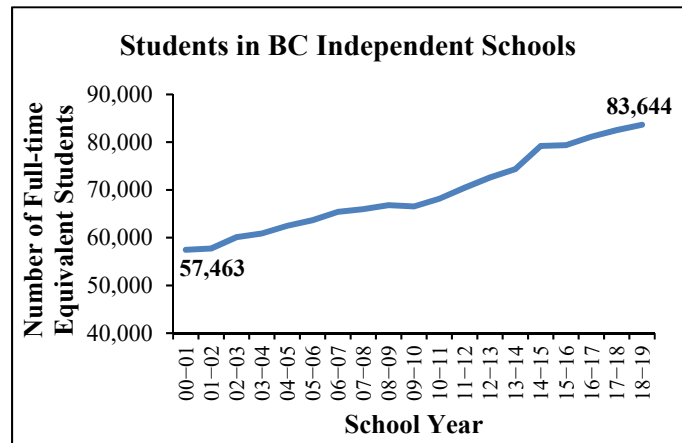


## Independent Schools in British Columbia

**Enrolment in independent schools has increased significantly over the past two decades.<sup>1</sup>**

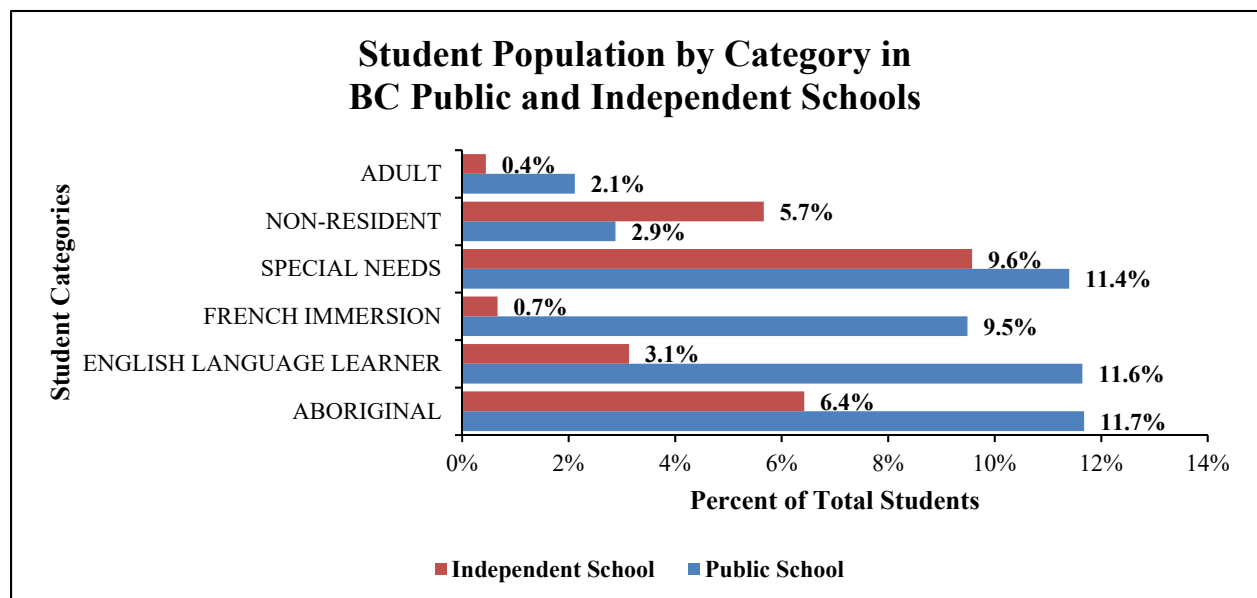
Between 2000–01 and 2018–19, the full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrolments in BC independent schools increased from 57,463 to 83,644. This is an increase of 45.6%.



Source: Ministry of Education. (2019). BC Schools - Student Enrolment and FTE by Grade. Values are rounded to nearest whole number.

**Independent schools have a significantly smaller population of students in specialized categories, including students with special needs.**

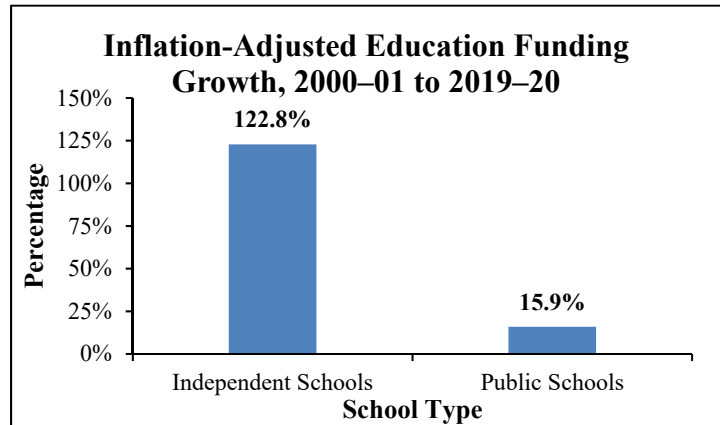
In 2018–19, the only category of students that is larger in independent schools than in public schools is non-resident students. Students in specialized categories in public schools make up a considerably larger part of the overall student population than those in independent schools.



Source: Ministry of Education. (2019). BC Schools - Student Enrolment and FTE by Grade. Values are rounded to nearest tenth of a percent.

**Public funding for independent schools has increased significantly more than student enrolment.<sup>2</sup>**

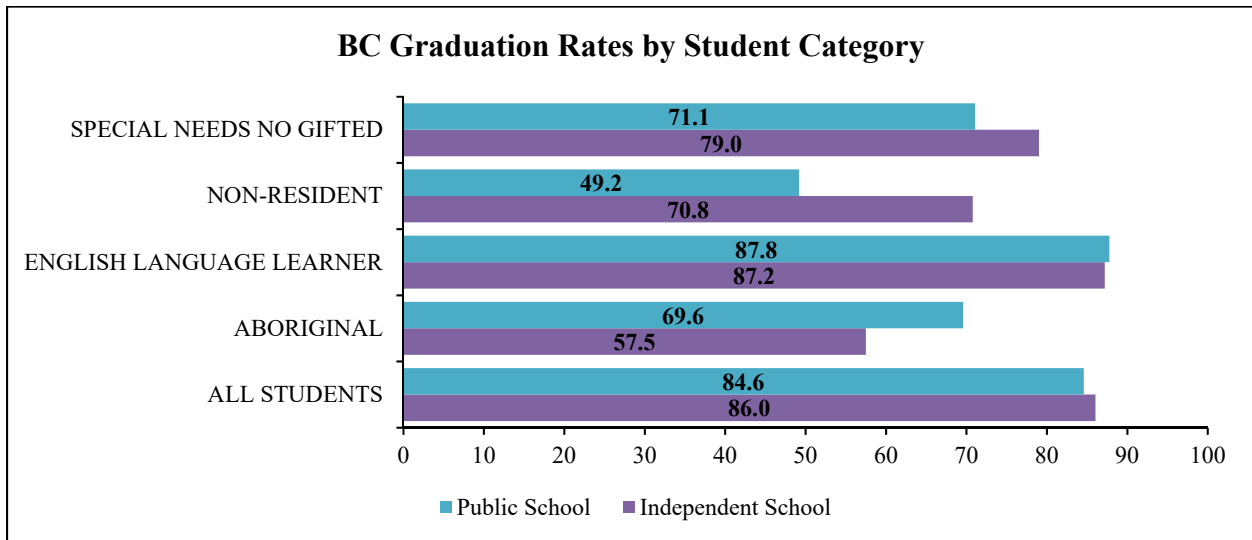
Between 2000–01 and 2018–19, funding for independent schools increased by 122.8%. This exceeds student enrolment increases by 77.2%, and funding increases for public schools by 106.9%.



Source: Ministry of Education. (2000–19). Service Plan; Statistics Canada. (2019). Table 18-10-0005-01 Consumer Price Index, annual average, not seasonally adjusted. Values are rounded to nearest tenth of a percent

**The gap in graduation rates between public and independent schools has closed greatly in the past two decades, with graduation rates for some students being higher in public schools.<sup>3</sup>**

In 2000–01, the six-year Dogwood Diploma completion rate was close to 10.6% higher in independent schools than in public schools. By 2017–18, that gap closed to less than 1.5%. In addition, Aboriginal students and students in English Language Learner programs in public schools had higher graduation rates than their independent school counterparts.



Source: Ministry of Education. (2019). BC Schools – Six Year Completion Rate. Values are rounded to nearest tenth of a percent.

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Education. (2019). BC Schools - Student Enrolment and FTE by Grade.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Education. (2000–19). Service Plan. Statistics Canada. (2019). Table 18-10-0005-01 Consumer Price Index, annual average, not seasonally adjusted.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Education. (2019). BC Schools – Six Year Completion Rate.

