

NSW public school February census enrolment data

Based on February census enrolment figures, there were over 788,500 students in NSW public schools in 2024.

From 2020-2024, February census enrolment data has shown a reduction in total enrolments in NSW Public Schools.

Public primary school enrolments (including preschool and support enrolments) decreased from 474,331 in 2023 to 468,430 in 2024.

Enrolments for mainstream secondary schools (including support enrolments) have decreased from 313,883 in 2023 to 312,756 in 2024.

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	2020 Total	2021 Total	2022 Total	2023 Total	2024 Total	Difference 2023-2024
Connected Communities	3,382.0	3,230.1	8,781.0	9,870.5	9,600.2	-270.3
Metropolitan North	161,806.7	162,997.2	161,151.2	160,781.0	160,513.1	-267.9
Metropolitan South	134,980.4	133,296.5	130,575.4	129,101.9	127,595.5	-1,506.4
Metropolitan South & West	140,639.6	139,109.6	136,986.7	136,476.0	136,559.4	83.4
Regional North	112,508.4	112,076.9	109,730.5	107,697.3	106,332.7	-1,364.6
Regional North & West	68,423.5	67,715.5	64,033.3	62,340.6	61,139.1	-1,201.5
Regional South	89,376.4	89,199.3	86,511.4	85,537.3	85,742.5	205.2
Rural North	54,512.4	53,228.0	51,890.6	48,839.2	47,201.6	-1,637.6
Rural South and West	58,242.5	57,288.6	55,810.4	54,841.3	53,903.9	-937.4
TOTAL	823,872.0	818,141.7	805,470.4	795,485.1	788,587.9	-6,897.2

Source: School Entitlement System

NSW public school primary enrolments (including support) *

School Performance Directorate	Kindergarten					Difference 2023-2024	Primary (Preschool to Year 6 and support)					Difference 2023-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Connected Communities	209.0	184.0	554.0	542.0	502.0	-40.0	1,451.5	1,361.5	3,902.1	3,993.5	4,048.6	55.1
Metropolitan North	14,883.0	14,320.0	13,903.0	12,934.0	12,625.0	-309.0	104,155.0	104,753.4	102,601.9	101,265.0	100,095.2	1,169.8
Metropolitan South	12,758.0	12,104.0	11,530.0	11,214.0	10,601.0	-613.0	86,227.8	84,110.3	81,119.8	79,088.6	76,843.1	2,245.5
Metropolitan South & West	10,649.0	10,529.0	10,099.0	10,090.0	9,742.0	-348.0	78,353.7	77,373.4	75,834.1	75,529.3	73,750.1	1,779.2
Regional North	9,266.0	9,067.0	8,704.0	8,609.0	8,336.0	-273.0	66,420.9	65,587.9	64,029.5	63,207.5	62,367.5	-840.0
Regional North & West	5,433.0	5,293.0	5,068.0	4,806.0	4,731.0	-75.0	40,643.2	39,885.0	38,366.5	37,443.0	36,667.9	-775.1
Regional South	7,496.0	7,464.0	7,408.0	7,272.0	7,674.0	402.0	53,785.3	53,509.6	52,676.5	52,387.0	54,115.0	1,728.0
Rural North	4,021.0	3,951.0	3,882.0	3,558.0	3,593.0	35	31,228.3	30,345.0	29,551.9	28,406.4	27,745.6	-660.8
Rural South and West	4,798.0	4,668.0	4,607.0	4,544.0	4,416.0	-128.0	34,807.8	34,294.9	33,525.3	33,011.6	32,797.0	-214.6
TOTAL	69,513.0	67,580.0	65,755.0	63,569.0	62,220.0	-- 1,349.0	497,073.5	491,221.0	481,607.6	474,331.9	468,430.0	- 5,901.9

NSW public school secondary enrolments (including support) *

School Performance Directorate	Year 7					Difference 2023-2024	Secondary (Year 7 to Year 12 and support)					Difference 2023-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Connected Communities	361.0	314.0	817.0	1,044.0	962.0	-82.0	1,930.5	1,868.6	4,878.9	5,877.0	5,551.6	-325.4
Metropolitan North	10,110.0	9,597.0	9,559.0	9,640.0	9,758.0	118.0	56,269.7	56,858.8	57,175.3	58,174.0	59,398.9	1,224.9
Metropolitan South	8,025.0	8,003.0	7,983.0	7,813.0	7,734.0	-79.0	47,192.6	47,508.2	47,701.6	48,157.3	48,882.4	725.1
Metropolitan South & West	10,432.0	9,889.0	9,702.0	9,402.0	9,470.0	68.0	61,032.9	60,438.2	59,828.6	59,558.7	59,260.3	-298.4
Regional North	8,444.0	8,159.0	7,825.0	7,572.0	7,478.0	-94.0	45,459.5	45,832.0	45,040.0	43,824.8	43,105.2	-719.6
Regional North & West	4,929.0	4,734.0	4,172.0	4,030.0	4,113.0	83.0	27,497.3	27,536.5	25,381.8	24,596.6	23,987.2	-609.4
Regional South	6,280.0	6,082.0	5,719.0	5,477.0	5,655.0	178.0	34,745.1	34,828.7	32,947.9	32,240.3	32,847.5	-607.2
Rural North	4,108.0	4,001.0	3,748.0	3,492.0	3,320.0	-172.0	23,041.1	22,634.0	22,064.7	20,158.8	19,171.0	-987.8
Rural South and West	4,159.0	4,064.0	3,698.0	3,744.0	3,565.0	-1749.0	22,972.7	22,528.7	21,768.1	21,295.7	20,552.9	-742.8
TOTAL	56,848.0	54,843.0	53,223.0	52,214.0	52,055.0	-159.0	320,141.5	320,033.7	316,786.8	313,883.2	312,756.9	1,126.3

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

School Performance Directorate	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Difference 2023-2024
Connected Communities	3,382.0	3,230.1	8,781.0	9,870.5	9,600.2	-270.3
Metropolitan North	160,424.7	161,612.2	159,777.2	159,439.0	159,494.1	55.1
Metropolitan South	133,420.4	131,618.5	128,821.4	127,245.9	125,725.5	-1,520.4
Metropolitan South & West	139,386.6	137,811.6	135,662.7	135,088.0	133,010.4	-2,077.6
Regional North	111,880.4	111,419.9	109,069.5	107,032.3	105,472.7	-1,559.6
Regional North & West	68,140.5	67,421.5	63,748.3	62,039.6	60,655.1	-1,384.5
Regional South	88,530.4	88,338.3	85,624.4	84,627.3	86,962.5	-957.4
Rural North	54,269.4	52,979.0	51,616.6	48,565.2	46,916.6	-1,648.6

Rural South and West	57,780.5	56,823.6	55,293.4	54,307.3	53,349.9	-957.4
TOTAL	817,215.0	811,254.7	798,394.4	788,215.1	781,186.9	-7,028.2

NSW public school enrolments in schools for specific purposes*

School Performance Directorate	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Difference 2023-2024
Connected Communities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Metropolitan North	1,382.0	1,385.0	1,374.0	1,342.0	1,359.0	17.0
Metropolitan South	1,560.0	1,678.0	1,754.0	1,856.0	1,870.0	14.0
Metropolitan South & West	1,253.0	1,298.0	1,324.0	1,388.0	1,417.0	29.0
Regional North	628.0	657.0	661.0	665.0	690.0	25.0
Regional North & West	283.0	294.0	285.0	301.0	314.0	13.0
Regional South	846.0	861.0	887.0	910.0	912.0	2.0
Rural North	243.0	249.0	274.0	274.0	285.0	11.0
Rural South and West	462.0	465.0	517.0	534.0	554.0	20.0
TOTAL	6,657.0	6,887.0	7,076.0	7,270.0	7,401.0	131.0

*As at February census

Source: School Entitlement System