



**Student Enrolment Comparing Public and Independent  
Historical**

Historical (HC)						
Year	Enrolment Public (HC)	Annual Growth %	Enrolment Independent (HC)	Annual Growth %	Enrolment total (HC)	IS Proportion of total Enrolment
1977-78	527,771	-1.6%	23,691	1.6%	551,462	4.3%
1978-79	517,786	-1.9%	24,556	3.7%	542,342	4.5%
1979-80	511,671	-1.2%	24,827	1.1%	536,498	4.6%
1980-81	509,805	-0.4%	26,314	6.0%	536,119	4.9%
1981-82	503,371	-1.3%	27,936	6.2%	531,307	5.3%
1982-83	500,336	-0.6%	28,280	1.2%	528,616	5.3%
1983-84	497,312	-0.6%	29,118	3.0%	526,430	5.5%
1984-85	491,085	-1.3%	30,326	4.1%	521,411	5.8%
1985-86	486,692	-0.9%	33,553	10.6%	520,245	6.4%
1986-87	486,221	-0.1%	34,242	2.1%	520,463	6.6%
1987-88	491,234	1.0%	36,724	7.2%	527,958	7.0%
1988-89	499,994	1.8%	37,731	2.7%	537,725	7.0%
1989-90	512,926	2.6%	38,438	1.9%	551,364	7.0%
1990-91	519,958	1.4%	40,381	5.1%	560,339	7.2%
Historical (FTE)						
Year	Enrolment Public (FTE)	Annual Growth %	Enrolment Independent (FTE)	Annual Growth %	Enrolment total	IS Proportion of total Enrolment
1991-92	531,904	3.70%	41,103	6.10%	573,007	7.17%
1992-93	542,960	2.08%	43,943	6.91%	586,903	7.49%
1993-94	557,372	2.65%	47,256	7.54%	604,628	7.82%
1994-95	568,989	2.08%	50,105	6.03%	619,094	8.09%
1995-96	577,830	1.55%	51,899	3.58%	629,729	8.24%
1996-97	591,499	2.37%	53,611	3.30%	645,110	8.31%
1997-98	603,663	2.06%	56,176	4.78%	659,839	8.51%
1998-99	602,733	-0.15%	57,347	2.08%	660,080	8.69%
1999-00	601,344	-0.23%	56,902	-0.78%	658,246	8.64%
2000-01	598,630	-0.45%	57,463	0.99%	656,093	8.76%
2001-02	596,308	-0.39%	57,712	0.43%	654,020	8.82%
2002-03	588,633	-1.29%	60,111	4.16%	648,744	9.27%
2003-04	582,763	-1.00%	60,877	1.27%	643,640	9.46%
2004-05	576,965	-0.99%	62,489	2.65%	639,454	9.77%
2005-06	571,032	-1.03%	63,658	1.87%	634,690	10.03%
2006-07	559,531	-2.01%	65,398	2.73%	624,929	10.46%
2007-08	544,748	-2.64%	65,967	0.87%	610,715	10.80%
2008-09	549,588	0.89%	66,792	1.25%	616,380	10.84%
2009-10	546,510	-0.56%	66,534	-0.39%	613,044	10.85%
2010-11	549,125	0.48%	68,131	2.40%	617,256	11.04%
2011-12	549,845	0.13%	70,445	3.40%	620,290	11.36%
2012-13	542,641	-1.31%	72,611	3.07%	615,252	11.80%
2013-14	540,006	-0.49%	74,336	2.38%	614,342	12.10%
2014-15	536,896	-0.58%	79,206	6.55%	616,102	12.86%
2015-16	542,865	1.11%	79,384	0.22%	622,249	12.76%
2016-17	549,643	1.25%	81,180	2.26%	630,823	12.87%
2017-18	555,053	0.98%	82,516	1.65%	637,569	12.94%
2018-19	560,647	1.01%	83,647	1.37%	644,294	12.98%
2019-20	565,319	0.83%	84,867	1.46%	650,186	13.05%
2020-21	557,971	-1.30%	84,841	-0.03%	642,812	13.20%
2021-22	570,212	2.19%	86,624	2.10%	656,836	13.19%
2022-23	582,363	2.13%	87,161	0.62%	669,524	13.02%
2023-24	595,884	2.32%	89,498	2.68%	685,382	13.06%
2024-25	604,134	1.38%	91,393	2.12%	695,527	13.14%
2025-26	600,743	-0.56%	92,724	1.46%	693,467	13.37%

Source: Public school enrolments were obtained from Ministry of Education of British Columbia Annual Reports and their statistical supplements, through the services of Applied Research and Evaluation Services, University of British Columbia. For 1973-1974 and prior years the figures are as of June 30 of that academic year. For 1974-1975 through 2000-2001 the figures are as of September 30 of that academic year. For 2001-2002 and following years public school figures were obtained from the Ministry of Education.

2017-18 Public School enrolment numbers are gathered from: <https://studentsuccess.gov.bc.ca/>

For the source of independent school figures, see the source and note in Enrolment by Independent School Association – Historical.

All enrolment numbers prior to 2017 are head-count and not full-time equivalent students and are for school-age students. 2017 and onwards are by FTE. Prior to 2002-2003 the independent school count included adult students, but these students were 1% or less of independent school enrolment.