

Index of Educational Disadvantage Analysis



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

The following table provides an analysis and explanation about the Index of Educational Disadvantage for South Australian Government schools.

The Index of Educational Disadvantage

The Index of Educational Disadvantage is a socio-economic index, used by the department to allocate resources to schools to address educational disadvantage related to socio-economic status.

Components

The Index is calculated using measures of:

- Parental economic resources (ECO)
- Parental education and occupation (EDU)
- Aboriginality (AB)
- Student mobility (MOB).

Data

The parental economic resources and parental education and occupation components of the Index are calculated using Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data. This data is used by mapping the addresses of students attending a school to ABS collection districts. A collection district is the base unit of ABS data and consists of approximately 250 households. A school's score on these two components of the Index is calculated using a weighted average of the data from the collection districts from which a school draws its students. The greater the number of students a school draws from a collection district, the greater the influence that collection district has on a school's score. In the calculation of the 2012 Index, 2006 ABS data and 2011 student numbers and address details have been used.

The Aboriginal and student mobility components of the Index are calculated using a weighted average over three years of the department's school census data. Student mobility is defined to be the ratio of total students enrolling or leaving in a school between March 1st and October 31st compared with the school's average enrolment for that year. In the calculation of the 2012 Index, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Aboriginality data and 2007, 2008 and 2009 student mobility data has been used.

Categories

These measures are combined using a statistical technique called principal component analysis with each of the components of the Index having approximately the same weighting in a school's overall score. Schools are ranked according to an overall score and then separated into 7 categories using a statistical clustering technique. Schools in category 1 serve the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities, category 7 the least disadvantaged.