

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FACT SHEET

- 81,659 students were enrolled in independent schools in BC in the 2015-2016 school year.
- There are over 350 independent schools in the province.
- Approximately 13% of BC students attend an independent school.
- Approximately 65% of enrolment is in independent schools with a religious orientation.
- Independent schools have the following special orientations: Catholic, Evangelical Protestant, Seventh-day Adventist, Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Non-aligned Christian, First Nations, Montessori, Waldorf, Distributed Learning, University Preparation, Special Education.
- Most independent schools admit students with a wide range of academic ability. A few have high academic admission requirements.
- Independent schools pay all their own land, buildings, furnishings, and equipment costs.
- Independent schools receive government grants covering either 50% or 35% of operating costs.
- If all independent school students were to attend public schools, government operating costs for schools would increase by at least \$350 million.
- 21% of the 81,000 students taking DL (Distributed Learning) courses are attending independent schools.
- The average operational cost grant provided by government for a student in the public school system in 2015-2016 is \$9,129.00. The average cost to government for a student in an independent school receiving a 50% grant is \$4,144.00. The average cost to government for a student attending an independent school in the 35% grant category is \$2,901.00.