



SUMMARY STATISTICS for Victorian Schools 2023

This brochure provides a ready reference for the latest statistics on school education. It is reissued when a later set of information becomes available.

Size of the Victorian school education system

1. Numbers of schools, students and teachers

	Government	Catholic	Independent	All Schools
Number of schools by school type, February 2023				
Primary	1,146	396	34	1,576
Primary–Secondary	79	13	153	245
Secondary	254	85	14	353
Special	83	5	24	112
Language	4	0	0	4
Total	1,566	499	225	2,290
Number (FTE) of students by year level, February 2023				
Preparatory	53,960.0	15,565.9	9,250.7	78,776.6
Year 1	54,803.5	15,827.2	9,343.5	79,974.2
Year 2	55,271.8	16,031.3	9,220.0	80,523.1
Year 3	55,367.1	15,876.0	9,598.9	80,842.0
Year 4	54,785.8	16,060.0	9,672.0	80,517.8
Year 5	54,883.4	16,028.1	10,758.4	81,669.9
Year 6	52,875.9	15,575.0	10,679.7	79,130.6
Ungraded	78.0	0.0	0.0	78.0
Primary total	382,025.5	110,963.5	68,523.2	561,512.2
Year 7	43,573.3	18,059.0	16,831.6	78,463.9
Year 8	44,195.7	18,110.4	16,370.3	78,676.4
Year 9	44,698.3	17,544.4	15,802.5	78,045.2
Year 10	45,527.2	17,261.2	15,917.6	78,706.0
Year 11	43,361.7	16,059.6	15,115.1	74,536.4
Year 12	34,700.2	14,281.7	13,656.2	62,638.1
Ungraded	82.0	0.0	0.0	82.0
Secondary total	256,138.4	101,316.3	93,693.3	451,148.0
Special	13,942.6	898.0	2,809.2	17,649.8
Language	1,870.0	0.0	0.0	1,870.0
Total	653,976.5	213,177.8	165,025.7	1,032,180.0

Source: DE February School Census

NB: Figures on student FTE include all changes from the 2023 enrolment verification process.

Number (FTE) of teaching staff (including principals) in government schools on pay by school type, as at end of quarter

	March 2022	July 2022	September 2022	December 2022	March 2023
Primary	24,170.3	24,075.7	23,998.9	23,776.8	24,563.7
Secondary	17,630.0	17,652.6	17,621.6	17,548.5	18,237.9
Special/P–12/ Lang/Other	7,974.5	7,927.6	7,935.1	7,917.4	8,075.4
Total	49,907.8	49,655.9	49,555.6	49,242.7	50,877.0

Source: DE Monthly Staffing Report

2. Historical trend in numbers of government schools & students, February

Year	Number of Schools	Number of Students (FTE)				
		Primary	Secondary	Special	Language	Total
2019	1,539	378,385.7	237,705.8	13,455.7	1,906.0	631,453.2
2020	1,543	384,337.0	246,491.6	13,435.8	2,093.0	646,357.4
2021	1,553	382,674.9	250,460.5	13,473.0	1,436.0	648,044.4
2022	1,557	378,809.6	251,299.9	13,670.1	1,644.0	645,423.6
2023	1,566	382,025.5	256,138.4	13,942.6	1,870.0	653,976.5

Source: DE February School Census

Profile of Victorian government school students

3. Number (FTE) of students by sex in government schools, February

Year	Male	Female	Percentage of male students			
			Primary	Year 7–10	Year 11–12	All Students
2019	328,012.9	303,440.3	51.7%	52.1%	49.5%	51.9%
2020	335,702.1	310,655.3	51.6%	52.2%	49.7%	51.9%
2021	336,584.2	311,460.2	51.6%	52.2%	49.8%	51.9%
2022	335,339.2	309,994.7	51.6%	52.2%	49.7%	52.0%
2023	340,211.1	312,941.9	51.6%	52.3%	49.9%	52.0%

Source: DE February School Census

NB: Year 7–10 includes secondary ungraded students.

4. Number (FTE) of students with disabilities in government schools

Year	Total in schools	% of total student cohort
2022	162,023	25.1

Source: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on students with disabilities, 2022

As of 2022, the department has adopted the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on students with disability as the measure for students with disability in this brochure, replacing students receiving funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities. This new measure includes all students receiving a reasonable adjustment in response to a disability, as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

5. Number (FTE) of Indigenous students in government schools and per cent of student cohort, August

Year	Primary		Years 7–10		Years 11–12		Special		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2018	8,099.8	2.2	3,706.9	2.3	1,093.7	1.6	650.5	4.9	13,551.9	2.2
2019	8,548.7	2.2	3,969.4	2.4	1,167.9	1.7	713.3	5.3	14,400.4	2.3
2020	8,926.5	2.3	4,261.0	2.5	1,246.9	1.8	739.3	5.5	15,173.7	2.4
2021	9,353.1	2.4	4,611.4	2.6	1,264.9	1.8	769.1	5.6	15,998.5	2.5
2022	9,614.9	2.5	4,843.7	2.7	1,322.2	1.8	783.0	5.7	16,563.8	2.6

Source: DE August School Census

NB: Years 7–10 includes secondary ungraded students.

6. Number of students in government schools with a language background other than English, August

Year	Speak mainly English at home			Most common non-English languages spoken at home			
	Yes	No	Total				
2018	64,107	133,635	197,742	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chinese nfd			
2019	67,108	142,131	209,239	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi			
2020	70,753	147,988	218,741	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi			
2021	72,179	149,958	222,137	Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Punjabi			
2022	74,017	155,973	229,990	Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Punjabi			

Source: DE August School Census

nfd indicates 'not further defined'

7. International students (fee paying) in government schools

Year	At June 30 th	Main countries of origin
2018	5,811	China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, India
2019	5,670	China, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Saudi Arabia
2020	5,494	China, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Korea
2021	3,860	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia
2022	2,928	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia
2023	4,060	China, Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Hong Kong

Source: DE International Education Division VISIT database, July 2023

NB: Enrolment figures include all primary and secondary visa holders defined as fee paying international students under Ministerial Order 819 - Fees for Overseas Students in Government Schools. Secondary visa holders include dependent children of temporary residents or international students studying in Victorian vocational education, training, and tertiary institutions.

8. VET in schools programs – certificate enrolments

Year	Government schools	Non-government schools	Total certificate enrolments
2018	36,477	24,904	61,381
2019	36,440	26,028	62,468
2020	36,647	26,257	62,904
2021	39,051	27,454	66,505
2022	38,990	28,863	67,853

Source: VCAA

NB: Excludes students whose home enrolment is a non-school setting. Students may enrol in more than one VET certificate.

Retention and transition rates

9. Apparent retention rates by sex and sector, February (per cent)

Year	Apparent retention Year 10–12			Apparent retention Year 7–12		
	Gov	Non-Gov	All Schools	Gov	Non-Gov	All Schools
2019	84.3	91.5	87.4	91.7	89.7	90.8
2020	84.3	91.9	87.5	91.3	90.5	91.0
2021	84.9	91.9	87.9	91.5	90.7	91.1
2022	82.3	90.1	85.6	88.0	88.8	88.3
2023	81.2	89.9	84.9	84.2	88.1	85.9
Male	76.5	86.8	80.7	79.1	84.3	81.3
Female	85.9	92.8	88.9	89.2	91.6	90.2

Source: DE February School Census

NB: Years 10–12 and 7–12 apparent retention rates refer to Year 12 full-time equivalent enrolments expressed as a proportion of the Year 10 (2 years earlier) and Year 7 (5 years earlier) full-time equivalent enrolments.

10. Transition rates for government schools, February (per cent)

	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Year 9–10	103.2	102.5	99.6	99.5	101.8
Year 10–11	97.2	97.9	97.3	96.3	98.7
Year 11–12	85.4	86.7	86.7	84.6	84.3

Source: DE February School Census

NB: Transition rates are expressed as a percentage of a school education year level that progresses to the next year level. That is, the number (FTE) of students in a particular year level expressed as a percentage of the cohort of students in the previous year level one year earlier.

Size of classes

11. Class sizes in government schools, February

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary classes					
Average class size – All classes	22.2	22.2	22.0	21.8	22.0
Average class size – Prep	19.3	19.4	19.2	18.9	18.9
Average class size – Prep–2	20.7	20.8	20.4	20.3	20.4
Average class size – Years 3–6	23.4	23.4	23.2	23.1	23.2
Secondary English classes					
Average class size – All classes	21.3	21.3	21.4	21.2	21.4
Average class size – Year 12	18.9	19.2	19.2	18.9	18.8

Source: DE February School Census

NB: Comparable interstate data is not readily available as class size is not part of the National Schools Statistics Collection.

Regional summary – government schools

12. Schools, students, apparent retention rates (ARR) and class sizes by region, February

Region	February 2023				Feb 2022		Feb 2023	
	Schools	Students (FTE)	ARR		Average class size			
			10–12	7–12	P–2	All Prim	P–2	All Prim
North-Eastern Victoria	378	142,750.4	82.8%	83.4%	20.3	21.9	20.3	22.0
North-Western Victoria	350	143,827.6	86.8%	89.0%	20.2	21.6	20.2	21.7
South-Eastern Victoria	412	185,557.4	79.3%	85.6%	20.2	21.8	20.4	21.9
South-Western Victoria	426	181,841.1	77.5%	79.6%	20.2	21.8	20.5	22.1
Total	1,566	653,976.5	81.2%	84.2%	20.3	21.8	20.4	22.0

Source: DE February School Census

Interstate comparisons including some key indicators

Apparent retention rates

13. Year 10–12 apparent retention rates, August (per cent) full-time students

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
2018	71.4	79.9	83.7	88.4	83.9	76.5	66.9	100.0	79.2
2019	70.6	77.8	83.4	85.3	84.0	80.4	61.8	100.0	78.0
2020	73.3	78.1	78.5	85.1	84.2	79.5	73.5	100.0	78.2
2021	71.5	78.2	77.5	82.6	83.6	79.9	68.9	100.0	77.2
2022	66.5	76.2	74.4	80.8	78.4	76.1	59.9	98.0	73.5
Male	61.7	71.4	71.0	75.5	73.8	68.5	54.6	90.2	68.9
Female	71.6	81.5	78.0	86.5	83.5	84.4	65.4	100.0	78.5
All sectors									
2018	76.3	84.7	87.8	90.8	85.0	73.2	65.1	90.0	82.8
2019	75.8	83.3	88.1	89.1	85.5	74.3	64.1	89.8	82.0
2020	77.5	83.9	83.7	88.6	85.8	73.9	70.4	90.1	82.1
2021	76.3	83.9	83.2	87.1	85.6	74.5	67.5	89.7	81.6
2022	73.2	82.1	81.0	86.0	82.0	71.7	62.6	87.8	79.0
Male	68.9	77.6	78.1	81.4	78.4	66.2	58.1	83.9	75.0
Female	77.6	86.7	84.1	90.8	85.7	77.6	67.4	91.9	83.2

14. Year 7–12 apparent retention rates, August (per cent) full-time students

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government									
2018	74.4	87.9	86.4	94.8	83.8	78.9	57.7	100.0	83.1
2019	73.5	85.8	87.9	91.7	83.4	82.1	57.1	100.0	82.2
2020	75.7	85.1	80.4	90.8	82.8	82.5	65.4	100.0	81.4
2021	73.5	84.7	79.3	87.6	81.7	82.0	65.1	100.0	80.0
2022	70.5	80.9	74.8	83.7	76.7	77.2	56.2	100.0	76.0
Male	66.4	75.3	70.2	78.9	73.0	69.2	49.6	95.4	71.3
Female	74.8	87.0	79.8	88.7	80.7	85.9	63.7	100.0	81.1
All sectors									
2018	77.8	88.7	89.2	94.6	83.3	74.0	52.5	92.8	84.5
2019	77.1	87.4	91.3	93.4	83.5	75.5	54.3	94.0	84.0
2020	78.4	87.6	85.3	92.7	83.9	74.9	57.8	91.9	83.6
2021	77.1	87.5	85.3	91.1	83.6	75.7	56.8	90.9	83.1
2022	75.5	84.5	82.2	88.3	80.5	72.3	54.2	87.9	80.5
Male	71.4	79.6	78.7	83.3	77.2	66.3	50.3	83.7	76.3
Female	79.7	89.7	86.0	93.4	84.1	78.7	58.4	92.4	84.9

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

NB: ABS Years 10–12 and 7–12 apparent retention rates refer to Year 12 enrolment of students in full-time school education expressed as a proportion of Year 10/7 enrolments two/five years earlier. DE calculates its retention rate on an FTE basis. Note that apparent retention rates calculated for February are generally higher than for August as a number of Year 12 students leave during the year. The above tables reference the ABS published rates capped to 100 per cent. Capped rates were first published in 2015.

Apparent retention rates by single year (grade) range

15. All sectors, August (per cent) full-time students

Range	Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Aust.
Year 7-8	2018	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.7	100.0	100.0
	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.7	100.0	100.0
	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.7	96.1	99.9	100.0
	2021	99.5	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.6	97.4	99.8	99.9
	2022	99.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.1	95.0	99.1	99.9
Year 8-9	2018	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	92.3	100.0	100.0
	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	99.8	95.7	100.0	100.0
	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	100.0	95.1	100.0	100.0
	2021	99.6	99.9	100.0	100.0	98.8	99.3	95.8	100.0	99.7
	2022	99.8	100.0	99.8	100.0	99.0	99.3	93.5	100.0	99.7
Year 9-10	2018	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.8	100.0	89.9	100.0	100.0
	2019	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.6	100.0	95.6	99.5	100.0
	2020	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0	97.7	100.0	100.0
	2021	99.1	99.4	99.0	100.0	98.4	99.3	94.9	100.0	99.2
	2022	99.3	100.0	98.8	100.0	98.5	99.4	93.6	100.0	99.5
Year 10-11	2018	87.8	94.5	97.3	100.0	97.2	87.8	83.5	100.0	93.7
	2019	88.0	94.4	93.7	100.0	97.2	85.3	91.4	100.0	93.2
	2020	89.4	94.4	92.9	100.0	97.9	88.2	90.2	100.0	93.5
	2021	85.6	94.4	91.4	100.0	94.8	85.9	86.8	98.6	91.4
	2022	84.5	93.5	90.9	100.0	92.7	84.8	82.9	98.6	90.4
Year 11-12	2018	86.1	88.4	90.7	86.9	87.0	85.0	72.9	86.5	87.7
	2019	86.3	88.1	90.6	85.3	87.9	84.6	76.8	87.7	87.5
	2020	88.1	88.8	89.3	84.0	88.3	86.6	77.0	89.4	88.1
	2021	85.4	88.9	89.6	84.4	87.4	84.5	74.8	88.6	87.3
	2022	85.5	87.0	88.6	83.8	86.5	83.5	72.1	89.0	86.4

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

NB: Apparent retention rates by single year (grade) are based on full time students only. Rates are expressed as a percentage of a school education year level that progresses to the next year level. That is, the number of students in a particular year level expressed as a percentage of the cohort of students in the previous year level one year earlier. These rates are akin to transition rates. The above tables reference the ABS published rates capped to 100 per cent. Capped rates were first published in 2015.

Number of schools

16. Number of schools by sector, August 2022

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government	2,151	1,554	1,248	508	807	191	152	90	6,699
Primary	1602	1137	915	349	546	125	61	59	4794
Secondary	369	250	192	67	112	36	14	19	1059
Combined	66	85	92	74	84	25	71	8	505
Special	114	82	49	18	65	4	5	4	341
Non-government	969	725	543	207	309	72	43	47	2,915
Primary	484	434	226	87	139	30	12	27	1439
Secondary	140	93	84	18	31	5	8	6	385
Combined	278	164	187	92	123	33	22	13	912
Special	67	34	46	10	16	4	1	1	179
All sectors	3,120	2,279	1,791	715	1,116	262	194	137	9,614
Primary	2086	1571	1141	436	685	155	73	86	6233
Secondary	509	343	276	85	143	41	22	25	1444
Combined	344	249	279	166	207	58	93	21	1417
Special	181	116	95	28	81	8	6	5	520

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

Number of students

17. Government and non-government full-time students, August

Sector	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2017									
Govt	796,769	617,926	550,829	173,467	280,469	56,483	29,528	43,068	2,548,539
N-govt	420,443	351,893	267,734	94,130	137,159	24,239	10,917	27,723	1,334,238
All sectors	1,217,212	969,819	818,563	267,597	417,628	80,722	40,445	70,791	3,882,777
2018									
Govt	804,563	631,055	559,157	175,694	284,718	56,486	29,789	44,075	2,585,537
N-govt	425,849	356,353	273,552	95,076	138,378	24,608	10,705	28,134	1,352,655
All sectors	1,230,412	987,408	832,709	270,770	423,096	81,094	40,494	72,209	3,938,192
2019									
Govt	808,949	641,462	572,115	175,580	289,775	56,480	30,218	45,371	2,619,950
N-govt	431,012	361,682	283,741	96,465	139,675	24,979	10,384	28,573	1,376,511
All sectors	1,239,961	1,003,144	855,856	272,045	429,450	81,459	40,602	73,944	3,996,461
2020									
Govt	800,986	642,488	573,031	172,883	292,335	55,468	29,918	45,939	2,613,048
N-govt	440,849	365,167	291,915	99,843	143,667	25,640	10,453	29,157	1,406,691
All sectors	1,241,835	1,007,655	864,946	272,726	436,002	81,108	40,371	75,096	4,019,739
2022									
Govt	789,664	642,777	569,353	171,514	292,710	54,892	29,246	46,074	2,596,230
N-govt	450,615	369,495	299,027	102,902	146,996	26,080	10,649	29,634	1,435,398
All sectors	1,240,279	1,012,272	868,380	274,416	439,706	80,972	39,895	75,708	4,031,628

Source: ABS Schools Australia

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release>

* Difference reflects the percentage point difference between the 2022 and 2021 rate.

Number of teachers

19. Number (FTE) of teachers in government sector, August

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
2018	56,743.7	45,7							