

Census of ACT public schools

August 2023

This publication provides information
on students enrolled in Canberra
public schools at 4 August 2023

Release date: 30 October 2023

Executive Summary

This publication presents the results from the Canberra public school census conducted on Friday 4 August 2023.

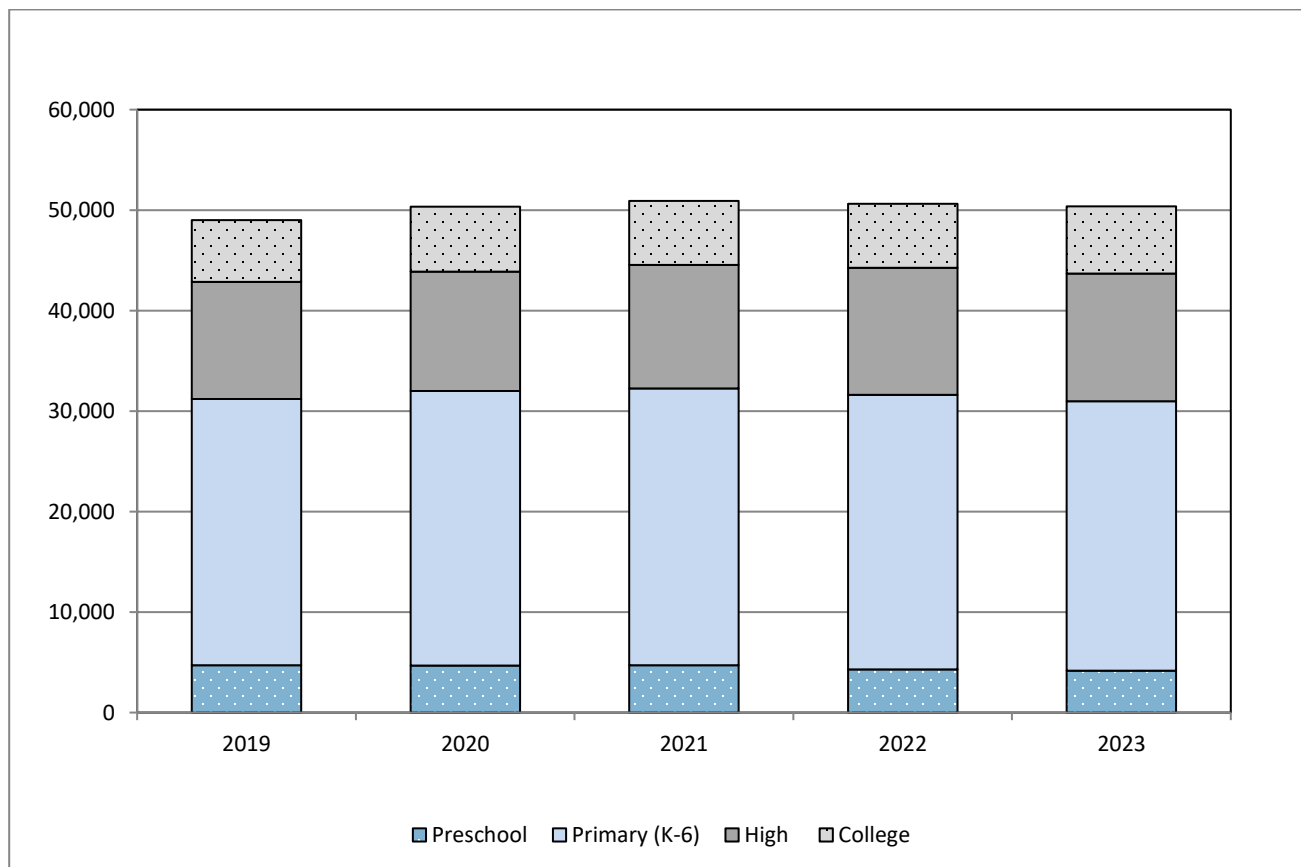
Student enrolments by level of schooling

At August 2023 census, there were 50,385 students enrolled in Canberra public schools. This represented a decrease of 230 enrolments (-0.5%) since August 2022 (Table 1 and Figure 1). From August 2019 to August 2023, enrolments increased by 1,363 students (2.8%).

Since 2021 there has been a slight decline in enrolments; 0.6% from 2021 to 2022 and 0.5% from 2022 to 2023. This is partly explained by a change in the annual rate of growth in the estimated resident population (ERP) for school aged children from around two percent in previous years to near zero between June 2021 and June 2022 (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2023).

The most notable change in enrolment growth was at the college level, where enrolments increased by 349 students (5.5%) since August 2022. This rate of growth was similar to the growth rate reported the the public college level from February 2022 the February 2023.

Figure 1: Enrolments by level of schooling, 2019 to 2023



There were:

- 30,967 students enrolled in public primary schools. This represents a decrease of 656 enrolments (-2.1%) since August 2022.
 - preschool enrolments decreased by 142 students (-3.3%) to 4,169 students
 - kindergarten to year 6 enrolments decreased by 514 students (-1.9%) to 26,798 students.
- 12,718 students enrolled in public high schools, an increase of 77 enrolments (0.6%) from August 2022 to August 2023.
- 6,700 students enrolled in public colleges, an increase of 349 enrolments (5.5%) from August 2022 to August 2023.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

At the 2023 August school census there were:

- 2,201 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people enrolled in ACT public schools (Table 2 and Table 5), representing 4.4 percent of total enrolments. This was an increased of 80 enrolments (3.8%) since August 2022, notably 41 preschool enrolments and 31 high school enrolments..
- Enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students increased by 169 students (8.3%) since August 2019.
- 100 students enrolled in Koori preschool programs; with 54 children taking up the option to attend both Koori and universal preschool programs (reported as two enrolment episodes).

Students enrolled in disability education programs

At August 2023 census, there were 2,929 students (Table 3), representing 5.8 percent of all enrolments, accessing disability education programs at either mainstream or specialist public schools. This was an increase of 20 students (0.7%) since August 2022 and an increase of 399 enrolments (15.8%) since August 2019.

Student enrolments by gender and year level

There were proportionally more male (51.9%) than female (47.7%) students (Table 4). This general trend was consistent across all academic year levels, with the greatest proportional difference being at the high school level where 52.8 percent were males and 46.5 percent were females.

Non-school education

It is recognised that there are alternative educational pathways for students to undertake school level courses other than by attending an ACT public or non-government school. At August 2023, 519 children and young people were home educated in the ACT, an increase of 74 students (16.6%) since August 2022. A further 124 students who were of school age undertook school equivalent courses at the Canberra Institute of Technology, a decrease of 18 students (12.7%) since August 2022.

In addition, there were 26 ACT students enrolled in the NSW Finigan School of Distance Education.

Tables

Table 1: Enrolments by level of schooling, 2019 to 2023¹

Level of schooling	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preschool	4,716	4,679	4,708	4,311	4,169
Annual growth (%)		-0.8	0.6	-8.4	-3.3
Primary (K-6)	26,494	27,321	27,541	27,312	26,798
Annual growth (%)		3.1	0.8	-0.8	-1.9
High	11,662	11,889	12,308	12,641	12,718
Annual growth (%)		1.9	3.5	2.7	0.6
College	6,150	6,442	6,375	6,351	6,700
Annual growth (%)		4.7	-1.0	-0.4	5.5
Total all schools	49,022	50,331	50,932	50,615	50,385
Overall Annual growth (%)		2.7	1.2	-0.6	-0.5

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

Table 2: Enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by level of schooling, 2019 to 2023¹

Level of schooling	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Preschool	291	278	321	258	299
Annual growth (%)		-4.5	15.5	-19.6	15.9
Primary (K-6)	1,021	1,063	1,131	1,119	1,123
Annual growth (%)		4.1	6.4	-1.1	0.4
High	505	496	497	517	548
Annual growth (%)		-1.8	0.2	4.0	6.0
College	215	255	255	227	231
Annual growth (%)		18.6	0.0	-11.0	1.8
Total all schools	2,032	2,092	2,204	2,121	2,201
Overall Annual growth (%)		3.0	5.4	-3.8	3.8

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

Table 3: Students enrolled in disability education programs by level of schooling, 2019 to 2023^{1,2}

Level of schooling	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Primary (K-6)	1,480	1,563	1,656	1,586	1,592
Annual growth (%)		5.6	6.0	-4.2	0.4
High	743	770	869	946	927
Annual growth (%)		3.6	12.9	8.9	-2.0
College	307	314	354	377	410
Annual growth (%)		2.3	12.7	6.5	8.8
Total all schools	2,530	2,647	2,879	2,909	2,929
Overall Annual growth (%)		4.6	8.8	1.0	0.7

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

2. Includes students who meet the ACT Student Disability Criteria, including those students not formally assessed at the time of the census.

Table 4: Enrolments by academic year and gender, 2023^{1, 2, 3}

Level of schooling	Males	Females	Non-binary/Not stated	Total
Primary				
Preschool	2,129	2,033	7	4,169
Kindergarten	1,996	1,787	6	3,789
Year 1	2,132	1,913	n.p.	4,045
Year 2	2,000	1,862	n.p.	3,862
Year 3	2,118	1,837	n.p.	3,955
Year 4	1,952	1,820	n.p.	3,772
Year 5	1,948	1,797	n.p.	3,745
Year 6	1,844	1,786	n.p.	3,630
Subtotal primary	16,111	14,827	29	30,967
High				
Year 7	1,690	1,488	15	3,193
Year 8	1,753	1,503	24	3,280
Year 9	1,670	1,476	23	3,169
Year 10	1,600	1,443	33	3,076
Subtotal high	6,713	5,910	95	12,718
College				
Year 11	1,843	1,718	67	3,628
Year 12	1,456	1,471	47	2,974
Older	8	90	-	98
Subtotal college	3,307	3,279	114	6,700
Total all schools levels	26,131	24,016	238	50,385

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

2. Non-binary/Not stated includes students who identify as non-binary or a different term, plus a small number of students whose gender was not stated.

3. Small random adjustments have been made to the male and female cell values for preschool to year 6 to prevent the release of identifiable non-binary statistics. As a result, the male and female sub-totals for primary do not equal the sum of the corresponding preschool to year 6 cell values.

n.p. not published due to the small number of enrolments in cell.

- Nil.

Table 5: Enrolments of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by academic year and gender, 2023^{1, 2, 3}

Level of schooling	Males	Females	Non-binary/ Not stated	Total
Primary				
Preschool	170	129	n.p.	299
Kindergarten	87	70	n.p.	157
Year 1	89	94	n.p.	183
Year 2	80	75	n.p.	155
Year 3	94	82	n.p.	176
Year 4	82	73	n.p.	155
Year 5	96	72	n.p.	168
Year 6	61	68	n.p.	129
Subtotal primary	759	663	n.p.	1,422
High				
Year 7	77	70	n.p.	147
Year 8	84	76	n.p.	160
Year 9	64	51	n.p.	115
Year 10	74	52	n.p.	126
Subtotal high	299	249	n.p.	548
College				
Year 11	82	54	n.p.	136
Year 12 (& Older)	34	61	n.p.	95
Subtotal college	116	115	n.p.	231
Total all schools levels	1,167	1,021	13	2,201

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

2. Non-binary/Not stated includes students who identify as non-binary or a different term, plus a small number of students whose gender was not stated.

3. Small random adjustments have been made to the male and female cell values for preschool to year 12 to prevent the release of identifiable non-binary statistics. As a result, the male and female totals for primary do not equal the sum of the corresponding preschool to year 12 cell values.

n.p. not published due to the small number of enrolments in cell.

Student enrolments by network, school and year level

The North/Gungahlin network (31.7%) had the highest proportion of primary school enrolments followed by South/Weston (26.4%), Belconnen (25.1%), and Tuggeranong (16.8%).

Table 6: Number of primary school enrolments by year level, network and school, 2023¹

Primary schools	P	K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Belconnen Network									
Aranda Primary School	58	69	82	60	88	77	77	79	590
Charnwood-Dunlop School	63	47	49	56	55	40	42	49	401
Charnwood-Dunlop - Belconnen IEC	-	11	3	1	1	2	2	4	24
Cranleigh School	6	17	24	11	12	9	10	8	97
Evatt Primary School	43	39	37	32	48	37	39	41	316
Florey Primary School	65	54	67	65	55	59	50	60	475
Fraser Primary School	65	57	68	74	79	74	78	77	572
Giralang Primary School	34	31	36	48	48	37	33	43	310
Hawker Primary School	44	38	46	42	50	46	52	53	371
Kaleen Primary School	49	59	64	56	67	66	65	67	493
Kingsford Smith School	68	55	41	51	41	48	51	48	403
Kingsford Smith Koori Preschool	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Latham Primary School	44	39	61	40	58	53	52	37	384
Macgregor Primary School	87	92	75	81	88	89	58	56	626
Macquarie Primary School	37	44	51	34	37	44	40	50	337
Maribyrnong Primary School	83	86	73	59	57	77	71	57	563
Miles Franklin Primary School	71	60	61	73	68	70	73	68	544
Mount Rogers Primary School	84	68	70	63	71	82	59	62	559
Southern Cross ECS	81	45	44	34	-	-	-	-	204
Weetangera Primary School	33	58	59	63	66	61	69	62	471
Subtotal Belconnen	1,033	969	1,011	943	989	971	921	921	7,758

Table 6: Number of primary school enrolments by year level, network and school, 2023¹
(continued)

Primary schools	P	K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
North/Gungahlin Network									
Ainslie School	64	78	53	61	51	58	60	45	470
Amaroo School	89	82	99	108	92	141	154	146	911
Campbell Primary School	40	42	40	44	30	52	34	50	332
Franklin School	88	68	68	78	62	46	49	42	501
Gold Creek School	101	94	84	82	89	80	81	71	682
Harrison School	109	95	140	122	146	132	131	146	1,021
Jervis Bay School	24	6	7	7	9	3	3	5	64
Lyneham Primary School	61	56	62	65	73	76	72	75	540
Majura Primary School	88	94	102	113	103	93	104	98	795
Margaret Hendry School	132	87	91	96	88	66	52	42	654
Neville Bonner Primary School	111	94	105	86	107	105	101	91	800
Ngunnawal Primary School	103	90	108	107	91	80	75	78	732
Ngunnawal Koori Preschool	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
North Ainslie Primary School	66	84	61	78	94	81	85	75	624
North Ainslie - Northside IEC	-	7	5	2	3	5	1	2	25
O'Connor Cooperative School	20	20	19	15	-	-	-	-	74
Palmerston District Primary School	119	103	96	104	99	93	86	77	777
Throsby School	82	61	49	37	27	20	19	11	306
Throsby School - Gungahlin IEC	-	10	3	3	5	1	3	2	27
Turner School	45	41	60	56	52	62	73	65	454
Subtotal North/Gungahlin	1,362	1,212	1,252	1,264	1,221	1,194	1,183	1,121	9,809
South/Weston Network									
Arawang Primary School	66	66	83	68	73	59	76	68	559
Chapman Primary School	78	80	85	80	83	72	72	69	619
Charles Weston School	66	73	76	58	67	69	58	61	528
Curtin Primary School	42	58	54	66	55	60	73	70	478
Duffy Primary School	56	46	64	52	56	55	53	51	433
Evelyn Scott School	86	70	69	46	61	33	43	39	447
Farrer Primary School	42	41	42	38	43	29	47	49	331
Forrest Primary School	38	49	67	69	77	83	87	79	549
Garran Primary School	43	71	95	82	90	92	82	80	635
Hughes Primary School	41	42	51	48	67	57	51	48	405
Hughes Primary School - Southside IEC	-	8	11	4	8	4	5	4	44
Lyons ECS	43	39	29	20	-	-	-	-	131
Malkara School	-	12	6	12	5	9	8	12	64
Mawson Primary School	66	77	66	70	73	61	57	54	524
Narrabundah ECS	53	21	22	17	-	-	-	-	113
Narrabundah Koori Preschool	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Red Hill Primary School	87	85	105	100	120	112	114	122	845
Telopea Park School	-	85	83	82	79	75	78	82	564
Torrens Primary School	69	45	48	62	60	63	55	72	474
Yarralumla Primary School	65	47	45	51	59	47	45	59	418
Subtotal South/Weston	963	1,015	1,101	1,025	1,076	980	1,004	1,019	8,183

Table 6: Number of primary school enrolments by year level, network and school, 2023¹
(continued)

Primary schools	P	K	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
<i>Tuggeranong Network</i>									
Bonython Primary School	44	49	54	45	49	52	62	30	385
Calwell Primary School	50	32	29	33	36	33	31	22	266
Caroline Chisholm School	31	32	25	22	41	33	32	45	261
Charles Conder Primary School	93	62	58	64	75	56	74	54	536
Fadden Primary School	43	29	37	40	42	35	23	30	279
Gilmore Primary School	23	27	14	20	22	14	22	10	152
Gordon Primary School	75	54	75	72	63	58	59	46	502
Gowrie Primary School	43	33	37	30	41	39	35	46	304
Isabella Plains ECS	57	31	31	30	-	-	-	-	149
Monash Primary School	62	57	73	49	65	59	54	65	484
Namadgi School	61	36	50	57	63	55	56	41	419
Richardson Primary School	37	16	28	20	17	22	22	22	184
Richardson Koori Preschool	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Taylor Primary School	44	39	35	41	43	57	42	51	352
Theodore Primary School	28	22	47	28	31	34	33	31	254
Wanniassa Hills Primary School	44	42	55	51	53	49	66	39	399
Wanniassa Hills - Tuggeranong IEC	-	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	7
Wanniassa School	36	29	32	27	28	30	25	37	244
Wanniassa Koori Preschool	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Subtotal Tuggeranong	811	593	681	630	669	627	637	569	5,217
Total public primary schools	4,169	3,789	4,045	3,862	3,955	3,772	3,745	3,630	30,967

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

IEC – Intensive English Centre.

ECS – Early Childhood School.

- Nil.

The North/Gungahlin network (31.1%) also had the highest proportion of high school enrolments followed by South/Weston (29.2%), Belconnen (25.1%), and Tuggeranong (14.6%).

Table 7: Number of high school enrolments by year level, network and school, 2023¹

High schools	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Total
<i>Belconnen Network</i>					
Belconnen High School	151	157	149	139	596
Canberra High School	219	225	238	231	913
Kingsford Smith School	101	121	107	95	424
Melba Copland Secondary School	167	210	170	176	723
University of Canberra (UC) High School Kaleen	149	138	122	115	524
UC Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra	-	-	-	7	7
Subtotal Belconnen	787	851	786	763	3,187
<i>North/Gungahlin Network</i>					
Amaroo School	270	244	229	190	933
Black Mountain School	26	23	24	15	88
Campbell High School	130	123	147	170	570
Dickson - Secondary IEC	17	9	14	5	45
Gold Creek School	181	171	139	138	629
Gungahlin College	-	-	-	18	18
Harrison School	148	161	150	142	601
Lyneham High School	264	261	267	277	1,069
Subtotal North/Gungahlin	1,036	992	970	955	3,953
<i>South/Weston Network</i>					
Alfred Deakin High School	192	250	204	214	860
Evelyn Scott School	50	25	23	13	111
Melrose High School	182	199	223	219	823
Mount Stromlo High School	196	231	214	189	830
Telopea Park School	267	244	272	249	1,032
The Woden School	15	20	12	17	64
Subtotal South/Weston	902	969	948	901	3,720
<i>Tuggeranong Network</i>					
Calwell High School	85	95	101	88	369
Caroline Chisholm School	92	102	109	95	398
Erindale College	-	-	-	58	58
Lanyon High School	140	133	112	101	486
Namadgi School	61	63	66	60	250
Wanniassa School	90	75	77	55	297
Subtotal Tuggeranong	468	468	465	457	1,858
Total public high schools	3,193	3,280	3,169	3,076	12,718

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

IEC - Intensive English Centre.

- Nil.

The South/Weston network (32.3%) had the highest proportion of college enrolments followed by North/Gungahlin (28.4%), Belconnen (22.6%), and Tuggeranong (16.6%).

Table 8: Number of college enrolments by year level, network and school, 2023¹

Colleges	Year 11	Year 12	Older	Total
<i>Belconnen Network</i>				
Hawker College	337	288	-	625
Melba Copland Secondary School	114	78	-	192
UC Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra	383	315	-	698
Subtotal Belconnen	834	681	-	1,515
<i>North/Gungahlin Network</i>				
Black Mountain School	19	23	-	42
Dickson College	392	359	-	751
Dickson - Secondary IEC	17	-	-	17
Gungahlin College	598	497	-	1,095
Subtotal North/Gungahlin	1,026	879	-	1,905
<i>South/Weston Network</i>				
Narrabundah College	497	457	-	954
The Canberra College	563	504	-	1,067
The Canberra College - CCCares	13	9	98	120
The Woden School	14	10	-	24
Subtotal South/Weston	1,087	980	98	2,165
<i>Tuggeranong Network</i>				
Erindale College	328	227	-	555
Lake Tuggeranong College	353	207	-	560
Subtotal Tuggeranong	681	434	-	1,115
Total public colleges	3,628	2,974	98	6,700

1. Includes a small number of students who attended two schools who are counted as two enrolment episodes in the census.

IEC - Intensive English Centre.

- Nil.

Students to teacher ratio

The students to teacher ratio takes account of all teaching resources allocated to support students. Students to teacher ratios are calculated by dividing the total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students by the FTE teaching staff. Overall, the students to teacher ratio for the ACT public school system was 13.2.

Table 9: Students to teacher ratio by school, 2023¹

School Name	Teaching staff FTE (excl preschool enrolments)	Student FTE (excl preschool enrolments)	Students to teacher ratio
Ainslie School	25.7	406.0	15.8
Alfred Deakin High School	59.4	860.0	14.5
Amaroo School	124.6	1,755.0	14.1
Aranda Primary School	34.7	531.7	15.3
Arawang Primary School	32.9	492.2	15.0
Belconnen High School	47.5	596.0	12.5
Black Mountain School	29.4	129.1	4.4
Bonython Primary School	25.5	341.0	13.4
Calwell High School	37.7	369.0	9.8
Calwell Primary School	16.4	216.0	13.2
Campbell High School	44.2	569.2	12.9
Campbell Primary School	18.8	292.0	15.5
Canberra High School	62.5	912.2	14.6
Caroline Chisholm School	52.6	628.0	11.9
Chapman Primary School	37.0	540.8	14.6
Charles Conder Primary School	29.8	443.0	14.9
Charles Weston School	33.5	461.4	13.8
Charnwood-Dunlop School	30.9	362.0	11.7
Cranleigh School	18.6	88.6	4.8
Curtin Primary School	27.6	434.2	15.7
Dickson College	61.8	813.0	13.2
Duffy Primary School	27.0	377.0	14.0
Erindale College	48.3	598.6	12.4
Evatt Primary School	22.2	273.0	12.3
Evelyn Scott School	39.4	472.0	12.0
Fadden Primary School	18.4	235.5	12.8
Farrer Primary School	22.2	289.0	13.0
Florey Primary School	28.6	410.0	14.3
Forrest Primary School	33.1	511.0	15.5
Franklin School	34.1	413.0	12.1
Fraser Primary School	33.4	506.9	15.2
Garran Primary School	35.2	592.0	16.8
Gilmore Primary School	12.4	129.0	10.4

Table 9: Students to teacher ratio by school, 2023¹ (continued)

School Name	Teaching staff FTE (excl preschool staff)	Student FTE (excl preschool enrolments)	Students to teacher ratio
Giralang Primary School	24.3	274.6	11.3
Gold Creek School	87.2	1,209.2	13.9
Gordon Primary School	33.5	426.4	12.7
Gowrie Primary School	21.7	261.0	12.0
Gungahlin College	71.8	1,077.2	15.0
Harrison School	108.4	1,512.2	14.0
Hawker College	44.0	625.0	14.2
Hawker Primary School	24.1	327.0	13.6
Hughes Primary School	27.2	407.5	15.0
Isabella Plains Early Childhood School	10.0	92.0	9.2
Jervis Bay School	10.4	40.0	3.8
Kaleen Primary School	28.8	444.0	15.4
Kingsford Smith School	71.8	759.0	10.6
Lake Tuggeranong College	44.3	555.4	12.5
Lanyon High School	41.0	486.0	11.9
Latham Primary School	28.6	340.0	11.9
Lyneham High School	75.4	1,069.0	14.2
Lyneham Primary School	30.9	479.0	15.5
Lyons Early Childhood School	8.8	88.0	10.0
Macgregor Primary School	38.2	538.2	14.1
Macquarie Primary School	22.2	300.0	13.5
Majura Primary School	46.7	707.0	15.1
Malkara School	16.8	61.0	3.6
Margaret Hendry School	35.9	522.0	14.6
Maribyrnong Primary School	31.9	479.7	15.0
Mawson Primary School	35.2	458.0	13.0
Melba Copland Secondary School	83.9	915.0	10.9
Melrose High School	58.5	823.0	14.1
Miles Franklin Primary School	33.5	473.0	14.1
Monash Primary School	33.7	422.0	12.5
Mount Rogers Primary School	33.8	475.0	14.0
Mount Stromlo High School	65.6	829.6	12.6
Namadgi School	54.2	608.0	11.2
Narrabundah College	65.7	954.0	14.5
Narrabundah Early Childhood School	6.4	60.0	9.4
Neville Bonner Primary School	47.9	689.0	14.4
Ngunnawal Primary School	48.5	627.8	13.0
North Ainslie Primary School	39.9	583.0	14.6
O'Connor Cooperative School	6.6	54.0	8.2

Table 9: Students to teacher ratio by school, 2023¹ (continued)

School Name	Teaching staff FTE (excl preschool staff)	Student FTE (excl preschool enrolments)	Students to teacher ratio
Palmerston District Primary School	48.6	657.8	13.5
Red Hill Primary School	49.0	758.0	15.5
Richardson Primary School	15.4	147.0	9.5
Southern Cross Early Childhood School	12.5	122.4	9.8
Taylor Primary School	23.6	307.4	13.0
Telopea Park School	103.9	1,595.0	15.4
Theodore Primary School	19.8	226.0	11.4
The Canberra College	75.3	1,187.0	15.8
The Woden School	24.7	87.0	3.5
Throsby School	24.5	251.0	10.2
Torrens Primary School	31.1	405.0	13.0
Turner School	32.0	407.5	12.7
UC High School Kaleen	44.5	523.2	11.8
UC Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra	52.4	704.2	13.4
Wanniassa Hills Primary School	25.0	362.0	14.5
Wanniassa School	52.3	505.0	9.7
Weetangera Primary School	28.0	437.9	15.7
Yarralumla Primary School	21.6	353.0	16.3
Canberra public schools total	3,486.8	46,135.6	13.2

1. Excludes preschool students and preschool teaching staff.
FTE - Full-Time Equivalent.

Explanatory Notes

Reference date

The 2023 August census was conducted on Friday 4 August 2023.

Scope and coverage

The August census includes all Canberra public schools providing primary, secondary and specialist education. Jervis Bay School was included in Canberra public primary schools as the Education Directorate administers the Jervis Bay School for the Australian Government under a service agreement.

Collection

Canberra public school census data was electronically downloaded from the Directorate's centralised administrative system.

Student enrolments

The census included students who were officially enrolled in a school on census day and who were active in a primary, secondary or specialist education program at that school. Students who were unexplainably absent for more than four continuous school weeks prior to census date were included if the principal received written documentation signed by the guardian indicating that the student was to return to school on or before 11 August 2023.

Preschool

Preschool included three, four, and five-year-old children who were enrolled in a school prior to starting kindergarten. Preschool level data also included students who were attending a preschool program as an early entry student. Please note, children can be enrolled in more than one preschool program.

Primary school level

The primary school level of schooling included students from preschool to year 6, unless 'K-6' was specified.

High school level

The high school level of schooling is equivalent to the lower secondary level of education of the Australian Standard Classification of Education and includes students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. A small number of year 10 students undertake early access programs at a Canberra college, UCSSC Lake Ginninderra College, Gungahlin College.

College level

The college level of schooling is equivalent to the senior secondary level of education of the Australian Standard Classification of Education and includes students in years 11 and 12 as well as those

students defined as older. A small number of year 10 students undertake early access programs at a Canberra college.

Older students (O)

Students in public schools aged 18 years by 31 December in the year prior to the commencement of their college studies, were classified as Older (O).

Flexible education

The census included students who were participating in Flexible Education. Flexible Education provides alternative education options across five campuses. These campuses include the Muliyan Program, the Cottage, Hospital School, Murrumbidgee School and Distance Education. Students attending Flexible Education sites were counted in the census at their mainstream school, except for the number of students who were enrolled in the NSW Finigan School of Distance Education which is listed separately in the Non-school education section on page 3.

Introductory English Centres

Introductory English Centres (IECs) are for students who require intensive full-time English language instruction. There were five IECs in the primary sector, conducted at Charnwood-Dunlop School (Belconnen Primary IEC), North Ainslie Primary School (Northside IEC), Throsby School (Gungahlin Primary IEC), Hughes Primary School (Southside IEC) and Wanniasa Hills Primary School (Tuggeranong Primary IEC). There was one IEC in the secondary sector, conducted at Dickson College (Secondary IEC).

Students enrolled in disability education programs

The Census included students who met the ACT Student Disability Criteria. These students accessed disability education programs at either mainstream or specialist public schools.

There are four specialist schools in Canberra; Black Mountain School, Cranleigh School, Malkara School, and The Woden School. Specialist schools cater for students with a moderate to profound intellectual disability, severe Autism Spectrum Disorder or with multiple disabilities that require intensive levels of support.

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023). National, state and territory population, December 2022. Canberra, Australia: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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Published by: Education Directorate, ACT Government

GPO Box 158

Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: 132 281

Website: <https://www.education.act.gov.au>