

The school system

Early Childhood (Kindergarten):

Early Childhood Education centres are community based, staffed by teachers possessing a certificate in teaching or personnel who have field based training.

Primary:

Currently formal education commences in primary schools at the preparatory grade. The purpose of Primary education is to introduce children to the skills needed for writing, reading, mathematics, community studies, science, agriculture, art, music, physical education and Christian education. Primary education is not compulsory, although successive governments desire that all children in the Solomon Islands attend primary education. A child is expected to commence at the age six or seven and continue for six years. .

Secondary:

Secondary education follows primary schooling and continues for three (to Form 3), six (to Form 6) or for a small number, seven years (to Form 7). Students are admitted to Form 1 on the basis of their performance in the *SI Secondary School Entrance Examination*. The purpose of secondary education is to expand knowledge of subjects already studied at primary school including literature, science, mathematics, social studies, commerce and other subjects essential for physical and intellectual development and to prepare students for specialised skill training.

There are three types of secondary schools. National Secondary Schools (NSS) and Provincial Secondary Schools (PSS) are boarding schools, while Community High Schools are day schools with some limited boarding. All secondary students follow the same curriculum and sit the Form 3 Examination.

PSSs were established in the 1980s to expand the number of junior secondary school places and emphasized the need for acquiring practical subjects. They have since expanded to offer Forms 4 and 5. In many cases the facilities available, such as libraries, science laboratories and dormitories have not been expanded.

CHS were established in the early 1990's. There has been a rapid growth in the number of CHSs, in response to community support and pressure, which has strained the capacity of governments to provide trained teachers, equipment and curriculum support materials. Most do not possess buildings required to teach all subjects, especially science, or libraries.

Annual School Census

Every year the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) conducts a census of Solomon Islands Schools. The data gathered through this process is used to support planning, budgeting and policy making for the Education Sector. The survey forms completed by schools provide details about the students, teachers, facilities and infrastructure at those schools. This data is stored and analysed using the Solomon Islands Education Management Information System (SIEMIS).

If you would like more information about the Solomon Islands education system, or more detailed reports on a particular aspect of the system, please contact the Planning, Coordination and Research Unit at MEHRD.



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MEHRD



Ministry Of
Education and Human
Resources Development

Solomon Islands National Education Sector Summary Statistics

2005



2005

Schools

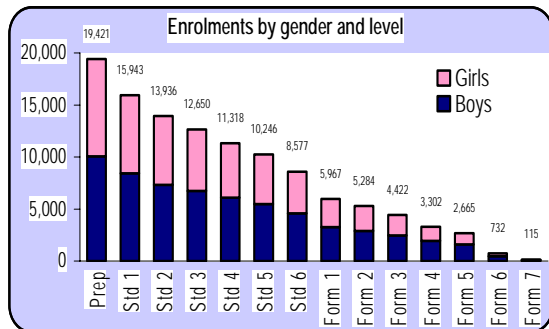
Number of schools by school type

Type of School	Number
Primary School (PS)	538
Community High School (PS)	115
Provincial Secondary School (PSS)	15
National Secondary School (NSS)	10
Grand Total	678

Enrolments

Enrolments by gender and level

Level	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary			
Prep	9,345	10,076	19,421
Std 1	7,510	8,433	15,943
Std 2	6,612	7,324	13,936
Std 3	5,912	6,738	12,650
Std 4	5,236	6,082	11,318
Std 5	4,770	5,476	10,246
Std 6	3,980	4,597	8,577
Total primary	43,365	48,726	92,091
Secondary			
Form 1	2,706	3,261	5,967
Form 2	2,379	2,905	5,284
Form 3	1,954	2,468	4,422
Form 4	1,375	1,927	3,302
Form 5	1,056	1,609	2,665
Form 6	274	458	732
Form 7	37	78	115
Total secondary	9,781	12,706	22,487
Total	53,146	61,432	114,578



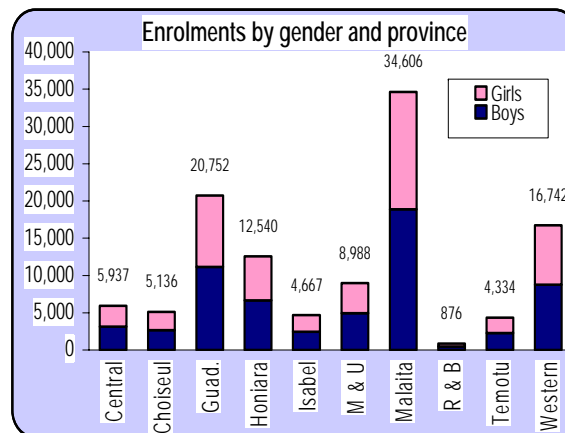
Provincial summary

Enrolments by school type and province

Province	Enrolments				
	PS	CHS	PSS	NSS	Total
Central	3,563	2,120	254		5,937
Choiseul	3,506	1,630			5,136
Guadalcanal	11,281	7,176	1,076	1,219	20,752
Honiara	2,672	8,939	929		12,540
Isabel	3,055	1,588	24		4,667
Makira and Ulawa	5,443	2,682	375	488	8,988
Malaita	20,585	12,640	993	388	34,606
Rennell and Bellona	519	207	150		876
Temotu	2,747	1,500	87		4,334
Western	9,971	5,691	310	770	16,742
Total	63,342	44,173	4,198	2,865	114,578

Number of schools by type and province

Province	Number of schools				
	PS	CHS	PSS	NSS	Total
Central	33	6	1		40
Choiseul	43	8	1		52
Guadalcanal	78	19	3	3	103
Honiara	11	14	1	1	27
Isabel	24	4	1	1	30
Makira and Ulawa	62	8	1	2	73
Malaita	134	35	3	1	173
Rennell and Bellona	10	2	1		13
Temotu	38	4	1		43
Western	105	15	2	2	124
Total	538	115	15	10	678



Teachers

Number of teachers by type and gender

School Type	Number of teachers				
	PS	CHS	PSS	NSS	Total
Females	905	619	31	52	1,607
Males	1,507	917	129	117	2,670
Unknown					
Total	2,412	1,536	160	169	4,277

Student teacher ratios by type and province

Province	Student teacher ratios			
	PS	CHS	PSS	NSS
Central	26.6	27.2	21.2	
Choiseul	23.5	17.2		
Guadalcanal	30.7	34.5	38.4	16.5
Honiara	24.1	35.6	185.8	
Isabel	24.6	21.5	2.0	
Makira and Ulawa	22.7	19.7	31.3	61.0
Malaita	30.5	26.6	20.7	18.5
Rennell and Bellona	11.8	11.5		
Temotu	16.4	83.3	8.7	
Western	24.9	31.3	16.3	59.2
Total	26.3	28.8	26.2	17.0

Funding authority

Enrolments by funding authority

Authority	Schools	Enrolments
Malaita Province	148	30,087
Guadalcanal Province	80	16,322
Western Province	69	10,133
Seventh Day Adventist Church	79	8,676
Makira & Ulawa Province	69	8,353
Honiara Town Council	13	7,093
Central Islands Province	40	5,937
Choiseul Province	45	4,834
Isabel Province	29	4,624
Temotu Province	43	4,334
South Seas Evangelical Church	14	4,193
Church of Melanesia	7	3,071
Roman Catholic	2	1,613
United Church	8	1,392
Rennell & Bellona	9	597
Church of the Living Word	1	447
Chinese Association	1	330
Woodford	1	193
Church of the Nazarene	1	193
Perch	1	166
Kelyn Education Authority	1	101
Ministry of Education & Human Resources	2	43
Other	15	1,846
Total	678	114,578