

Updated Information for AIEF Scholarships 2025 School Year

As AIEF’s Class of 2025 join the ranks of over 900 Year 12 graduates who have come before them in the past 17 years, Indigenous community demand for AIEF Scholarships continues to grow.

Each year AIEF publishes its Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate in its Annual Report for that year to provide a real-time measurement on how the success of the AIEF Scholarship Program is tracking from one year to the next. This shows all the AIEF Scholarship Students who completed that year at school (Retention and Year 12 Completion) compared to the students who left the school without completing that school year (Attrition). Measuring retention and Year 12 completion rates annually enables AIEF and its Partner Schools to identify any issues and discuss improvement strategies in real time and give stakeholders relevant information about what happened in the year covered by the Annual Report.

Over 90% of AIEF Scholarship Students either continue at school or have completed Year 12 each of the last 17 years since AIEF started, except for 2011 when it was 89.3%. Table 1 below shows the Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate published by AIEF on its website and in Annual Reports for the past five years, filtered to show current Partner Schools with AIEF Scholarships in 2025 (i.e. the current AIEF Scholarship Program). The Cumulative Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate over the last five years for Partner Schools offering Scholarships in 2025 is 86%.

Table 1: Retention and Year 12 Completion Rates (filtered by 2025 Partner Schools)

Data Reported in Published AIEF Annual Reports on AIEF Website AIEF Secondary School Scholarship Program (2025 Partner Schools)								
<i>Year of Published Annual Report</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Published Annual Reports on Website 5-Year Cumulative Total
Retention (Continuing Students)	245	227	218	233	260	278	337	337
Year 12 Completion (Graduates)	52	67	56	56	51	59	59	281
Total Scholarships Retention and Year 12 Completions	297	294	274	289	311	337	396	618
Attritions	24	12	15	17	21	22	25	100
Total Students	321	306	289	306	332	359	421	718
Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate	93%	96%	95%	94%	94%	94%	94%	86%

Source: <http://www.aief.com.au/news/annual-reports/and-analysis-of-aief-scholarship-program-data>

To note, in 2025 56% of Partner Schools had a 100% Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate, and another 25% had an Annual Retention and Year 12 Completion Rate between 90% and 99%.

AIEF has made substantial changes in the AIEF Scholarship Program, including publishing and sharing the *AIEF Compendium of Best Practice for Achieving Successful Outcomes With Indigenous Students in Australian Boarding Schools*. Additionally, AIEF has continually refined and strengthened its annual review processes and incorporated actions and learnings into its programs.

Another contributing factor to improved results in recent years has been the evolution of the Indigenous education programs at Partner Schools based on feedback they have received from Indigenous students and their families and communities, as well as building on their learnings from early experiences, AIEF's best practice research and the sharing of experience across the Partner School network.

Attrition rates at Partner Schools do not imply underperformance as students may leave a school for a variety of reasons including changes in personal circumstances such as family migration interstate, personal or family health issues, or moving to a school that is more suited to the needs or interests of the student.

AIEF's independent auditor BDO East Coast Partnership has audited AIEF's school scholarship data from 2008-2025, and has issued a *Report on Factual Findings* undertaken in accordance with the *Standard on Related Services ASRS 4400 Agreed Upon Procedures Engagements to Report Factual Findings* which found no errors or omissions in the data. A *Report on Factual Findings* has been incorporated as part of AIEF's standard annual reporting and audit cycle each year covering 100% of AIEF Scholarships awarded (school and tertiary). Further information about AIEF's programs, data, definitions and reporting is available on the AIEF website.