



## Fact Sheet: Attendance in Australian Schools

FS06 – 2022

**Notes:** \* Latest update on ACARA website contains Student Attendance data for Semester One only. Term 3 data are not included due to data collection inconsistencies resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Number of schools by average attendance rate<sup>^</sup> and state, 2021

In 2021, 2,953 schools in Australia reported attendance rates of less than 90%, while 6,466 schools reported attendance rates at or above 90%.

A student with an attendance rate of 90% misses on average one day of school per fortnight.

State/Territory	Less than 75%	75% - 79%	80% - 84%	85% - 89%	90% and above	Total schools with data
NSW	78	79	220	582	2,108	3,067
Vic	14	8	64	302	1,851	2,239
Qld	41	31	150	481	1,040	1,743
SA	25	13	51	156	458	703
WA	66	37	82	202	709	1,096
Tas	5	6	22	79	141	253
NT	98	5	15	22	48	188
ACT	1	0	3	15	111	130
<b>Australia</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>9,419</b>

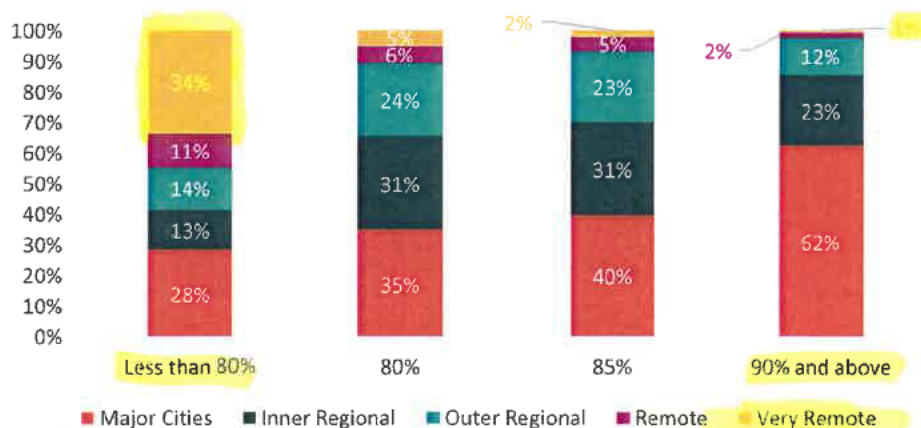
Source: My School 2022, Enrolment Year reported is 2021 (ACARA).

Notes: The percentage of schools with average attendance below 90%, by region and sector, is a proportion of all schools in that region/sector regardless of attendance rate. Approved Authorities determine the timeframe for student attendance on a daily basis.

<sup>^</sup>Attendance rate is defined as the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Years 1-10 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended over the period.

### Schools with attendance rates<sup>^</sup>, by remoteness, 2021

Schools in non-metropolitan areas are overrepresented in schools with attendance rates under 80%.



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## Schools with average attendance rates<sup>^</sup> less than 90% by state and sector, 2021

In 2021, a higher proportion of government sector schools (38.1%) reported average attendance rate less than 90% compared to Catholic (12.8%) and independent (19.6.0%) sectors respectively.

State/ Territory	Government		Catholic		Independent		Total	
	Number	% in sector	Number	% in sector	Number	% in sector	Number	% all schools
<b>NSW</b>	797	12.1	81	4.8	81	7.2	959	10.2
<b>Vic</b>	322	4.9	43	2.5	23	2	388	4.1
<b>Qld</b>	605	9.2	40	2.4	58	5.1	703	7.5
<b>SA</b>	228	3.5	9	0.5	8	0.7	245	2.6
<b>WA</b>	330	5	23	1.4	34	3	387	4.1
<b>Tas</b>	93	1.4	11	0.7	8	0.7	112	1.2
<b>NT</b>	122	1.8	9	0.5	9	0.8	140	1.5
<b>ACT</b>	17	0.3	1	0.1	1	0.1	19	0.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>2,953</b>	<b>31.4</b>

Source: My School 2022, Enrolment Year reported is 2021 (ACARA).

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## Schools with average attendance rates<sup>^</sup> less than 90% by remoteness and sector, 2021

At least 4 out of 5 schools (85%) in very remote areas reported attendance rates less than 90%.

	Government		Catholic		Independent		Total	
	Number	% of all schools	Number	% of all schools	Number	% of all schools	Number	% of all schools
<b>Major Cities</b>	918	27.5	65	6.3	99	13.4	1,082	21.1
<b>Inner Regional</b>	685	41.1	64	16.4	67	26.3	815	35.4
<b>Outer Regional</b>	563	50.5	47	22.8	29	29	639	45
<b>Remote</b>	145	60.7	24	60	5	45.5	174	60
<b>Very Remote</b>	203	86.4	18	66.7	22	91.7	243	85
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2,514</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>2,953</b>	<b>31.4</b>

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## Student Attendance Rates<sup>^</sup> by state and sector, 2021

The overall attendance rates in NT are lower than other states and territories across both Government and Non-Government sectors.

	Years 1-6			Years 7-10			Years 1-10		
	Gov. %	Non-gov. %	All %	Gov. %	Non-gov. %	All %	Gov. %	Non-gov. %	All %
NSW	92.4	93.5	92.7	86.2	91.6	88.4	90.1	92.6	91.0
Vic	93.2	93.9	93.4	89.9	92.8	91.1	91.9	93.4	92.4
Qld	90.5	93.3	91.3	86.3	91.3	88.2	89.0	92.4	90.1
SA	91.1	93.5	91.9	86.6	91.8	88.6	89.3	92.8	90.5
WA	91.1	93.1	91.6	84.6	91.1	87.1	88.8	92.2	89.9
Tas	90.6	92.7	91.2	84.3	90.7	86.7	88.2	91.7	89.3
NT	80.4	85.4	81.4	73.2	83.7	76.7	78.1	84.6	79.7
ACT	92.4	93.4	92.8	88.4	91.6	89.8	91.0	92.6	91.6
<b>Australia</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>92.7</b>	<b>90.9</b>

Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia data portal 2021 (ACARA)

Notes: <sup>^</sup> Attendance rate is defined as the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Years 1-10 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended over the period.

## Student Attendance Rates by state, sector, and remoteness, 2021

Years 1-6 students have a higher attendance rate than Years 7-10 students. This difference is more evident among government schools compared to non-government schools.

Year	Sector	Major city %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very Remote %	All students %
Year 1-6	Gov.	92.7	90.8	89.7	86.2	71.1	91.8
	Non-gov.	94.0	92.5	92.2	87.2	76.5	93.5
	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>92.3</b>
Year 7-10	Gov.	88.4	84.3	84.2	78.4	60.5	86.8
	Non-gov.	92.3	90.2	90.1	84.3	57.2	91.7
	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>88.8</b>
Year 1-10	Gov.	91.1	88.4	87.6	83.6	67.7	90.0
	Non-gov.	93.2	91.4	91.4	86.1	71.8	92.7
	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>90.9</b>

Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia data portal 2021 (ACARA).

Notes: <sup>^</sup> Attendance rate is defined as the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Years 1-10 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended over the period.

## Student Attendance Levels<sup>^</sup> by state, sector, and remoteness, 2021

Around 80% of non-government school students in Years 1-10 in Major city areas achieved attendance rate above 90%. In very remote areas, the attendance levels are far lower.

		Major city %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very Remote %	All students %
Year 1-6	Gov.*	77.0	68.4	65.5	57.3	32.7	73.7
	Non-Gov.	83.2	75.4	74.6	60.7	41.4	80.8
	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>75.8</b>
Year 7-10	Gov.*	62.2	49.9	51.4	41.1	23.6	58.3
	Non-Gov.	76.1	65.8	66.5	53.9	21.2	73.5
	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>64.3</b>
Year 1-10	Gov.*	71.6	61.5	60.0	51.9	29.7	68.0
	Non-Gov.	79.9	71.0	71.3	58.2	36.5	77.4
	<b>All Schools</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>71.2</b>

Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia data portal 2021 (ACARA).

Notes: <sup>^</sup> Student attendance level is the proportion of full-time students in Years 1-10 whose attendance rate is greater than or equal to 90 per cent over the period.

\* Government school attendance level data are based on a full-time equivalent student method, which is dependent on the sum of "possible school days" for students. Prior to 2016, non-government school attendance level data were calculated according to a different method (based on 'headcounts' of students attending more than 90 per cent of the time) and comparisons should be made with caution.