

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA SNAPSHOT

The Western Australia Independent school sector is a diverse and growing group of non-government schools. This is a snapshot of the key characteristics of the WA 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.

## 2022 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 2021, there were 148 Independent schools in WA of which 20 were boarding schools. Most Independent schools in WA are co-educational.

### SIZE OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

FEWER THAN 50 STUDENTS	12%
50-199 STUDENTS	30%
200-999 STUDENTS	41%
1,000-1,999 STUDENTS	17%

### NUMBER OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

PRIMARY	30	20%
SECONDARY	6	4%
COMBINED	101	69%
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	11	7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100%</b>

### TYPE OF WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

BOYS' SCHOOLS	3%
GIRLS' SCHOOLS	4%
CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS	93%

148



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IN WA

486



AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A  
WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

364



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

2021

AFFILIATION	SCHOOLS	STUDENT FTE	%
ANGLICAN	20	21,959	30.5%
BAPTIST	14	10,618	14.8%
CHRISTIAN	21	8,774	12.2%
UNITING CHURCH	8	7,984	11.1%
NON-DENOMINATIONAL	23	6,113	8.5%
ISLAMIC	5	4,501	6.3%
CATHOLIC	3	1,543	2.1%
MONTESSORI	11	1,416	2.0%
STEINER	7	1,222	1.7%
CHURCHES OF CHRIST	2	1,163	1.6%
PENTECOSTAL	2	909	1.3%
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	5	607	0.8%
LUTHERAN	1	573	0.8%
GREEK ORTHODOX	1	543	0.8%
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL	1	513	0.7%
JEWISH	1	398	0.6%
BRETHREN	1	249	0.3%
OTHER*	22	2,808	3.9%

\* OTHER INCLUDES SPECIAL SCHOOLS, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS, INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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 2021, enrolments in WA Independent schools grew by 4.2 per cent.

GOVERNMENT	CATHOLIC	INDEPENDENT
------------	----------	-------------

## WA ENROLMENTS BY SCHOOL SECTOR AND LEVEL 2021

TOTAL ENROLMENTS	67.0	16.5	16.5
PRIMARY	72.6	15.0	12.4
JUNIOR SECONDARY	60.4	18.4	21.2
SENIOR SECONDARY	58.3	18.2	23.5

PERCENTAGE SHARE %

## WA ENROLMENT CHANGE OVER TIME BY SCHOOL SECTOR 2000–2021

2000	71.1	16.5	12.4
2005	67.6	16.8	15.6
2010	65.3	16.7	18.0
2015	66.1	17.4	16.5
2020	67.5	16.4	16.1
2021	67.0	16.5	16.5

PERCENTAGE SHARE %

## TOTAL ADDITIONAL ENROLMENTS BY WA SCHOOL SECTOR 2000–2021

GOVERNMENT	65,543
CATHOLIC	19,327
INDEPENDENT	32,388

## ENROLMENTS IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS 2021

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
PRIMARY	15,217	15,241	30,458
SECONDARY	21,017	20,419	41,435
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,234</b>	<b>35,660</b>	<b>71,893</b>

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS\* 2021

SUPPORT PROVIDED WITHIN A QUALITY DIFFERENTIATED TEACHING PRACTICE	5,324
SUPPLEMENTARY	6,154
SUBSTANTIAL	2,035
EXTENSIVE	716

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



4.2%

GROWTH IN ENROLMENTS IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



71,893

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



2,127

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



309

OVERSEAS STUDENTS



1,756

BOARDING STUDENTS



14,229

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

# SOURCES OF INCOME

Almost half of the income of Independent schools in WA comes from families. Governments save an estimated \$857 million in funding due to the contribution to WA Independent schools from families and other private sources.



## \$857 MILLION

SAVINGS TO GOVERNMENT FROM  
WA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



## \$5,092

MEDIAN ANNUAL FEE  
2020

## 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 non-government schools, providing 76% of total government recurrent funding while states and territories provide 24%. 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 2019–20

#### 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

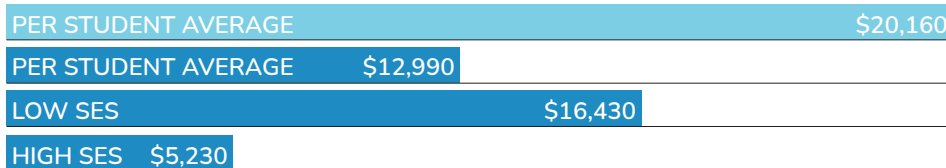
### AVERAGE GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER WA STUDENT

FY 2019–20



### TOTAL GOVERNMENT RECURRENT FUNDING PER WA STUDENT COMPARISON

FY 2019–20



### 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 \$784 million (recurrent and capital) to WA Independent schools.

45%

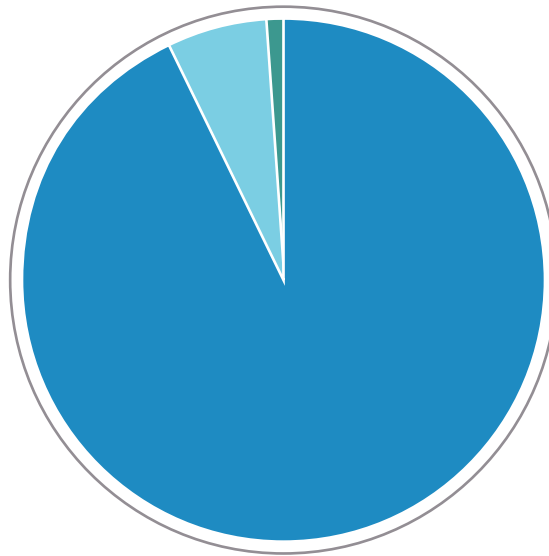
PRIVATE SOURCES  
OF FUNDING

55%

ALL GOVERNMENT  
SOURCES

## MAIN SOURCES OF CAPITAL INCOME

On average, parents and communities provide 94 per cent of capital funding for WA Independent schools. The amount of capital funding in WA Independent schools from private sources in 2020 was \$138 million.



94%

PRIVATE SOURCES  
PARENTS AND DONORS

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

6%

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAPITAL  
GRANTS PROGRAM FOR WA

In 2020 the Australian Government provided \$8.7 million in capital grants to WA Independent schools. In 2021 it is estimated that grants for the WA Independent sector will total approximately \$8.4 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 2020 the WA Government provided \$0.7 million in capital grants to WA Independent schools.

# SCHOOL TEACHERS

WA Independent schools employ almost 19 per cent of all teachers in WA schools.



19%

WA TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## TEACHERS IN THE WA INDEPENDENT SECTOR BY GENDER AND LEVEL (FTE) 2021

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
PRIMARY TEACHERS	396	1,802	2,198		
PER CENT %	18.0	82.0	100		
SECONDARY TEACHERS	1,671	2,132	3,803		
PER CENT %	43.9	56.1	100		

6,002

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT

6,975

NUMBER OF TEACHERS FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME

12,265

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

## WA STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS

CHANGE 2000 – 2021

INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED WITH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

	GOVERNMENT		NON-GOVERNMENT			
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	CATHOLIC		INDEPENDENT	
	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	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
2021	15.3	12.6	16.6	12.6	13.9	10.9



## STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIOS (AVERAGE)

	2021
INDEPENDENT	12.0 TO 1
CATHOLIC	14.4 TO 1
GOVERNMENT	14.1 TO 1

SOURCES: FIGURES IN SNAPSHOT ARE DERIVED FROM DATA PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT, 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 2019-21, OR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021.

PRODUCED BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

 AISWA

Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia

THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WWW.AIS.WA.EDU.AU