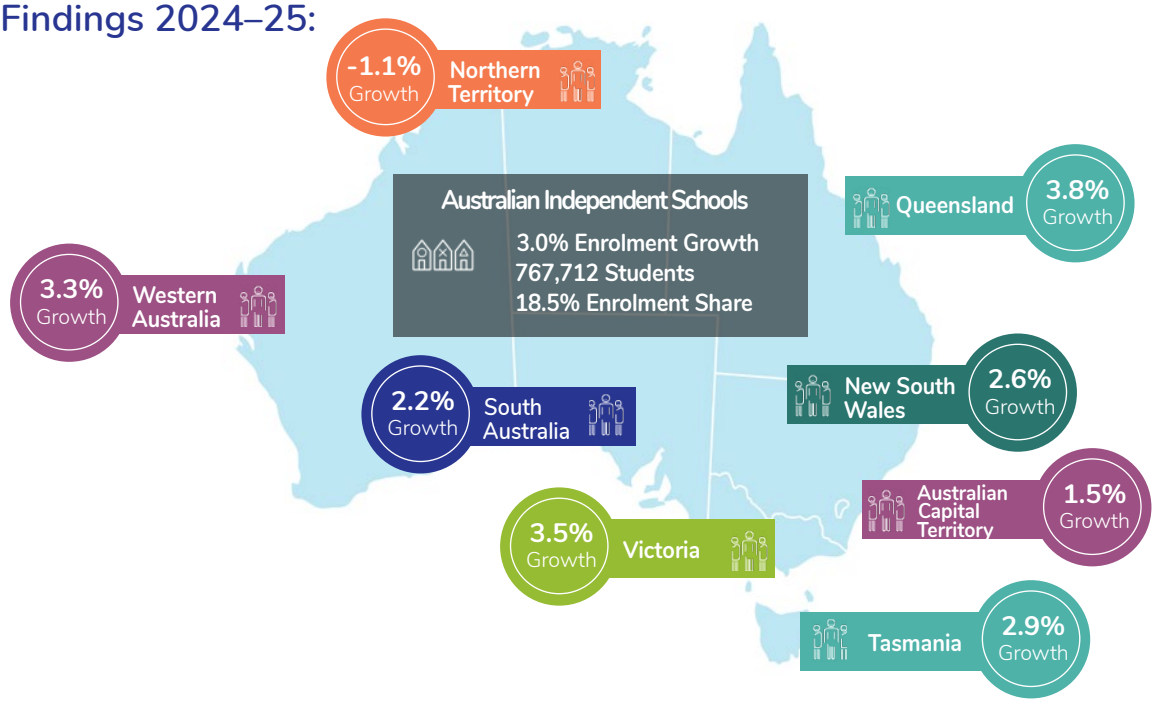
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLING 2026

PARENTS ARE VOTING WITH THEIR FEET FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Key Findings 2024–25:



767,712 students enrolled
18.5% of all Australian students

3.0% growth in 2024–25
More than triple the national average (0.7%)

Five-year average growth: 3.5%
More than triple the national average (0.8%)

Independent schools are projected to enrol about 87,700 more students by 2035 – requiring around 191 new schools and campuses

In 2027 Independent schools are projected to overtake the Catholic sector as the 2nd largest school sector

187,300 students with disability
24.4% of all Independent school students

22,538 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

152,636 students in regional and remote areas

Strongest growth in low-fee schools under $8,000, showing families from all income levels are making sacrifices to choose Independent schools

Independent schools educate nearly one in five Australian students. They are diverse, accessible, and essential to the future of Australian education.

Download the full report at:
isa.edu.au/documents/independent-schooling-2026-enrolment-trends-characteristics-and-projections