments).

Figure 2: Boarding Student Enrolments as Proportion of Independent School Enrolments, 2010-20



With the transition of Year 7 to secondary enrolments in 2015, which was the highest cohort in primary boarding student numbers, the proportion of primary boarding student enrolments of all primary students reduced significantly; from 0.4% in 2014 to 0.2% in 2015. However, in the past five years primary enrolments, from 2016, the proportion of all primary students represented by primary boarding student enrolments has remained relatively stable at 0.1%.

Change in Boarding Student Enrolments

While boarding student enrolments in Queensland independent schools decreased by 381 FTE students from 2015 to 2020, enrolment decline was not experienced across all boarding schools.

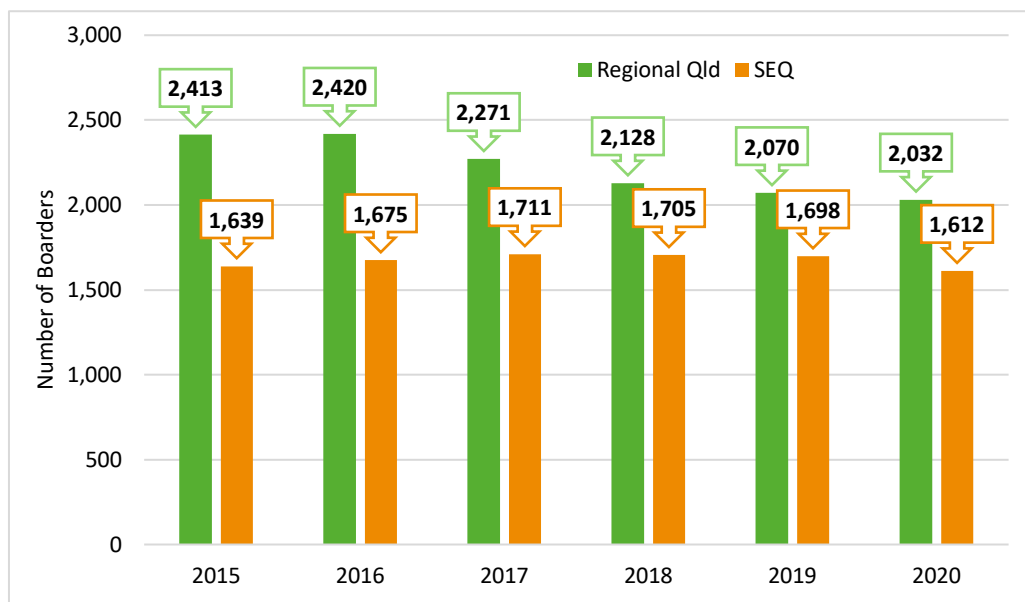
Boarding Student Enrolments by Area

Eighteen of the 33 boarding schools in 2020 were located in regional Queensland, with the balance of 15 boarding schools located in South-east Queensland.

From 2015 to 2020 boarding student enrolments at schools in South-east Queensland decreased by only 27 students. In the interim period growth occurred from 2015 to 2017, while boarding student enrolments remained relatively stable from 2017 to 2019 (refer Figure 3 below). Boarding student enrolments however decreased by 86 students from 2019 to 2020 (-5.1% reduction).

Within boarding schools located in regional Queensland boarding student enrolments decreased by 408 students from 2015 to 2020. Consistent decline in boarding student enrolments has occurred from 2016 (refer Figure 3).

Figure 3: Boarding Student Enrolments, South-east Queensland and Regional Areas, 2015-20

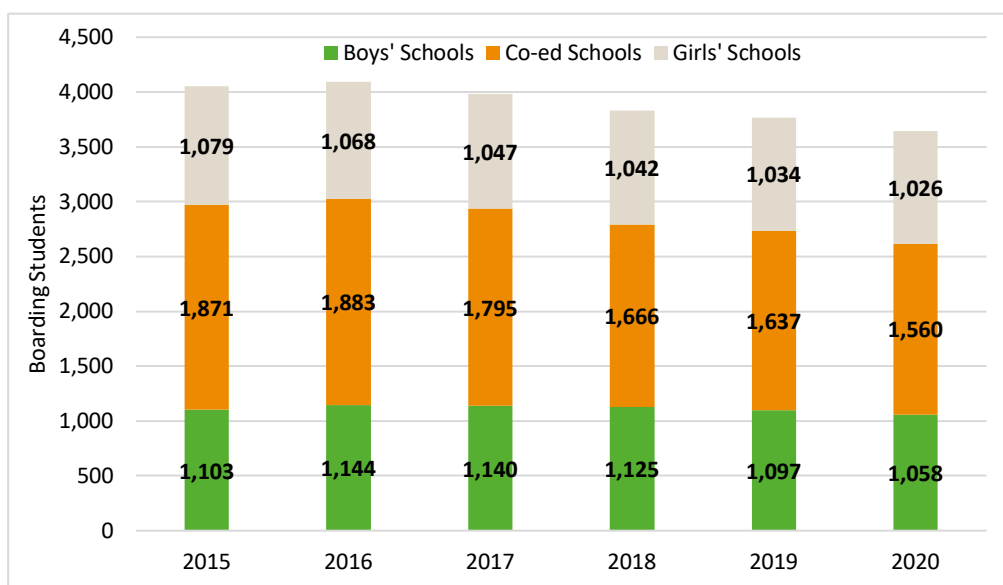


In the past year, from 2019 to 2020, while boarding student enrolments in Queensland independent schools decreased by 124 students, most of this decline was experienced in South-east Queensland schools (-86 students) compared to enrolments decreasing in regional Queensland schools by 38 students.

Enrolments by Boarding School Gender

Figure 4: Boarding Student Enrolments, Boarding Schools by Gender, 2015-2020

Over the 2015 to 2020 period, enrolments at co-educational boarding schools, girls' only boarding schools and boys' only boarding schools decreased. Greatest numerical decline occurred in co-educational schools (311 student decline or 16.6% decline) followed by girls' only schools (53 student decline or 4.9%) and boys' only schools (45 student decline or 4.1% decline) (refer Figure 4).



Boys' only boarding school enrolments however increased from 2015 to 2016, before reducing consistently from that year, while girls' only boarding student enrolments have reduced consistently since 2015 albeit decline in recent years has been modest at girls' only schools. A similar pattern of growth from 2015 to 2016 is seen in boarding student enrolments at co-educational schools, with modest growth from 2015 to 2016 before consistent decline.

In the past year, from 2019 to 2020, boarding student enrolments in co-educational schools reduced significantly, by 4.7% or 77 students from 2019 to 2020. Enrolments reduced at boys' only schools by 39 students (-3.6%) and reduced at girls' only schools by only 8 students (0.8%).

Market Share

Independent schools are the largest provider for boarding students.

In 2020 thirty-three independent schools catered for 65% of all boarding students attending non-government schools while seventeen Catholic schools catered for 35% of all boarding students.

With respect to secondary non-government boarding student enrolments, these proportions are similar.

Most primary students who attended non-government schools in 2020 as boarding students attended independent schools (91%).

In 2020 the proportion of Year 7 non-government boarding students attending independent schools was 62% compared to 38% for Catholic schools.

Figure 5: Boarding Student Enrolments, Sector Share, 2020

