

# NSW public school student retention rates by statistical area 2015 - 2019

Apparent retention measures the extent to which students in NSW government schools progress to their final year of schooling.

The term 'apparent' is used because the measurement is based on the total number of students in each year level compared to the number in an earlier year, rather than by tracking the retention of individual students.

**Source:** Department of Education, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation. Mid-Year Census 2015-2019.

**Notes:**

- Reporting on apparent retention rates (ARRs) based on small numbers of students can lead to unreliable ARR estimates. The areas reported in the above table combine ABS SA4 areas to ensure the underlying number of students is sufficiently large to generate reliable estimates.
- ARR can exceed 100 per cent due to factors including student migration from interstate and overseas and between school sectors.
- Only full-time students are counted in the calculation of full-time apparent retention.
- Support students do not have a designated grade and therefore are not counted in the calculation of ARR.
- Sydney-Inner includes enrolments from Sydney Distance Education High School.
- Norfolk Island Central School is not included in this factsheet, but since 2018 has been included in the ABS Schools Australia publication. This led to a slight difference in reported figures in 2018, with 2019 figures the same for both publications.

## Years 7-10

- The Year 7 to 10 apparent retention rate in 2019 was 102.8 per cent, 0.4 percentage points lower than in 2018.
- Apparent retention was 100 per cent or more in all areas in 2019, except North West NSW and South West NSW (see note 2).

**Table 1: Apparent retention rates Years 7-10, 2015-2019**

SA4 Groups	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Sydney-North</b>	109.0	109.3	107.3	105.9	105.9
<b>Sydney-Inner</b>	116.8	115.7	114.0	110.6	111.5
<b>Sydney-South</b>	108.9	110.7	108.4	106.8	107.6
<b>Sydney-South West</b>	107.5	107.7	108.8	108.6	109.2
<b>Sydney-West</b>	104.3	105.8	106.0	104.7	104.5
<b>Sydney-North West</b>	104.0	106.0	103.5	101.6	102.6
<b>North East NSW</b>	101.6	101.2	102.0	104.2	100.4
<b>North West NSW</b>	96.6	97.0	95.8	96.6	94.5
<b>South West NSW</b>	96.3	96.1	97.3	95.9	95.1
<b>South East NSW</b>	101.0	103.2	103.5	102.4	100.2
<b>Central Coast, Newcastle</b>	98.6	98.5	99.9	98.3	100.0
<b>NSW</b>	103.6	104.3	104.0	103.2	102.8

# Years 10-12

- Year 10 to 12 ARR dropped 0.7 percentage points from 71.3 per cent in 2018 to 70.6 per cent in 2019. Retention rates for Years 10- 12 have ranged between 70 per cent and 73 per cent in the last five years.
- The only Sydney area with an apparent retention rate under 77 per cent in 2019 was Sydney-South West, which dropped from 76.5 in 2018 to 74.8 in 2019. The highest apparent retention rate outside Sydney was 61.4 per cent, in Central Coast, Newcastle.

**Table 2: Apparent retention rates Years 10-12, 2015-2019**

SA4 Groups	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Sydney-North</b>	92.6	92.5	92.1	89.3	89.6
<b>Sydney-Inner</b>	83.7	84.2	84.0	83.7	84.5
<b>Sydney-South</b>	82.8	81.3	81.7	78.3	79.7
<b>Sydney-South West</b>	75.0	76.0	76.7	76.5	74.8
<b>Sydney-West</b>	76.9	76.4	78.9	76.9	77.7
<b>Sydney-North West</b>	80.5	78.8	81.8	78.6	79.4
<b>North East NSW</b>	62.9	63.0	63.8	62.6	58.7
<b>North West NSW</b>	55.2	56.2	56.5	55.6	54.7
<b>South West NSW</b>	63.9	62.0	62.8	57.8	58.3
<b>South East NSW</b>	65.2	62.5	63.9	63.4	59.5
<b>Central Coast, Newcastle</b>	66.0	63.9	63.1	62.4	61.4
<b>NSW</b>	72.6	72.0	73.0	71.3	70.6

## Years 7-12

- The Year 7 to 12 apparent retention rate in 2019 was 73.4 per cent, a decrease of 1.0 percentage point from 74.4 per cent in 2018.
- Three areas had an improved apparent retention rate between 2015 and 2019. The largest increase occurred in Sydney-South West (3.1 percentage points).

**Table 3: Apparent retention rates Years 7-12, 2015-2019**

SA4 Groups	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Sydney-North</b>	97.7	98.1	100.3	97.6	96.1
<b>Sydney-Inner</b>	100.0	99.9	98.1	96.8	96.4
<b>Sydney-South</b>	87.2	86.3	89.0	86.7	86.4
<b>Sydney-South West</b>	78.3	80.7	82.5	82.4	81.4
<b>Sydney-West</b>	81.2	81.5	82.3	81.4	82.4
<b>Sydney-North West</b>	81.2	80.5	85.0	83.3	82.1
<b>North East NSW</b>	62.3	64.3	64.8	63.3	59.9
<b>North West NSW</b>	53.7	55.0	54.6	53.9	52.4
<b>South West NSW</b>	59.8	58.2	60.4	55.5	56.7
<b>South East NSW</b>	65.0	62.9	64.5	65.5	61.6
<b>Central Coast, Newcastle</b>	65.3	63.7	62.2	61.4	61.3
<b>NSW</b>	74.1	74.2	75.6	74.4	73.4