

NSW public school February census enrolment data

Based on February census enrolment figures, there were over 795,000 students in NSW public schools in 2023.

From 2019-2020, February census enrolment data has shown a year on year increase in total enrolments in NSW public schools until 2020.

In 2021, 2022 and 2023 there is a reduction in total enrolments in NSW Public Schools.

Public primary school enrolments (including preschool and support enrolments) decreased from 481,607 in 2022 to 474,331 in 2023.

Enrolments for mainstream secondary schools (including support enrolments)

have decreased from 316,786 in 2022 to 313,883 in 2023.

Enrolment trends, like other population dynamics, tend to be cyclical.

Factors affecting NSW public school enrolment trends include parent choice, retention rates between grades and overall population changes in the number of school aged children and COVID-19 pandemic.

NSW public school total enrolments by School Performance Directorates

School Performance Directorate	2019 Total	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	Difference 2022-2023
Connected Communities	3,370.5	3,382.0	3,230.1	8,781.0	9,870.5	1,089.6
Metropolitan North	156,979.6	161,806.7	162,997.2	161,151.2	160,781.0	-370.2
Metropolitan South	133,491.3	134,980.4	133,296.5	130,575.4	129,101.9	-1,473.5
Metropolitan South & West	137,919.6	140,639.6	139,109.6	136,986.7	136,476.0	-510.7
Regional North	111,354.5	112,508.4	112,076.9	109,730.5	107,697.3	-2,033.1
Regional North & West	68,628.4	68,423.5	67,715.5	64,033.3	62,340.6	-1,692.8
Regional South	88,592.1	89,376.4	89,199.3	86,511.4	85,537.3	-974.1
Rural North	55,077.3	54,512.4	53,228.0	51,890.6	48,839.2	-3,051.4
Rural South and West	58,201.1	58,242.5	57,288.6	55,810.4	54,841.3	-969.1
TOTAL	813,614.4	823,872.0	818,141.7	805,470.4	795,485.1	-9,985.3

Source: School Entitlement System

NSW public school primary enrolments (including support) *

School Performance Directorate	Kindergarten						Primary (Preschool to Year 6 and support)					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022-2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022-2023
Connected Communities	230.0	209.0	184.0	554.0	542.0	-12.0	1,436.5	1,451.5	1,361.5	3,902.1	3,993.5	91.4
Metropolitan North	14,489.0	14,883.0	14,320.0	13,903.0	12,934.0	-969.0	102,010.5	104,155.0	104,753.4	102,601.9	101,265.0	-1,336.9
Metropolitan South	12,866.0	12,758.0	12,104.0	11,530.0	11,214.0	-316.0	86,155.7	86,227.8	84,110.3	81,119.8	79,088.6	-2,031.2
Metropolitan South & West	10,845.0	10,649.0	10,529.0	10,099.0	10,090.0	-9.0	77,802.9	78,353.7	77,373.4	75,834.1	75,529.3	-304.8
Regional North	9,165.0	9,266.0	9,067.0	8,704.0	8,609.0	-95.0	66,372.0	66,420.9	65,587.9	64,029.5	63,207.5	-822.0
Regional North & West	5,552.0	5,433.0	5,293.0	5,068.0	4,806.0	-262.0	40,972.0	40,643.2	39,885.0	38,366.5	37,443.0	-923.5
Regional South	7,552.0	7,496.0	7,464.0	7,408.0	7,272.0	-136.0	53,887.5	53,785.3	53,509.6	52,676.5	52,387.0	-289.5
Rural North	4,339.0	4,021.0	3,951.0	3,882.0	3,558.0	-324.0	32,158.3	31,228.3	30,345.0	29,551.9	28,406.4	-1,145.5
Rural South and West	4,949.0	4,798.0	4,668.0	4,607.0	4,544.0	-63.0	35,327.0	34,807.8	34,294.9	33,525.3	33,011.6	-513.7
TOTAL	69,987.0	69,513.0	67,580.0	65,755.0	63,569.0	-2,186.0	496,122.4	497,073.5	491,221.0	481,607.6	474,331.9	-7,275.7

NSW public school secondary enrolments (including support) *

School Performance Directorate	Year 7						Secondary (Year 7 to Year 12 and support)					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022-2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022-2023
Connected Communities	336.0	361.0	314.0	817.0	1,044.0	227.0	1,934.0	1,930.5	1,868.6	4,878.9	5,877.0	998.2
Metropolitan North	9,435.0	10,110.0	9,597.0	9,559.0	9,640.0	81.0	53,657.1	56,269.7	56,858.8	57,175.3	58,174.0	998.7
Metropolitan South	7,758.0	8,025.0	8,003.0	7,983.0	7,813.0	-170.0	45,826.6	47,192.6	47,508.2	47,701.6	48,157.3	455.7
Metropolitan South & West	10,329.0	10,432.0	9,889.0	9,702.0	9,402.0	-300.0	58,864.7	61,032.9	60,438.2	59,828.6	59,558.7	-269.9
Regional North	8,263.0	8,444.0	8,159.0	7,825.0	7,572.0	-253.0	44,342.5	45,459.5	45,832.0	45,040.0	43,824.8	-1,215.1
Regional North & West	5,014.0	4,929.0	4,734.0	4,172.0	4,030.0	-142.0	27,381.4	27,497.3	27,536.5	25,381.8	24,596.6	-785.3
Regional South	6,342.0	6,280.0	6,082.0	5,719.0	5,477.0	-242.0	33,949.6	34,745.1	34,828.7	32,947.9	32,240.3	-707.6
Rural North	4,141.0	4,108.0	4,001.0	3,748.0	3,492.0	-256.0	22,669.0	23,041.1	22,634.0	22,064.7	20,158.8	-1,905.9
Rural South and West	4,178.0	4,159.0	4,064.0	3,698.0	3,744.0	46.0	22,411.1	22,972.7	22,528.7	21,768.1	21,295.7	-472.4
TOTAL	55,796.0	56,848.0	54,843.0	53,223.0	52,214.0	-1,009.0	311,036.0	320,141.5	320,033.7	316,786.8	313,883.2	-2,903.6

NSW public school total mainstream enrolments (including preschool, primary and secondary support) *

School Performance Directorate	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022-2023
Connected Communities	3,370.5	3,382.0	3,230.1	8,781.0	9,870.5	1,089.6
Metropolitan North	155,667.6	160,424.7	161,612.2	159,777.2	159,439.0	-338.2
Metropolitan South	131,982.3	133,420.4	131,618.5	128,821.4	127,245.9	-1,575.5
Metropolitan South & West	136,667.6	139,386.6	137,811.6	135,662.7	135,088.0	-574.7
Regional North	110,714.5	111,880.4	111,419.9	109,069.5	107,032.3	-2,037.1
Regional North & West	68,353.4	68,140.5	67,421.5	63,748.3	62,039.6	-1,708.8
Regional South	87,837.1	88,530.4	88,338.3	85,624.4	84,627.3	-997.1

Rural North	54,827.3	54,269.4	52,979.0	51,616.6	48,565.2	-3,051.4
Rural South and West	57,738.1	57,780.5	56,823.6	55,293.4	54,307.3	-986.1
TOTAL	807,158.4	817,215.0	811,254.7	798,394.4	788,215.1	-10,179.3

NSW public school enrolments in schools for specific purposes*

School Performance Directorate	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Difference 2022-2023
Connected Communities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Metropolitan North	1,312.0	1,382.0	1,385.0	1,374.0	1,342.0	-32.0
Metropolitan South	1,509.0	1,560.0	1,678.0	1,754.0	1,856.0	102.0
Metropolitan South & West	1,252.0	1,253.0	1,298.0	1,324.0	1,388.0	64.0
Regional North	640.0	628.0	657.0	661.0	665.0	4.0
Regional North & West	275.0	283.0	294.0	285.0	301.0	16.0
Regional South	755.0	846.0	861.0	887.0	910.0	23.0
Rural North	250.0	243.0	249.0	274.0	274.0	0.0
Rural South and West	463.0	462.0	465.0	517.0	534.0	17.0
TOTAL	6,456.0	6,657.0	6,887.0	7,076.0	7,270.0	194.0

*As at February census

Source: School Entitlement System