

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT

The Western Australia Independent school sector is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This snapshot provides an overview of the key characteristics of the Independent school sector, those who are enrolled, those who work in Independent schools, and how these schools are funded.

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

2024 EDITION

LATEST AVAILABLE FACTS AND FIGURES

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SECTOR

BROAD CHOICE FOR PARENTS

STRONG COMMUNITY LINKS

DIVERSITY OF SCHOOL TYPE,  
SIZE AND FOCUS

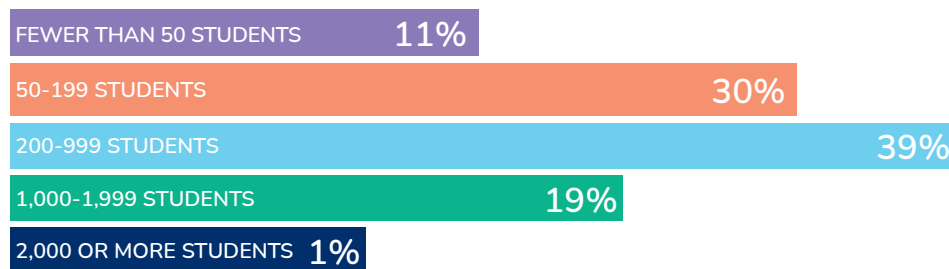
AUTONOMOUS GOVERNANCE  
ARRANGEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

## SCHOOL METRICS

In 2023, there were 151\* Independent schools in WA of which 22 were boarding schools and 14 were Aboriginal Independent Community Schools. Most Independent schools in WA are co-educational.

### SIZE OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



### NUMBER OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRIMARY	30	20%
SECONDARY	6	4%
COMBINED	103	68%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	12	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100%</b>

### TYPE OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

BOYS' SCHOOLS	2%
GIRLS' SCHOOLS	5%
CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS	93%



151

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WA



538

AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A  
WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



368

AVERAGE NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A  
WA GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

# SCHOOL PROFILE

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



73%

WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WITH A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

## AFFILIATIONS OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY NUMBER OF ENROLMENTS

2023

AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
ANGLICAN	20	23,361	28.8%
BAPTIST	13	11,218	13.8%
CHRISTIAN	22	10,298	12.7%
UNITING CHURCH	7	8,496	10.5%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL	24	6,810	8.4%
INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC	6	5,408	6.7%
ISLAMIC	5	4,798	5.9%
MONTESSORI	10	1,453	1.8%
STEINER	7	1,305	1.6%
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	5	681	0.8%
OTHER RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION	8	4,567	5.6%
OTHER	23	2,793	3.4%



WA SCHOOL LOCATIONS

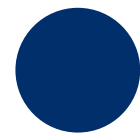
## GOVERNANCE

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 16 per cent of Independent schools in WA operate within approved system authorities. These include the Anglican, Christian, Seventh Day Adventist and Lutheran systems.

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



70%

MAJOR CITIES



18%

REGIONAL

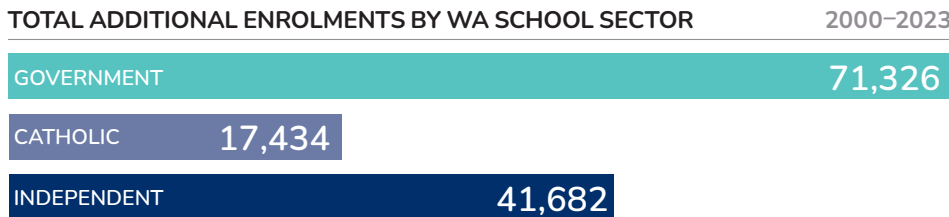
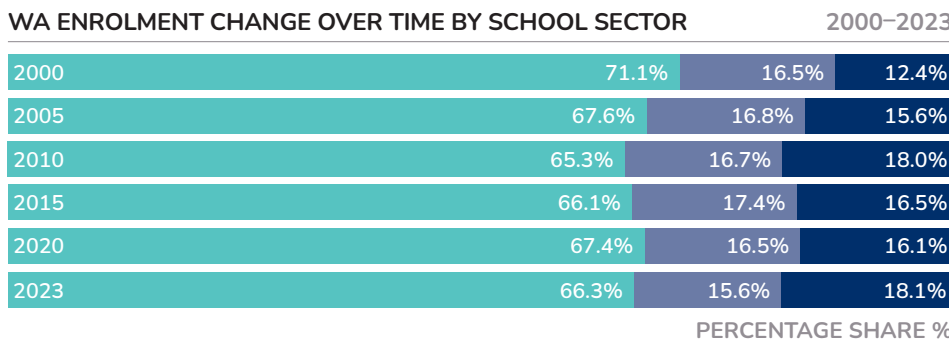
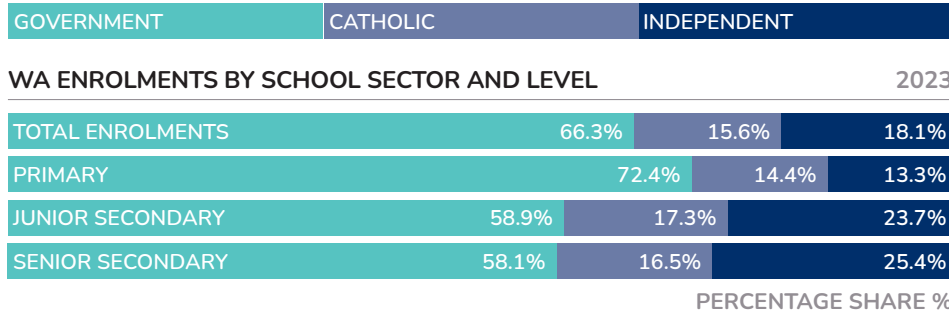


12%

REMOTE REGIONS

# STUDENT ENROLMENTS

The rate of growth of the Independent school sector has been increasing. In 2023, enrolments in WA Independent schools grew by 4.0 per cent.



ENROLMENTS IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS	2023		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PRIMARY	16,519	16,947	33,466
SECONDARY	22,200	25,521	47,721
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,719</b>	<b>42,468</b>	<b>81,187</b>

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (est.)\* 2023

SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE	6,600
SUPPLEMENTARY	8,600
SUBSTANTIAL	2,600
EXTENSIVE	600

\*MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF ADJUSTMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU](http://WWW.NCCD.EDU.AU)



4.0%

GROWTH IN ENROLMENTS IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



81,187

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



2,317

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS



358

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



2,044

BOARDING STUDENTS



18,400

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (est.)

# SOURCES OF INCOME

Almost half of the income of Independent schools in WA comes from families. Governments save an estimated \$744 million in funding due to the contribution to WA Independent schools from families and other private sources.



## \$744 MILLION

SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT FROM WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



## \$5,121

MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE 2022

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Government funding for schools is provided by the Australian Government and state and territory governments. The Australian Government is the main government funding source for WA non-government schools, providing 77% of total government recurrent funding while states and territories provide 23%. State and territory governments are the main funding source for government schools. The proportions of private/government funding vary greatly from school to school.

### RECURRENT FUNDING FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION IN WA \$ BILLION FY 2021-22

#### GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



#### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT** **WA GOVERNMENT** **PRIVATE INCOME (Parents, etc)**

### FUNDING MODEL

The current funding model for schools, the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) comprises base funding plus loadings to address educational disadvantage. Base funding for Independent schools is adjusted according to the school community's estimated capacity to contribute (CTC) to the costs of education, assessed on parental income tax data. This methodology is known as the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). Schools with a higher CTC score receive less per capita base funding.

### LOADINGS:

- SCHOOL LOCATION
- SCHOOL SIZE
- SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE
- INDIGENEITY
- LOW ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
- STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

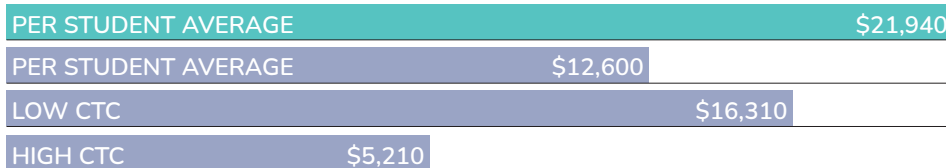
### AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER WA STUDENT

FY 2021-22



### TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER WA STUDENT COMPARISON

FY 2021-22



### WA GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED FROM ALL GOVERNMENT SOURCES VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SCHOOL.

## SOURCES OF INCOME

Almost half of WA Independent school funding (recurrent and capital) comes from private sources.

Parents and communities contributed \$956 million (recurrent and capital) to WA Independent schools.

45%

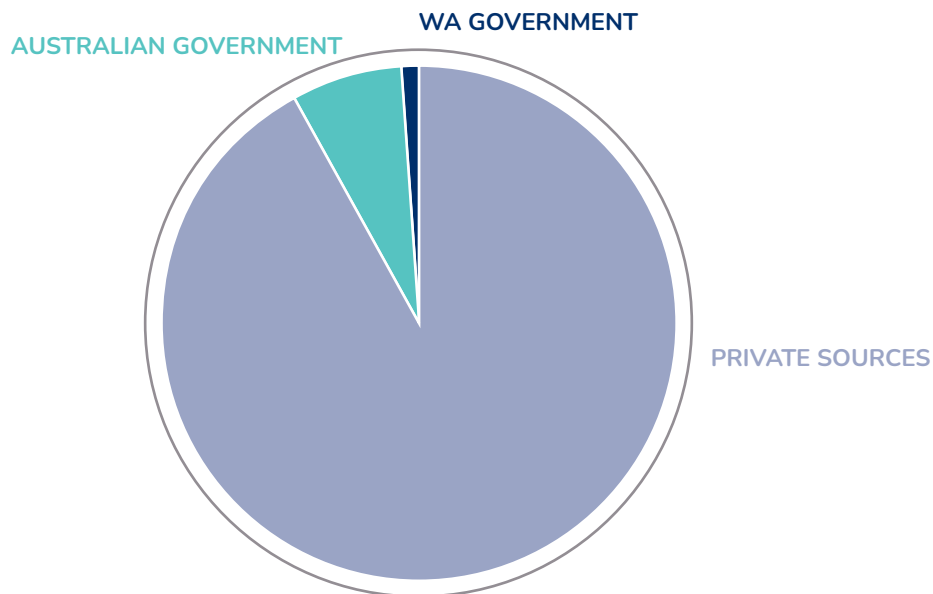
PRIVATE SOURCES  
OF FUNDING

55%

ALL GOVERNMENT  
SOURCES

## MAIN SOURCES OF CAPITAL INCOME

On average, parents and communities provide 93 per cent of capital funding for WA Independent schools. The amount of capital funding in WA Independent schools from private sources in 2022 was \$118 million.



93%

PRIVATE SOURCES  
PARENTS AND DONORS

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

7%

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL  
GRANTS PROGRAM FOR WA

In 2022 the Australian Government provided \$8.4 million in capital grants to WA Independent schools. In 2023 it is estimated that grants for the WA Independent sector will total approximately \$10.3 million.

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

<1%

WA STATE CAPITAL  
FUNDING

In 2022 the WA Government provided \$0.9 million in capital grants to WA Independent schools.

The annual amount paid varies according to the completion times of projects.

# SCHOOL TEACHERS

WA Independent schools employ almost 21 per cent of all teachers in WA schools.



21%

WA TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## TEACHERS IN THE WA INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL (FTE) 2023

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
PRIMARY TEACHERS	446	2,020	2,466		
PER CENT %	18.1%	81.9%	100%		
SECONDARY TEACHERS	1,800	2,524	4,324		
PER CENT %	41.6%	58.4%	100%		

6,790

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

7,922

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME

13,849

NUMBER OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF

## WA STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS

CHANGE 2000 – 2023

INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	CATHOLIC		INDEPENDENT	
			PRIMARY	SECONDARY	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
2000	17.3	12.6	18.1	13.4	15.1	11.9
2005	16.3	12.0	18.1	13.0	15.0	11.5
2010	15.4	11.2	18.4	12.1	16.3	10.1
2015	15.7	13.4	17.3	13.0	13.7	11.2
2020	15.6	12.8	16.5	12.6	13.8	11.0
2023	15.4	12.7	16.3	12.7	13.6	10.9



## STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)

2023

INDEPENDENT	11.9 TO 1
CATHOLIC	14.3 TO 1
GOVERNMENT	14.2 TO 1

SOURCES: FIGURES IN 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 2021-22, OR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022.

PRODUCED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA



THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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