

This publication provides summary statistics relating to junior primary class sizes in South Australian government schools as at Term 3 2014. These data are derived from roll class information collected as part of the Term 3 Enrolment Data Collection held on Friday, 1 August 2014.

Introduction

Roll class information was first collected in the Term 1 2003 Census. The roll class is used as an estimate for the measure of class size for junior primary classes.

Prior to 2014 junior primary class size statistics were calculated using validated Term 1 Data Collection data. However due to the introduction of the Same First Day policy, from 2014 onwards the junior primary class size statistics are calculated using validated Term 3 Enrolment Census data. This must be taken into account in any comparison of the 2014 data with that from previous years.

A comparison has been made between Term 1 2013 (validated) and Term 3 2013 (unvalidated) class sizes data. The average class size for Term 3 2013 was 22 students, which is slightly higher than the total average for the state for Term 1 2013 (21).

Comparison has also been undertaken between Term 3 2013 (unvalidated) and Term 3 2014 (validated)



Number of Students by Class Type

The Same First Day policy was introduced in 2014, where reception students start school at the beginning of the year. This has affected the average number of students in classes with Reception students as in previous years the census was based on Term 1. (Table 2 shows the comparison between Term 1 2012 and 2013 and Term 3 2014 data).

Prior to 2014, reception classes in term 1 were smaller in most primary schools as additional students commenced schooling during terms 2 to 4. This is likely to be a major factor in the apparent increase in class sizes when comparing term 3 2014 with term 1 enrolments in previous years.

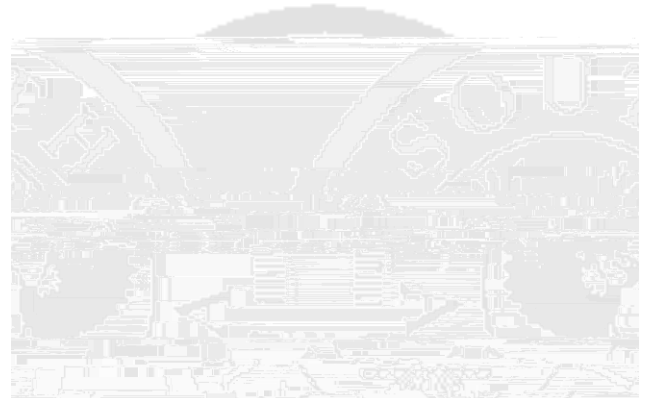
The class type with the highest number of students per class in 2014 was the Year 2/Year 3 classes with an average of 24 students; a decrease since 2013.

Class Type	Term 1 2012	Term 1 2013	Term 3 2014
Reception	17	17	21
Reception/Year 1	19	19	22
Rec/Year 1/Year 2	16	16	18
Rec/Yr 1/Yr 2/Yr 3	13	13	13
Year 1	22	22	23
Year 1/Year 2	23	23	23
Year 1/Year 2/Year 3	19	18	19
Year 2	23	24	24
Year 2/Year 3	24	25	24
Total for State	20	21	22

Figure 1: Frequency of Class Size 2012, 2013 and 2014

Note: 2012 and 2013 data is for term 1, 2014 data is for term 3

Frequency of Class Size



Class Size by Class Type

Of junior primary classes 82% had less than 26 students per class, a decrease from 84% in 2013.

Of junior primary classes 22% had less than 20 students per class; a decrease from 35% in 2013.

Table 3 Class Type Percentage of Junior Primary Classes Below 20 and 26 Students, Term 3 2014	% Classes Below 20 Students per Class	% Classes Below 26 Students per Class
Reception	30%	96%
Reception/Year 1	26%	89%
Reception/Year 1/Year 2	66%	95%
Reception/Year 1/Year 2/Year 3	100%	100%
Year 1	13%	79%
Year 1/Year 2	13%	78%
Year 1/Year 2/Year 3	55%	91%
Year 2	13%	71%
Year 2/Year 3	11%	60%