

PARTNERS IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Founded in 1966, The Federation of Independent Schools Associations (FISA BC) is a **non-partisan, non-profit society** representing **305** independent schools. FISA BC serves as the voice of independent schools safeguarding **educational choice, school recognition, and equitable funding** in BC.

The public and independent sectors together comprise **a unified system**, governed by the School Act and the Independent School Act, respectively. The purpose of BC K-12 education is defined identically in both the “School Act” and the “Independent School Act”.

One System – Two Sectors

OFFERING CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Faith-Base Education

Over half of BC's independent schools are faith-based, encompassing Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Sikh faiths, offering families education that aligns with their values and beliefs.

Educational Options

BC has a variety of independent schools including post-secondary preparatory schools, inclusive education, First Nations schools and boarding schools. A number of schools embrace specialized teaching philosophies, including IB, Montessori, and Waldorf.

Online Education

Offering flexible and customized programs, independent online schools in BC enrol **59.2%** of BC's online learners (FTE)* in 2025/2026, across 16 schools.

Inclusive Education

Independent schools are one of the BC educational options that support BC students with diverse abilities.

Overall, 11,729 students (FTE) with diverse abilities are supported by independent schools. This represents 12.65 % of the total independent school enrolment.



13 Designated Inclusive Education Schools
100% of enrolled students with diverse abilities
951 students with diverse abilities



16 Independent Provincial Online Learning Schools
27.09% of enrolled students with diverse abilities
3,151 students with diverse abilities



276 Standard Schools (Group one and two)
9.73% of enrolled students with diverse abilities
7,627 students with diverse abilities

“Everyone has the right to education... parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”

— Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26

*FTE = Full-Time Equivalent

**FTE = Full-Time Equivalent - Funded and Non-funded Inclusive Education Students, BC Data Catalogue

REDUCING THE TAXPAYERS' BURDEN

\$538 million

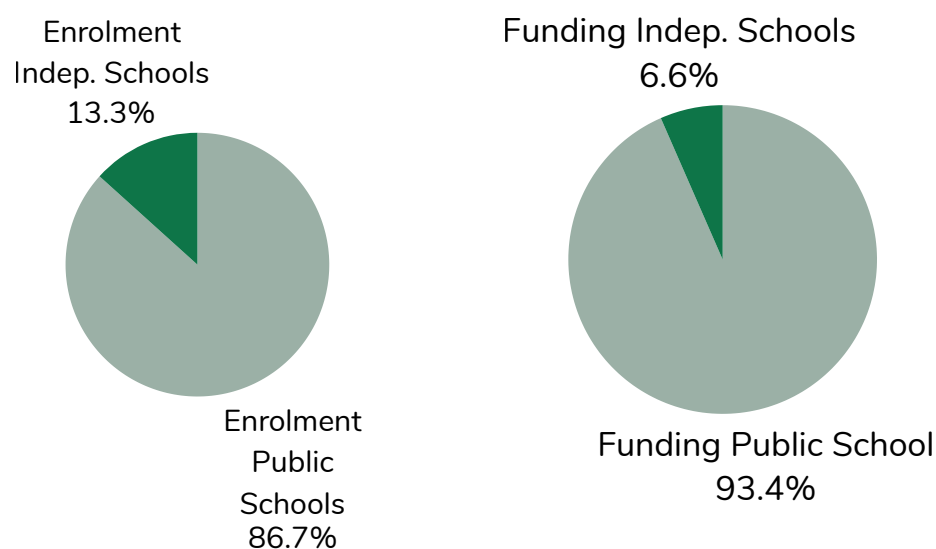
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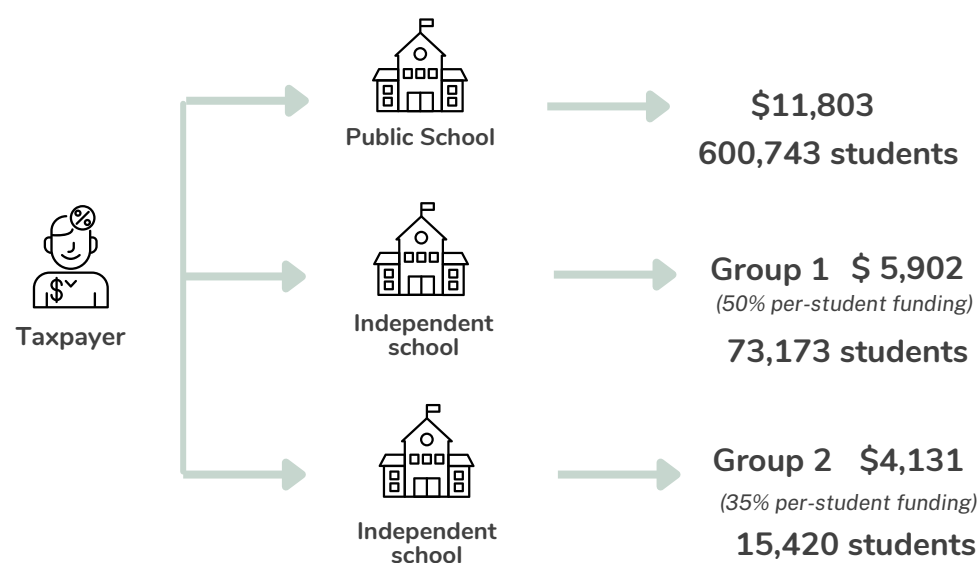
With **92,700 students (FTE)** attending independent schools, the provincial operational costs are reduced by more than **half a billion dollars annually**.

Independent schools enrol **13.3%** of all K-12 students while using only **6.6%** of the BC education budget. Additionally, taxpayers incur no capital costs, as these expenses are covered by the parents of independent school students.

Percentage of Funding Compared to Enrollment



Average tax \$ spent per K-12 student in 2025/2026

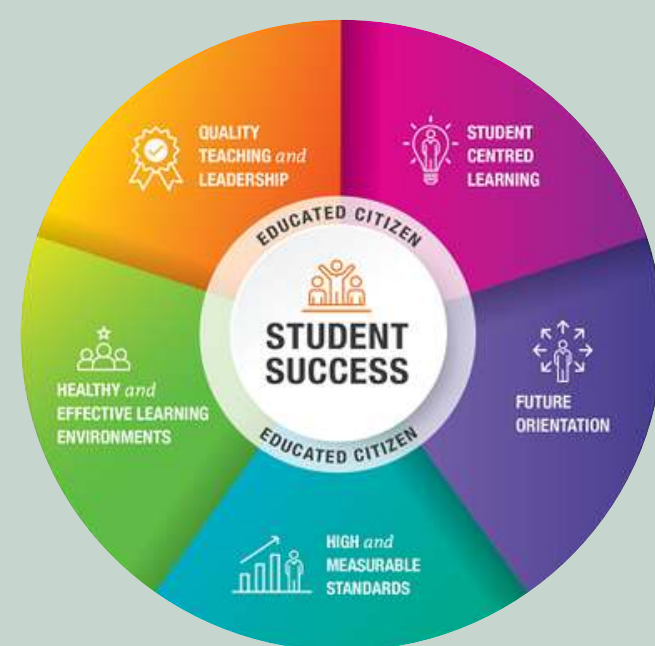


EDUCATED CITIZENS CONTRIBUTING TO THE PUBLIC GOOD

FISA BC schools fulfil the purpose of the Province's K-12 education system by fostering responsible citizenship through supporting each student's educational, emotional, social and physical needs.

Students are taught to respect the dignity of all individuals. This includes focusing efforts on Truth and Reconciliation, anti-racism, anti-bullying and anti-harassment initiatives.

Member schools cultivate civic awareness and responsibility so that students make a meaningful impact on local and global communities.



— BC Ministry of Education and Child Care
Vision for Student Success

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March 2026