

# 2020 Membership Report





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## CONTENTS

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1	Foreword
2	Overview
3	Membership Growth
4	Affiliations
5	Size of Schools
6	Distribution of Member Schools
12	Funding

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PUBLISHED BY  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS QUEENSLAND

### RECOMMENDED CITATION

Independent Schools Queensland. (2021).  
*2020 Membership Report*. <https://www.isq.qld.edu.au/media/opekjwmz/2020-membership-report.pdf>

# Foreword



**Since its formation as an association some 50 years ago, Independent Schools Queensland has grown in size and influence.**

Independent Schools Queensland is the peak body representing the state's independent school sector and has a proud history of promoting, supporting and developing independent schooling in Queensland.

Membership grew in 2020 with the addition of 10 new schools (223 independent schools and five Catholic schools), all serving a diverse range of students in cities and regions across the state. The 2020 August Census data shows the independent sector enrolled more than 134,000 students for the first time and confirms parental confidence in Queensland independent schools, despite the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic. A 4.5 percent increase in enrolments was the highest growth experienced in any schooling sector throughout Australia in 2020.

Community demand for bespoke learning continues to play an important role in educating some of the state's most vulnerable students.

In 2020, the number of independent Special Assistance Schools (SAS) has increased from 11 in 2015 to 26 in 2020. Students enrolled in independent SAS has also continued to increase, with enrolments growing by 23.4%, or 442 students, between 2019 and 2020.

This 2020 Membership Report provides a statistical overview of the number of member schools, membership growth, affiliations, size of school, funding, and distribution of member schools according to local government areas, federal and state electorates.

Enrolment data was sourced from the 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August collection.

Participation rates data was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2016 Census of Population and Housing. Data relating to funding was sourced from the Commonwealth Funding Model, October 2020.

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# Overview

The number of member schools or schools with a service agreement with Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) reached 228 in 2020. Member schools operate from 262 sites throughout Queensland, reflecting a number of schools having more than one campus.

The makeup of the membership includes 223 independent schools (130,481 total enrolment) and five Catholic schools (4,033 total enrolment). Together these member schools cater for 134,514 students from Prep to Year 12, or 15.7% of all school students in the state. All non-Catholic independent schools in Queensland are members of ISQ.

- Over two-thirds of ISQ's member schools (69%) offer both primary and secondary schooling (157 of the 228 member schools, including all four Special schools).
- The 153 non-special schools that offer both primary and secondary schooling cater for 118,054 students – nearly 88% of all students at member schools. Twenty-eight primary-only and 43 secondary-only schools cater for another 4,662 students and 11,418 students, respectively, while four Special schools cater for 380 students.
- Most of ISQ's member schools offer schooling in a co-educational setting (203 schools). However, 25 schools offer single-gender schooling (16 girls-only schools and nine boys-only schools). Approximately 17% of all students attending member schools attended single-gender schools.
- There are 1,718 students attending member schools that are overseas students. These students attend 84 schools. These 84 schools together cater for 89% of all overseas students attending non-government schools in Queensland.
- ISQ's membership includes 11 schools that offer distance education. Together these schools cater for 4,025 students (3.0% of all students attending member schools are distance education students).

- Thirty-six member schools enrol boarding students. These schools cater for 3,885 boarders, representing 2.9% of all students attending member schools. These schools cater for 70% of all boarding students attending non-government schools in Queensland.
- Indigenous students are enrolled at 214 member schools (94% of member schools). These students represent 4.0% of students attending member schools.
- Twenty-six schools, known as Special Assistance Schools, cater for disengaged youth. These schools represent 11% of member schools and together cater for 2.2% of students attending member schools.

**Table 1: Member School Characteristics**

Sub-Category	Number of Member Schools	Students at Member Schools	
		Number	%
SCHOOL STRUCTURE TYPE			
Combined (Primary & Secondary)	153	118,054	87.8
Primary	28	4,662	3.5
Secondary	43	11,418	8.5
Special	4	380	0.3
SCHOOL GENDER TYPE			
Co-educational	203	112,122	83.4
Female	16	12,830	9.5
Male	9	9,538	7.1
TYPE OF STUDENTS			
Boarding	36	3,885	2.9
Full Fee Paying Overseas	84	1,718	1.3
Distance Education	11	4,025	3.0
Indigenous	214	5,373	4.0
Disengaged Youth	26	2,946	2.2

Source: 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August Collection.

Note: Data for one member school was not collected or reported in the Commonwealth Census, as this school is ineligible for Commonwealth funding. Data for this school was drawn from the 2020 Non-State Schools Census (State) February Collection.

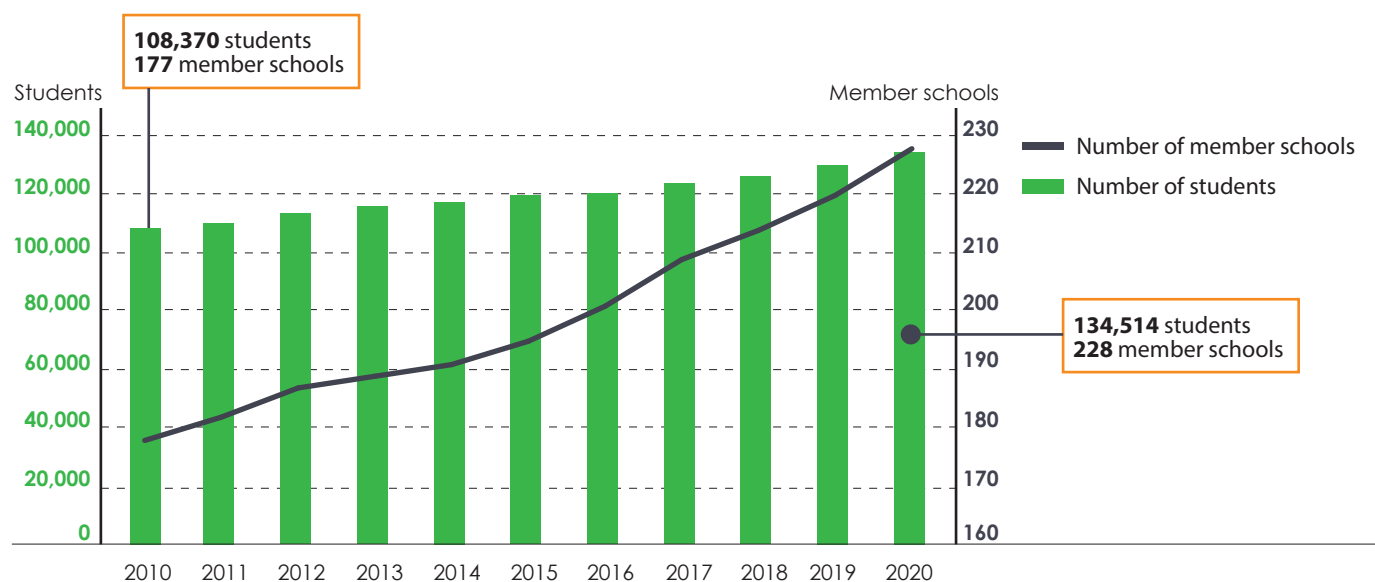
# Membership Growth

Over the past 10 years membership has increased from 177 schools in 2010 to 228 schools in 2020, an increase of 51 schools (refer to Figure 1). This reflects a 29% increase in the number of schools that are members of ISQ over the period.

During this time the number of students catered for by member schools has increased by 24%, up from 108,370 students in 2009 to 134,514 students in 2020.

In the past year, ten new independent schools have joined Independent Schools Queensland. Seven of these schools commenced in 2020, while another three schools were previously campuses of an existing school. One Religious Institute school resigned from the association.

**Figure 1:** Membership 2010–2020



Source: 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August Collection



# Affiliations

Membership is diverse, ranging from schools affiliated with religions to those that promote a philosophy or serve a particular community group. Some have no such affiliations (refer to Table 2).

Some member schools with particular church affiliations, although constituted independently, operate within an approved school system.

- The largest group of schools classify themselves as 'Christian Schools' (43 schools). These schools cater for one-fifth (20.3%) of students at member schools.
- The second largest group of schools classify themselves as 'non-denominational' (36 schools). Together these schools cater for 10.1% of students at member schools.

Membership includes schools in five systems: Lutheran Education Queensland; the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church; the Northern Australia Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Anglican Schools Commission. Five 'Religious Institute Schools', which are part of the Queensland Catholic system are also members. These systemic schools comprise 28.3% of students attending member schools.

- Lutheran systemic schools are the fourth largest group in terms of school numbers and the second largest in terms of student enrolments (26 schools cater for 13.9% of students).
- Anglican affiliated schools cater for the largest number of students at member schools (19.0% of member school students). These students are educated at 23 schools, of which 11 are systemic schools associated with the Anglican Schools Commission.

**Table 2:** Member School Affiliation

Affiliation	Schools		Students	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>NON-SYSTEMIC</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>96,436</b>	<b>71.7</b>
Ananda Marga	1	0.4	121	0.1
Anglican	12	5.3	12,927	9.6
Assemblies of God	10	4.4	6,216	4.6
Baptist	7	3.1	3,369	2.5
Brethren	1	0.4	291	0.2
Catholic (Other)	1	0.4	226	0.2
Christian	43	18.9	27,370	20.3
Grammar	8	3.5	9,138	6.8
Inter-Denominational	5	2.2	3,953	2.9
Islamic	2	0.9	2,230	1.7
Jewish	1	0.4	33	0.0
Montessori	4	1.8	702	0.5
Non-Denominational	36	15.8	13,567	10.1
Other	27	11.8	3,719	2.8
Other Religious Affiliation	1	0.4	1,181	0.9
Pentecostal	2	0.9	1,266	0.9
PMSA	4	1.8	4,552	3.4
Presbyterian	1	0.4	737	0.5
Steiner	5	2.2	988	0.7
Uniting Church	5	2.2	3,850	2.9
<b>SYSTEMIC</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>38,078</b>	<b>28.3</b>
Anglican Schools Commission	11	4.8	12,591	9.4
Lutheran System Commission	26	11.4	18,693	13.9
Seventh-Day Adventist – Northern Australia Conference	3	1.3	389	0.3
Seventh-Day Adventist – South Queensland Conference	7	3.1	2,372	1.8
Queensland Religious Institute	5	2.2	4,033	3.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>134,514</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August Collection

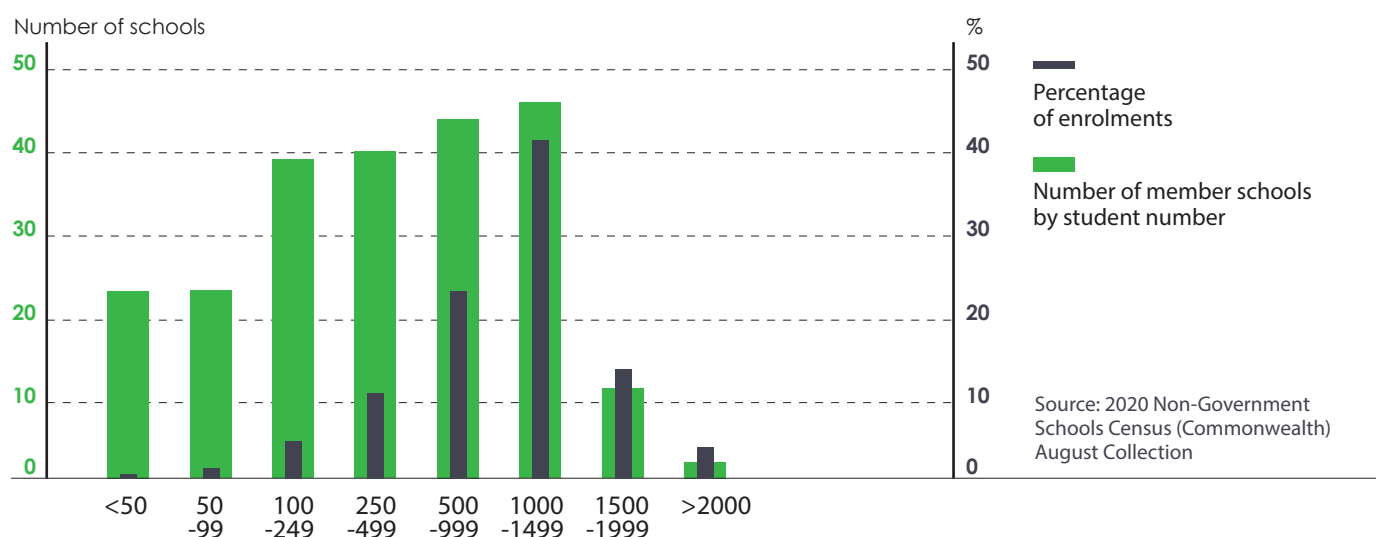
# Size of Schools

More than half of member schools (54.6%) have enrolments of less than 500 students. These schools cater for only 17.2% of students at member schools. The remaining member schools with enrolments of at least 500 students (103 schools) cater for 82.8% of students (refer to Figure 2).

- Just over 10% (10.1%) of member schools have enrolments of less than 50 students (23 schools) catering for only 0.5% of students at member schools, while another 23 schools (10.1% of member schools) each have enrolments of 50 to 99 students catering for 1.3% of students. Together, these schools with enrolments of less than 100 students represent 20.2% of member schools but cater for 1.8% of students at member schools.

- Schools with enrolments from 100 to 249 students together cater for 4.7% of students (39 schools, or 17.1% of member schools), with another 40 member schools having enrolments from 250 to 500 students and catering for 17.5% of member school students.
- A further 44 member schools (19.3% of member schools) have enrolments from 500 to 999 students, together catering for 23.3% of students attending member schools, while 46 schools (20.2% of member schools) have enrolments from 1,000 to 1,499 students and cater for 42.0% of students. Together, member schools with enrolments ranging from 500 to 1,499 students accounted for nearly two-thirds of students (65.3%) and represented 39.5% of member schools.
- Only 13 member schools (5.7% of member schools) have an enrolment of more than 1,500 students, with two of these schools catering for at least 2,000 students. These 13 schools catered for 17.5% of students attending member schools.

**Figure 2:** Size of Member Schools





# Distribution of Member Schools



While there are 228 member schools, 25 of these schools (11.0% of member schools) operate across multiple campuses. In total, the 228 member schools operate from 262 campuses (refer to Figure 3).

These campuses are dispersed throughout the state. Like the distribution of population in Queensland, the majority of member schools are located in South East Queensland (refer to Figure 4).

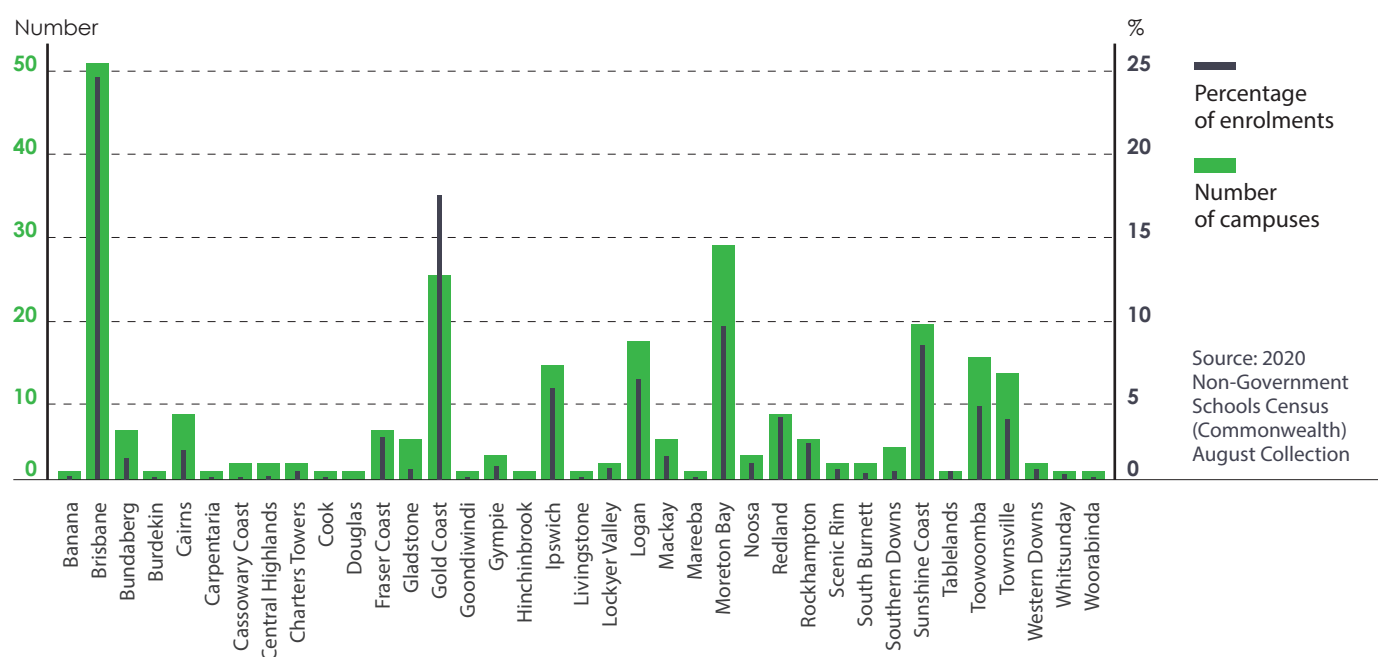
## Local Government Areas

Member schools and/or campuses are located within 37 local government areas (LGAs) across the state (refer to Figure 3). Of these, eight LGAs have more than 10 campuses.

The highest number of member school campuses are located within Brisbane city (51 sites). These sites cater for 24.6% of students attending member schools. This is in accord with the proportion of the state's population living in Brisbane city according to 2016 Census of Population and Housing (24%).

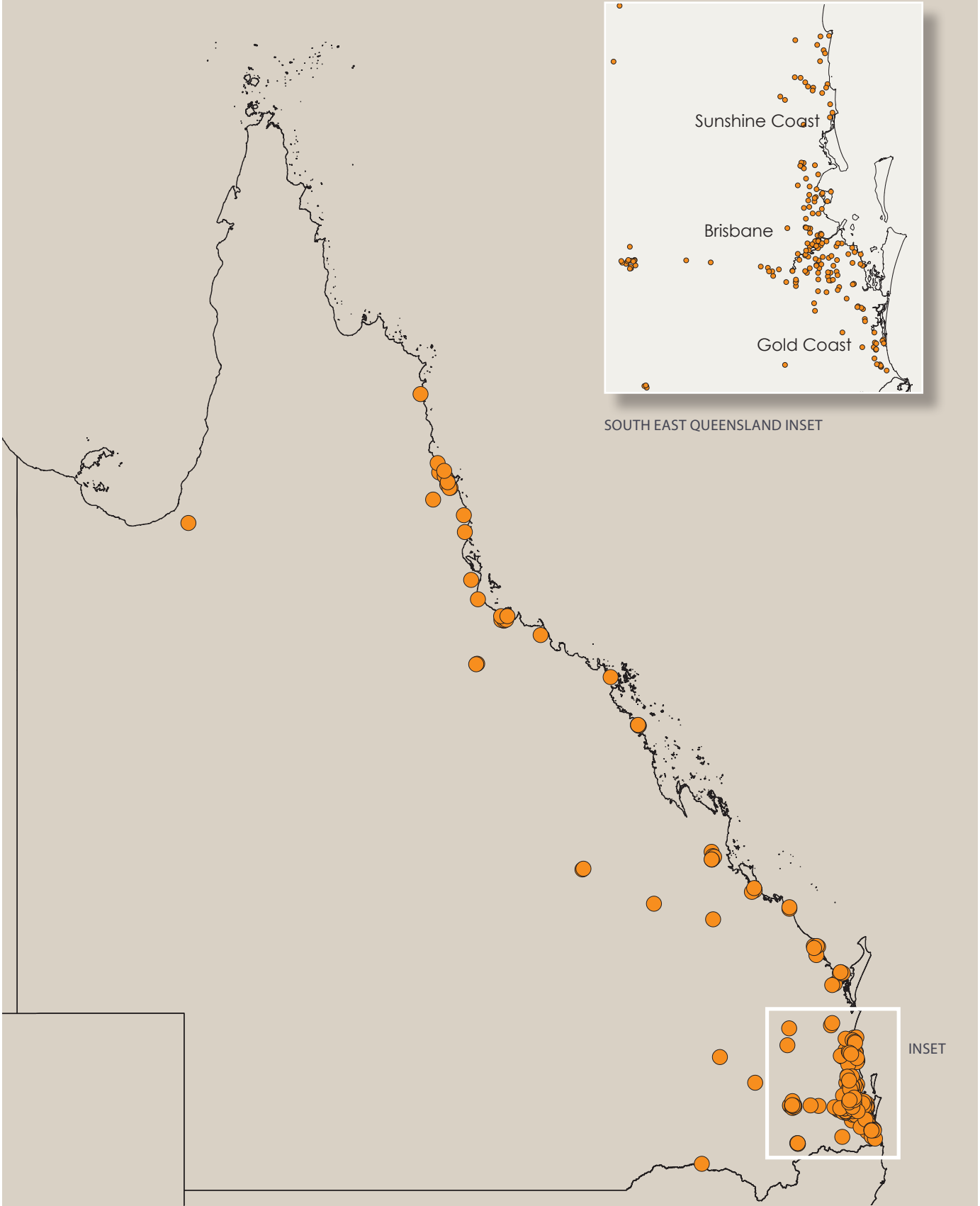
The LGA with the second highest number of sites is Moreton Bay, where 29 campuses service 9.3% of students at member schools. The Gold Coast LGA has the third highest number of campuses (25 campuses and 17.4% of students at member schools), followed by the Sunshine Coast (19 campuses and 8.2% of member school enrolments), Logan city (17 campuses and 6.1% of students at member schools) and Toowoomba (15 campuses and 4.5% of member school enrolments). Ipswich city and Townsville city (respectively, had 14 and 13 campuses and accounted for 5.6% and 3.7% of member school enrolments, respectively).

**Figure 3: Member Schools – Campuses by Local Government Area**





**Figure 4:** Distribution of Member Schools



### Federal Electorates

There are 30 federal electorates in Queensland, each with at least four member schools (refer to Table 3).

The most member schools/campuses are located within the electorate of Groom, where Toowoomba is the main population centre. Fifteen member schools, catering for 6,102 students are located in this electorate. The ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing (the Census) indicates

24,092 students resided in this electorate in 2016, with 42.3% of these students attending non-government schools (19.7% attended independent schools and 22.6% attended Catholic schools).

The second highest number of member schools/campuses are located within Fairfax, Forde and Longman (12 sites each) followed by Brisbane, Kennedy and Rankin (11 sites each), and Flynn, Herbert, Hinkler and Petrie (10 sites each). A further five electorates contain nine member schools/campuses (Blair, Bonner, Dawson, Oxley and Wide Bay).

The highest number of students attending member schools/campuses in 2020 was in McPherson (9,001 students), followed by Fairfax (8,082 students), Forde (7,689 students), Brisbane (6,934 students), Rankin (6,655 students), Groom (6,102 students) and Petrie (6,061 students).

The 2016 Census indicated that 19 of the 30 federal electorates (63%) had more than one-third of school students attending non-government schools:

- The federal electorate with the highest participation in non-government schooling was Brisbane. In 2016, 52.3% of the students residing in this electorate attended non-government schools (19.8% attended independent schools and 32.4% attended Catholic schools). In 2020, 6,934 students attended 11 member schools/campuses in this area.
- The electorates with the next highest rate of participation in non-government schooling was Griffith (48.4% of students attended non-government schools), followed by Lilley (43.7%) and Bonner (43.2%). Both Griffith and Bonner are located on the south side of Brisbane city, while Lilley is located on the north side.

More than half of the electorates (57%) have at least 15% of students attending independent schools:

- The highest participation in independent schooling was in the federal electorate of Moncrieff on the Gold Coast. This electorate contains seven member schools/campuses. In 2020, 3.7% of member school students attended schools located in Moncrieff (5,042 students). In 2016, 25.2% of the students residing in the Moncrieff electorate attended an independent school (refer to Table 3).
- The electorate with the second highest participation rate in independent schooling was McPherson (southern Gold Coast), followed by Bowman (centred on Redland city), Fairfax (central Sunshine Coast) and Fadden (northern Gold Coast). At least one in every five students who resided in these electorates attended an independent school.

### State Electorates

There are 93 state electorates in Queensland. All but eight electorates contain member schools/campuses (refer to Table 4).

The highest number of member schools/campuses are located within the electorates of Mudgeeraba, Mundingburra, Murrumba, Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South. Seven member schools/campuses were located in each of these electorates. Member schools/campuses catering for 7,439 students in Mudgeeraba, 2,574 students in Mundingburra, 4,580 students in Murrumba, 4,494 students in Toowoomba North and 1,496 students in Toowoomba South. The 2016 Census indicated that 9,068 students resided in Mudgeeraba, with 44.6% of these students attending non-government schools (32.7% of students attended independent schools and 11.9% attended Catholic schools). In Mundingburra, of the 7,335 students, 17.3% attended independent schools and 25.4% attended Catholic schools (42.7% attended non-government schools), while of the 8,670 students resident in Murrumba, 16.3% attended independent schools and 11.6% attended Catholic schools (27.9% attended non-government schools). Of 7,957 students that resided in Toowoomba North, 49.5% of these students attending non-government schools (23.2% of students attended independent schools and 26.3% attended Catholic schools), while of 8,147 students resided in Toowoomba South, with 38.8% of these students attending non-government schools (18.4% of students attended independent schools and 20.4% attended Catholic schools).

The next highest numbers of member schools/campuses are located in the electorates of Coomera, Everton and Ninderry, with six member schools/campuses each.

In 2020, the highest number of students attending member schools were located in the electorates of Mudgeeraba (7,439 students), Coomera (5,195 students), Murrumba (4,580 students), Maiwar (4,570 students), and Toowoomba North (4,494 students).

In five electorates, more than half of students that resided in these areas attended non-government schools. These electorates were Clayfield, Surfers Paradise, Bulimba, Chatsworth (Carindale and Belmont, Brisbane) and Broadwater (Helensvale and Hope Island, Gold Coast).

Clayfield and Surfers Paradise had the equal highest participation rates in non-government schooling (55.9%).

Surfers Paradise electorate has the highest independent school student participation rate in Queensland despite no independent schools being located in this electorate (39.0% of 4,302 students resident in this electorate attended independent schools). The next highest participation rate was in Mudgeeraba, followed by Broadwater, Oodgeroo (Wellington Point/Cleveland area), Maiwar, Springwood and Ninderry. At least one in every four students residing in these electorates attended independent schools. Broadwater, like the Surfers Paradise electorate, contains no member schools/campuses.



**Table 3: Schools/Campuses by Federal Electorate**

Member Schools and Student Numbers <sup>1</sup>				Participation in Schooling <sup>2</sup>			
Federal Electorate	Member Schools/ Campuses	Students Number	Students %	Total Students	Independent Schools %	Catholic Schools %	Government Schools %
BLAIR	9	5,077	3.8	25,424	14.3	15.8	69.9
BONNER	9	5,213	3.9	22,941	18.2	25.0	56.8
BOWMAN	8	5,071	3.8	23,187	23.1	17.2	59.7
BRISBANE	11	6,934	5.2	16,528	19.8	32.4	47.7
CAPRICORNIA	6	3,107	2.3	23,530	10.7	26.3	63.0
DAWSON	9	3,258	2.4	23,464	11.0	25.7	63.3
DICKSON	8	3,205	2.4	25,405	17.7	19.0	63.3
FADDEN	6	5,022	3.7	24,390	21.9	13.0	65.0
FAIRFAX	12	8,082	6.0	22,944	22.5	13.0	64.5
FISHER	6	2,773	2.1	20,397	19.0	12.1	69.0
FLYNN	10	1,444	1.1	24,719	7.7	17.3	75.0
FORDE	12	7,689	5.7	27,543	18.3	13.6	68.0
GRIFFITH	5	5,742	4.3	18,921	16.8	31.6	51.6
GROOM	15	6,102	4.5	24,092	19.7	22.6	57.7
HERBERT	10	4,059	3.0	24,461	12.7	29.7	57.6
HINKLER	10	3,729	2.8	19,744	14.3	17.5	68.3
KENNEDY	11	2,072	1.5	23,444	6.2	24.0	69.8
LEICHHARDT	8	2,245	1.7	26,631	9.3	25.3	65.4
LILLEY	4	1,763	1.3	20,866	8.7	35.0	56.3
LONGMAN	12	4,393	3.3	25,428	13.1	12.3	74.6
MARANOA	8	1,987	1.5	22,232	9.8	18.8	71.4
McPHERSON	8	9,001	6.7	21,745	23.4	13.2	63.4
MONCRIEFF	7	5,042	3.7	17,310	25.2	15.2	59.7
MORETON	7	2,442	1.8	20,702	15.4	20.6	64.0
OXLEY	9	4,541	3.4	27,218	14.8	16.2	69.0
PETRIE	10	6,061	4.5	24,603	15.0	19.8	65.2
RANKIN	11	6,655	4.9	29,816	12.7	13.4	73.9
RYAN	6	4,653	3.5	23,845	17.9	22.2	60.0
WIDE BAY	9	4,209	3.1	20,252	16.0	13.4	70.6
WRIGHT	6	2,943	2.2	26,496	18.6	14.8	66.6

Note: All figures have been rounded and percentages may not add up to 100.

Sources:

1 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August collection

2 ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing

## DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBER SCHOOLS CONTINUED

**Table 4:** Schools/Campuses by State Electorate

Member Schools and Student Numbers <sup>1</sup>				Participation in Schooling <sup>2</sup>			
State Electorate	Member Schools/ Campuses	Member Students Number	Students (% of Member Schools)	Total Students	Independent Schools %	Catholic Schools %	Government Schools %
ALGESTER	4	753	0.6	8,271	11.8	18.0	70.1
ASPLEY	2	1,287	1.0	7,433	13.3	33.9	52.8
BANCROFT	4	1,378	1.0	9,590	16.7	13.0	70.3
BARRON RIVER	3	946	0.7	8,230	14.3	27.3	58.3
BONNEY	1	1,517	1.1	5,292	16.2	12.3	71.5
BROADWATER	0	0	0.0	5,262	32.5	19.5	47.9
BUDERIM	2	2,260	1.7	7,918	20.0	12.4	67.7
BULIMBA	2	2,585	1.9	7,300	20.6	34.3	45.0
BUNDABERG	5	1,700	1.3	6,931	9.6	18.6	71.9
BUNDAMBA	4	1,793	1.3	10,072	10.5	14.1	75.4
BURDEKIN	1	193	0.1	7,769	4.2	13.5	82.2
BURLEIGH	1	1,275	0.9	6,411	20.1	14.8	65.0
BURNETT	3	216	0.2	6,409	14.2	14.6	71.1
CAIRNS	2	617	0.5	7,272	7.2	29.6	63.2
CALLIDE	2	627	0.5	7,466	7.4	10.5	82.2
CALOUNDRA	3	1,628	1.2	6,113	20.0	17.7	62.3
CAPALABA	1	85	0.1	7,650	14.1	18.8	67.1
CHATSWORTH	1	143	0.1	7,977	23.9	30.9	45.2
CLAYFIELD	4	2,607	1.9	6,014	24.4	31.5	44.1
CONDAMINE	1	112	0.1	8,709	16.3	20.8	62.9
COOK	2	148	0.1	7,984	4.2	13.7	82.1
COOMERA	6	5,195	3.9	11,240	22.8	9.1	68.2
COOPER	1	64	0.0	7,719	13.1	32.4	54.6
CURRUMBIN	0	0	0.0	5,959	17.6	11.8	70.6
EVERTON	6	2,978	2.2	8,529	15.8	29.4	54.8
FERNY GROVE	0	0	0.0	7,902	10.4	29.7	59.9
GAVEN	3	2,441	1.8	7,643	16.1	15.2	68.7
GLADSTONE	3	698	0.5	8,309	5.5	16.7	77.8
GLASS HOUSE	2	141	0.1	6,643	21.6	9.4	69.0
GREENSLOPES	0	0	0.0	6,200	12.3	34.8	53.0
GREGORY	3	323	0.2	5,934	4.7	22.2	73.2
GYMPIE	3	1,134	0.8	6,959	12.4	10.2	77.4
HERVEY BAY	3	1,830	1.4	6,495	15.4	15.0	69.6
HILL	3	821	0.6	7,456	2.7	21.0	76.3
HINCHINBROOK	3	167	0.1	7,419	6.1	39.0	54.8
INALA	3	1,791	1.3	9,167	10.9	12.9	76.1
IPSWICH	3	2,189	1.6	7,050	15.7	19.0	65.2
IPSWICH WEST	3	1,598	1.2	7,862	16.4	19.2	64.3
JORDAN	4	1,918	1.4	10,488	17.1	16.8	66.1
KAWANA	1	1,004	0.7	7,382	16.8	9.2	74.0
KEPPEL	1	321	0.2	7,828	9.9	34.6	55.5
KURWONGBAH	2	1,572	1.2	9,477	14.4	12.5	73.1
LOCKYER	2	987	0.7	7,772	15.4	12.3	72.3
LOGAN	5	1,513	1.1	7,770	17.2	18.8	64.0
LYTTON	3	1,641	1.2	7,417	15.3	25.8	58.9
MACALISTER	3	1,389	1.0	8,502	16.9	14.7	68.3

Note: All figures have been rounded and percentages may not add up to 100.

Sources:

- 1 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August collection
- 2 ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing



**Table 4: Schools/Campuses by State Electorate (continued)**

Member Schools and Student Numbers <sup>1</sup>				Participation in Schooling <sup>2</sup>			
State Electorate	Member Schools/ Campuses	Member Students Number	Students (% of Member Schools)	Total Students	Independent Schools %	Catholic Schools %	Government Schools %
MACKAY	5	1,821	1.4	7,877	9.7	29.2	61.1
MAIWAR	5	4,570	3.4	6,311	27.0	18.4	54.6
MANSFIELD	5	3,429	2.5	7,623	13.8	21.9	64.3
MAROOCHYDORE	1	186	0.1	4,732	22.2	16.0	61.8
MARYBOROUGH	3	1,612	1.2	6,669	13.9	15.5	70.6
McCONNEL	5	3,481	2.6	2,284	19.6	21.7	58.7
MERMAID BEACH	1	321	0.2	6,045	24.4	13.6	62.1
MILLER	0	0	0.0	6,814	18.1	30.6	51.2
MIRANI	1	129	0.1	7,276	6.2	23.9	70.0
MOGGILL	1	83	0.1	9,229	19.2	16.7	64.1
MORAYFIELD	5	1,246	0.9	8,129	9.9	10.9	79.2
MOUNT OMMANEY	2	1,214	0.9	7,759	17.5	18.7	63.8
MUDGEERABA	7	7,439	5.5	9,068	32.7	11.9	55.4
MULGRAVE	4	956	0.7	9,379	5.7	28.9	65.4
MUNDINGBURRA	7	2,574	1.9	7,335	17.3	25.4	57.3
MURRUMBA	7	4,580	3.4	8,670	16.3	11.6	72.2
NANANGO	2	484	0.4	7,316	9.6	9.5	81.0
NICKLIN	5	2,263	1.7	6,576	19.5	10.6	69.9
NINDERRY	6	3,816	2.8	7,790	25.2	12.0	62.8
NOOSA	2	1,152	0.9	6,162	23.2	18.1	58.7
NUDGE	0	0	0.0	6,488	5.7	35.3	58.9
OODGEROO	3	2,955	2.2	6,667	30.5	17.5	52.0
PINE RIVERS	2	435	0.3	9,285	20.6	15.2	64.2
PUMICESTONE	4	1,988	1.5	5,654	13.9	11.3	74.8
REDCLIFFE	2	677	0.5	6,119	15.1	21.6	63.3
REDLANDS	4	2,031	1.5	7,117	22.5	16.1	61.4
ROCKHAMPTON	4	2,657	2.0	8,308	17.3	29.7	53.0
SANDGATE	1	63	0.0	7,325	6.2	33.6	60.2
SCENIC RIM	2	828	0.6	8,175	12.9	11.9	75.1
SOUTH BRISBANE	3	3,157	2.3	3,927	15.4	15.6	69.0
SOUTHERN DOWNS	5	803	0.6	7,327	10.1	21.9	68.0
SOUTHPORT	5	3,979	3.0	6,229	23.0	15.6	61.4
SPRINGWOOD	2	1,856	1.4	8,169	25.5	18.1	56.4
STAFFORD	0	0	0.0	6,898	11.1	35.4	53.5
STRETTON	3	2,707	2.0	8,470	14.9	13.8	71.3
SURFERS PARADISE	0	0	0.0	4,302	39.0	16.9	44.1
THEODORE	1	1,181	0.9	9,507	17.0	9.7	73.3
THURINGOWA	1	104	0.1	9,074	8.6	28.5	62.9
TOOHEY	3	1,121	0.8	6,387	13.1	18.0	68.9
TOOWOOMBA NORTH	7	4,494	3.3	7,957	23.2	26.3	50.5
TOOWOOMBA SOUTH	7	1,496	1.1	8,147	18.4	20.4	61.2
TOWNSVILLE	3	2,162	1.6	6,432	20.4	25.2	54.4
TRAEGER	3	787	0.6	6,556	11.4	23.5	65.1
WARREGO	1	347	0.3	6,618	7.0	23.8	69.2
WATERFORD	4	1,817	1.4	8,296	14.9	10.7	74.4
WHITSUNDAY	1	338	0.3	7,707	9.8	24.0	66.3
WOODRIDGE	3	1,590	1.2	12,178	9.6	10.1	80.3

Note: All figures have been rounded and percentages may not add up to 100.

Sources:

1 2020 Non-Government Schools Census (Commonwealth) August collection

2 ABS 2016 Census of Population and Housing

# Funding



## Commonwealth Government

Commonwealth funding for all schools, including independent schools, is comprised of two components:

- “base funding” tied to the national Schooling Resource Standards (SRS) for primary and secondary education
- “loadings” for factors such as school size and location, students with disability, Indigenous students, low English language proficiency and socio-educational disadvantage.

Four steps are undertaken to determine Commonwealth funding for a school:

- calculation of base funding by applying “capacity to contribute” (CTC) to the SRS amounts (see Table 5)
- calculation of notional total public funding, being the base funding plus loadings
- calculation of the Commonwealth share of the notional total public funding (“entitlement”)
- determination of the relevant transition arrangements applying to the school.

### Base funding

The SRS amounts for 2020 were \$11,747 per primary school student and \$14,761 per secondary school student. For students studying by distance education, the SRS amounts in 2020 were set at 45% of the full SRS amounts.

To determine the proportion of the SRS that was paid by the Government in 2020, a CTC percentage is applied to the SRS values. The CTC percentage was based on the best of a school’s SES score calculated from the residential addresses of students attending the school or the direct measure of parental income and is designed to rank the relative wealth of a school community. Independent schools that are Special schools, Special Assistance Schools (SAS), Majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Schools (MATSIS) and Sole-Provider schools were exempt from the CTC.

## Loadings

- In addition to base funding, extra loadings are provided to reflect the particular needs of students with disability, Indigenous students, low English language proficiency, socio-educational disadvantage, and school size and location.
- All loadings – except school size – are based on percentages of the respective SRS per student amounts. The school size loading is a set dollar amount per school for schools that meet the relevant enrolment thresholds.

The Australian Government has commenced implementing changes to the CTC formula, moving from the socio-economic status (SES) score to a direct measure of income (DMI) based on the median income of parents/guardians. The transition started in 2020 and will be fully implemented in 2022. The DMI will not apply to Special, Special Assistance or Majority Indigenous Schools which are funded at the maximum Commonwealth funding rate.

**Table 5: Distribution of Students by CTC, 2020**

CTC	Number of Commonwealth Funded Schools	Number of Commonwealth Funded Students
Distance Education – 45% SRS	10*	4,000
SAS, Special & MATSIS	38	4,526
<90	43	12,533
90-<95	46	19,346
95-<100	34	25,359
100-<105	34	32,474
105-<110	14	15,094
110-<115	4	3,668
115-<120	6	7,329
>=120	3	4,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>222*</b>	<b>128,665</b>

\* All Queensland distance education schools have a day component and are not included separately in the total count.

Source: Commonwealth Funding Model, October 2020

Note: Does not include overseas students, or Catholic Independent students or schools as they are not funded as Independent by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment.





Commonwealth share

- From 2014 to 2017, the Australian Government determined its share of the "loaded SRS" (post-CTC) for a school by reference to the historical relative proportions of Commonwealth and State Government funding for a school. The Commonwealth share is therefore unique to each school.
- Commencing in 2018, the Commonwealth share has been determined to be 80% of a school's loaded SRS.
- Special schools, SAS and MATSIS receive automatic entitlement to maximum funding (70% of average government school recurrent costs).
- Thirty-eight member schools, which cater for 4,542 students, are recognised by the Government as catering for disadvantaged student groups. These 38 schools are comprised of 8 MATSIS, 26 SAS and 4 schools which serve students with disability. Two of the SAS also provide for MATSIS students.

State Government

While the Australian Government provides the majority of public funding to independent schools, the Queensland Government also provides recurrent grants to member schools. The school's rate per primary/secondary student is comprised of a set "base component" that is common for all schools, and a "needs component".

The needs component is determined according to: the school's financial resources; school isolation and the number of students with disability; English as a second language, from isolated areas; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students; and, recipients of boarding fee concessions.

Seventy-five percent of needs funds components are distributed using measures of the school's financial resources, 20% using the student needs data and 5% using the School Isolation Index (refer to Table 6).

Table 6: Government Needs Funding Components

School's financial resources	75%
Student needs data	20%
School Isolation Index*	5%
Total	100%

\* Schools are weighted according to their level of isolation. The more isolated a school, the higher the share of the school isolation funding the school will receive, to offset increased costs relating to their isolation. Schools in metropolitan regions (e.g. Brisbane, Cairns) and inner provincial areas (e.g. Toowoomba, Mackay) are allocated a value of zero (and do not receive a share of school isolation funding), while schools in outer provincial, remote and very remote areas are weighted according to their level of remoteness.

Commonwealth and State Government bilateral agreement

In December 2018, the Queensland Government signed a five year bilateral agreement with the Australian Government on 'school education reform'. It committed Queensland to certain funding contributions for all schools, state and non-state, through to 2023 which are a proportion (%) of the nationally determined SRS calculated for each of the Queensland school sectors.

States are required to meet a minimum target of 20% for the non-government school sector. In 2018, the Queensland Government was funding the non-government sector at 23.18% and over the next five years will transition to 20.61% in 2023, and to 20% in 2024.

The proportions for the government school sector are based on a transition path to reach 75% of SRS by 2032.

APRIL 2021



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Queensland**

choice & diversity

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