Senior School Retention and SACE Completion

2019 updates

- Inclusion of 2018 data
- Update to methodology

Background

Our education system aims to ensure that all young people are on a pathway towards continued success in further education, training or employment *(Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians December 2008).*

Given this goal, it is important to describe the learning and earning pathways taken by senior school students, including the completion of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) and vocational education and training (VET).[1]

The information presented in this factsheet utilises longitudinal enrolment records, combined with SACE and VET records to calculate student retention and transition rates, as well as SACE completion rates.

Data has been sourced from the SACE Board, the Department for Innovation and Skills and data held by the department.

Terms used

The terms and definitions used in this factsheet are:

- **Student enrolments**

- **Students in Flexible Learning Options (FLO)**
  FLO supports young people to re-engage with learning and successfully return to school, or move to further education, training or employment

- **Year level exits**
  The Count of students from a year level who were not enrolled in the sequential year level in the following calendar year

- **Retention rates**
  For Year 8 to Year 12, and for Year 10 to Year 12

- **Transition rates**
  A measure of the customary rate of progression, that is, one year level per year (e.g. Year 8 to Year 9, Year 9 to Year 10, Year 10 to Year 11 and Year 11 to Year 12

- **SACE completion**
  For Year 8 to SACE completion, and Year 12 and Year 13 to SACE completion

- **VET**
  Participation in Vocational Education and Training

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[1] An update to VET data will be provided in the 2020 Senior school retention and SACE completion factsheet.

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- **Administrative year level**
  A code indicating the mainstream year level of the student for school administrative purposes

- **Census year level**
  A code indicating the year level of the student for Census reporting purposes

- **Compulsory school age**
  Children and teenagers must be in school from 6 to 16 years old. They must attend a government or non-government school

- **Compulsory education age**
  Teenagers must go to school or an approved learning program until they either turn 17, or achieve their SACE or other qualification

- **Approved learning programs**
  Approved learning programs are run by:
  - Vocational Education and Training (VET)
  - TAFE
  - Registered training organisations (RTOs)

  An approved learning program could be:

  - Accredited courses
  - Apprenticeships or traineeships
  - University
  - Other programs authorised by the Minister for Education (or delegate)

Notes

1. Methodology improvements have resulted in better student identification. As a result, 2015, 2016 and 2017 figures in Table 6a have been revised from those previously published.

2. The student populations used in this factsheet are calculated using different methodologies than those used to calculate data published on data.sa.gov.au and the SACE website. As such, student numbers may not reconcile with those released publicly.

3. Student year levels in this factsheet are using the administrative year level, unless otherwise stated.

4. Measures include all students irrespective of whether they are full time or part time.

5. Enrolments reported in this factsheet include all students irrespective of age, unless otherwise stated.

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Student enrolments and exits

Table 1: Student enrolments (Term 1 census)

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
2018	11641	12024	11997	13763	12132	830

Note: Higher numbers of student enrolments are typically observed in years 11 and 12 due to year-level repeaters, part-time students, and students having moved into the department's school system from interstate, overseas or a non-government school.

Table 2: Students with a Flexible Learning Option (FLO) enrolment*

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
2018	81	344	793	1734	1234	497

*Figures exclude adult re-entry students from FLO counts. Data has been sourced from the FLO enrolment census 2018. Year level is the census year level.

Table 3: Student year-level exits – The count of students without an active enrolment in the consecutive year level (Term 1 census)

	Year 8 to 9	Year 9 to 10	Year 10 to 11	Year 11 to 12
2017 to 2018	651	811	1005	3672

Note: Student exits may include students who have left the school system to either gain employment or further study, or student who have moved interstate, overseas or a to non-government school.

Note: The compulsory school age is typically reached in Year 10 or 11, and compulsory education age is typically reached in Year 11 or 12.

Retention rates

Table 4a: Year 8 to 12 retention (Term 1 census)

Year 8	Year 8 enrolments	Year 12	Year 12 retention count	Year 8 to 12 retention rate (%)
2010	11876	**2014**	8505	72
2011	11656	**2015**	8725	75
2012	11678	**2016**	8978	77
2013	11551	**2017**	8821	76
2014	11229	**2018**	8424	75

Table 4b: Year 10 to 12 retention (Term 1 census)

Year 10	Year 10 enrolments	Year 12	Year 12 retention count	Year 10 to 12 retention rate (%)
2012	12401	**2014**	9296	75
2013	12185	**2015**	9529	78
2014	12222	**2016**	9695	79
2015	12131	**2017**	9563	79
2016	11967	**2018**	9340	78

Note: Student exits may include students who have left the school system to either gain employment or for further study, or have left to an interstate, overseas or a non-government school.

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Transition rates

Table 5: Transition rates – Student retention for consecutive years and year levels (Term 1 census)

	Year 8 to 9 (%)	Year 9 to 10 (%)	Year 10 to 11 (%)	Year 11 to 12 (%)
2013-14	95	93	90	69
2014-15	95	93	91	73
2015-16	94	92	91	74
2016-17	95	94	92	75
2017-18	95	93	92	74

SACE completion

Table 6a: Year 12 and 13 to SACE completion (Term 1 and term 3 census – distinct student count)

Year in year 12/13	Year 12/13 enrolments*	SACE completion in same year**	SACE completion rate in same year (%)**	SACE completion to 2018	SACE completion rate to 2018 (%)
2015	13637	7323	54	7932	58
2016	14001	7611	54	8123	58
2017	13774	7722	56	8145	59[#]
2018	12975	7510	58	7510	58[#]

Excludes students who achieved SACE in a previous year and returned (e.g. to improve their grade for tertiary admission requirements).

**Methodology improvements have resulted in better student identification. As a result, 2015, 2016 and 2017 figures have been revised from previous versions of the factsheet.

[#] Rates may increase as more students from these cohorts achieve SACE post-2018.

Table 6b: SACE completion for year 12 and 13 students aged 17 and 18 as at 30 June in reporting year (Term 1 and term 3 census – distinct student count)

Year in year 12/13	Year 12/13 enrolments*	SACE completion in same year	SACE completion rate in same year (%)	SACE completion to 2018	SACE completion rate to 2018 (%)
2015	11575	6747	58	7180	62
2016	11836	7033	59	7411	63
2017	11664	7167	61	7436	64[#]
2018	11108	7008	63	7008	63[#]

Excludes students who achieved SACE in a previous year and returned (e.g. to improve their grade for tertiary admission requirements).

[#] Rates may increase as more students from these cohorts achieve SACE post-2018

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SACE completion continued

Table 7: Year 8 to SACE completion (Term 1 census)

Year 8	Year 8 enrolments	Reporting year	SACE completion of year 8s by reporting year	Year 8 to SACE completion rate (%)
2011	11656	**2015**	5785	50
2012	11678	**2016**	6075	52
2013	11551	**2017**	6112	53
2014	11229	**2018**	5967	53

Note: Between 10% and 15% of the year 8 cohort will exit the government education system to enrol in an interstate, overseas or a non-government school by the start of year 12. Exit reason for these students include gaining employment, participating in an approved learning program, participating in FLO, and unknown.

Source for all tables and figures: Department for Education Enrolment Census 2009–2018, SACE Board Enrolment Data 2014–2018, Department for Industry and Skills VET data 2015–2017, Department for Education FLO Enrolment Census 2018.