

# Retention and SACE completion factsheet

## Purpose

To provide an update on SACE results with the inclusion of 2019 data

## 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).

The information presented in this factsheet uses longitudinal enrolment records held by the department, combined with SACE Board data to calculate student retention and transition rates, as well as SACE completion rates.

## 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

- **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.

## Findings

### Student enrolments and exits

Table 1: Student enrolments (Term 1 census)

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
2019	12537	11914	12537	13888	11856	644

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
2019	76	304	792	1943	1189	409

\*Figures exclude adult re-entry students from FLO counts. Data has been sourced from the FLO enrolment census 2019. 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
2018 to 2019	597	730	1072	3676

Note: Student exits may include students who have left the school system to either gain employment or further study, or students who have moved interstate, overseas or to a 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 (%)
2011	11656	2015	8725	75
2012	11678	2016	8978	77
2013	11551	2017	8821	76
2014	11229	2018	8424	75
2015	11373	2019	8383	74

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 (%)
2013	12185	2015	9529	78
2014	12222	2016	9695	79
2015	12131	2017	9563	79
2016	11967	2018	9340	78
2017	12135	2019	9294	77

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.

## 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 (%)
2014-15	95	93	91	73
2015-16	94	92	91	74
2016-17	95	94	92	75
2017-18	95	93	92	74
2018-19	95	94	91	73

## 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 2019	SACE completion rate to 2019 (%)
2015	13637	7323	54	7954	58
2016	14001	7611	54	8154	58
2017	13774	7722	56	8266	60
2018	12975	7510	58	7903	61 <sup>#</sup>
2019	12470	7778	62	7778	62 <sup>#</sup>

\*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.

<sup>#</sup> Rates may increase as more students from these cohorts achieve SACE post-2019.

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 2019	SACE completion rate to 2019 (%)
2015	11575	6747	58	7196	62
2016	11836	7033	59	7433	63
2017	11664	7167	61	7514	64
2018	11108	7008	63	7268	65 <sup>#</sup>
2019	10872	7263	67	7263	67 <sup>#</sup>

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

<sup>#</sup> Rates may increase as more students from these cohorts achieve SACE post-2019.

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
2015	11373	2019	6298	55

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 2009–2019, SACE Board Enrolment Data 2014–2019, Department for Education FLO Enrolment Census 2019.