

Retention Rates

The actual retention rate is calculated by taking the roll of students for an initial year and deducting all students who are not on the roll for a later year. For example, this would identify the number of students who were enrolled in year 7 who have continued to year 9 at the same school.

The apparent retention rate is calculated by a simple comparison of total enrolments in each year level in one year.

For example, the school compares years 7 and 9 at the same census date. In 2002 (first year of high school) there were 37 students in year 7 and in 2004 there were 26 students in year 9. The apparent retention rate is 70%. Of the 37 students from 2002 year 7, only 21 students are on the year 9 roll. The actual retention rate is 57%.

Years Compared	Year 7 total enrolment on census date	Year 9 total enrolment on census date	Year 7 enrolment at census date remaining in year 9 on census date	Apparent Retention Rate	Actual Retention Rate
2002/2004	37	26	21	70%	57%
2002/2005	37	32	17	86%	46%

Comment:

While the apparent retention rate from Year 7 to Year 10 has improved over the last three years, the actual retention rate has declined. Based on the information provided to the school when students leave it would appear that most of students left school because of family circumstances or going overseas while few left as they wanted a change of environment for the final years of their schooling.