

Independent schools in Queensland

There are 184 independent schools in Queensland that between them educate some 103 000 students from a diverse cross-section of the Queensland community (79% of independent schools cater for students from families in the middle to low income bracket). They make a significant contribution to the Queensland education system.

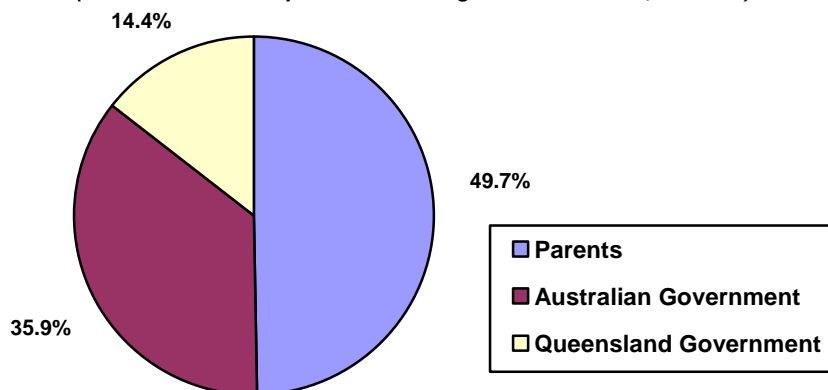
How are independent schools funded?

Independent schools are funded through a partnership between parents, the Australian Government and the Queensland Government. In 2008, Queensland independent schools received, on average, recurrent funding of:

- \$6,813 per student from parents and the school community
- \$4,931 per student from the Australian Government
- \$1,978 per student from the Queensland Government

Queensland Independent Schools - Recurrent Funding Sources 2008

(Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2008, Table 23)

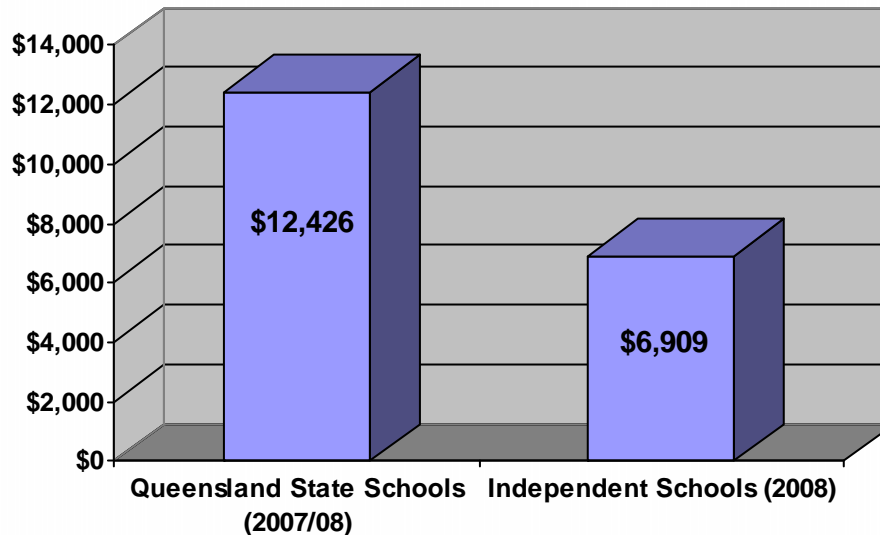


How does the Government funding of independent schools compare with State schools?

Independent schools receive considerably less Government funding (i.e. combined Commonwealth and State) than do State schools, on an average per student basis. In 2007/08, total Government funding (expenditure) per student in a State school was \$12 426, whereas for 2008, total Government funding per student in a Queensland independent school was \$6 909 (refer chart below).

Average Government Recurrent Funding Per Student

(Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2008 - Tables 20, 23)



State recurrent funding is not keeping pace with cost increases

The Queensland Government budget figures below highlight how, over recent years, State recurrent funding support for non-state schools has fallen considerably behind the annual cost increases faced by schools (including 2009 teacher salary increases of 4.5%). As a result, parents and school communities have had to increase their contributions through the payment of higher fees and from other private income.

The increase in average per student funding has been less than 4% each year from 2006/07 to 2009/10. This compares with movements in the national Average Government School Recurrent Cost (the index used to supplement Australian Government funding for schools) of 5% for primary and 4.4% for secondary (compounding averages over five years from 2004 to 2009).

Budget Year	Recurrent Funding for Non-State Schools (\$ million)	No of Non-State School Students	Average Funding per Student	Increase in Average Funding per Student
2006-07	364.479	219,620	\$1,660	
2007-08	386.829	228,650	\$1,692	1.9%
2008-09	408.185	234,920	\$1,738	2.7%
2009-10	435.721	241,670	\$1,803	3.7%

(Source: Queensland Government annual budget documents)

Call for renewed State Government commitment to all schools

Independent Schools Queensland has advocated strongly to the State Government for higher levels of support for all Queensland schools, state and non-state, so that educational outcomes can be improved for all Queensland students and their families.

2010 State recurrent grants

During October 2009, general recurrent grant rates for 2010 were advised to non-state schools. The rates for all schools will in due course be made publically available at:

http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/docs/all_rates.xls

The following table provides a summary of the changes to rates between 2008 and 2009 and between 2009 and 2010, by the number and proportion of independent schools.

Change in rates	Movement in State Recurrent Funding Rates for Independent Schools			
	2008 => 2009		2009 => 2010	
	No of Schools	% of Schools	No of Schools *	% of Schools
Decrease	44	25%	3	2%
Unchanged	4	2%	0	0%
Increase up to 1%	51	29%	13	7%
Increase 1% to 2%	50	28%	42	23%
Increase 2% to 4%	17	9%	89	50%
Increase above 4%	12	7%	32	18%

[* 5 Spec Assist Schs (SAS) not included]

In 2010, some 18% of independent schools will be paid rates that have increased by more than 4% over their 2009 rates. While this is significantly higher than the proportion in 2009 (7%), nevertheless it means 82% of schools will be paid rates in 2010 that are not keeping pace with average annual teacher salary increases.

Significantly, the number of independent schools whose rates will be lower in 2010 is 3 in contrast to 44 schools in 2009 whose rates were lower than in 2008. This change reflects an improved budget in 2010 for the general recurrent grants program. Where rates are lower in 2010, this results from the needs profile of the school having changed in 2009 to be lower than in 2008. A lower needs profile for a school in 2009 impacts on the calculation of the school's 2010 rates.

The largest increase and largest reduction in the 2010 rates, over 2009, were +30.4% and -17% respectively.

The table below summarises analysis of total (notional) recurrent grant funding for the independent sector using the 2009 enrolments of independent schools (SAS not included), multiplied by their 2009 and 2010 rates:

Year	Est. total recurrent (\$ million)	Est. needs funding (\$ million)
2009	168.6	33.5
2010	172.4	37.3
% annual change	2.3%	11.5%

The analysis above uses notional totals based on 2009 enrolments and therefore does not take account of any projection of enrolment changes expected for 2010. Also, this analysis does not take account of the payment by the Department of Education and Training of residual buffer funds or any special one-off payments made from time to time to manage the balance of calendar year allocations drawn from financial year budgets.

Noteworthy is the increase in the (notional) needs component in 2010 by 11.5% over 2009. This increase reflects the ongoing implementation of the State Government's policy objective of 40% needs funding over time, with base rates remaining frozen at the levels of 2008.

More information

For further information on government funding of independent schools visit ISQ's website at www.aisq.qld.edu.au or contact Allan Guse, Manager (Strategic Resourcing and Policy) by email at allan.guse@aisq.qld.edu.au or by telephone on 3228 1515.