



WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

2024 SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCE





The following School information is provided in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Accountability requirements under the Schools Assistance Act 2008.

It relates to the 2024 School academic year.

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# 1 SCHOOL INFORMATION

Since 1884, Wilderness School has been a leader in girls' education, empowering young women to thrive with confidence, curiosity and compassion.

A non-denominational school for girls from Early Learning to Year 12, Wilderness also offers boarding from Year 7. Grounded in strong Christian family values, we nurture each student as an individual, supporting their academic and personal growth.

In 2024, our student community included local, rural, interstate and international students from mainland China, Hong Kong, and India, bringing global perspectives into our classrooms.

Located just five kilometres from Adelaide's Central Business District, our beautiful Medindie campus provides a calm and inspiring setting for learning.

At Wilderness, we are both a learning community and a community of learners. A place where students and teachers alike are encouraged to think deeply, explore creatively, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. Research and evidence-based practice are central to our approach, and our educators are continually exploring innovative ways to help students navigate and contribute to the world around them.





## MISSION

To enable each girl to be the best that she can be throughout her life.



## VISION

Wilderness School will be a world leader in girls' education.

We will equip each girl to succeed in her personal and professional life.



## VALUES

At Wilderness School we promote, enable and nurture:

### Respectful Relationships

Compassionate, kind, friendly and hospitable girls who form and maintain healthy and fulfilling relationships.

### Adventurous Learning

Creative, independent and collaborative learners who seek excellence and success.

### Responsible Citizenship

Responsible, respectful and generous global citizens and leaders, who act with integrity for a socially just world and a sustainable future for the Earth.

### A True & Courageous Self

Resilient, vibrant and spiritually aware girls, confident in themselves and appreciative of others.





## LEARNING FOR LIFE

While the academic curriculum forms the foundation of daily life at Wilderness, the School experience extends far beyond the classroom.

Our vibrant co-curricular program plays a vital role in enriching each girl's journey, providing opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, form friendships and pursue goals. It also furthers the sense of connection and community that defines life at Wilderness.

Whether through sport, the arts, service, or leadership, all girls are encouraged to engage with a diverse range of experiences.



# MUSIC CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- » Big Band 1
- » Big Band 2
- » Concert Band
- » Dream Girls
- » Guitar Ensemble
- » Intermediate Flute Ensemble
- » Intermediate String Orchestra
- » Intermediate String Quartet
- » Jazz Choir
- » Jazz Incorporated
- » Junior Band
- » Junior Concert Choir
- » Junior Dreamers
- » Junior String Orchestra
- » Jazz Combo
- » Saxophone Quartet
- » Senior Choir (7-12)
- » Senior Clarinet Ensemble
- » Senior Flute Ensemble
- » Senior String Orchestra
- » Senior String Quartet
- » Symphonic Band
- » Year 4 Band (Semester 2 Only)

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- » Anglicare Foster Care Program
- » Australian Mathematics Competition
- » Ballet
- » Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge
- » Chess
- » Da Vinci Decathlon
- » Debating
- » Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- » Ethics Olympiad
- » EVATT United Nations SA Youth
- » 'Girl Up' Club
- » IPSHA Poetry Competition
- » Mind Lab Olympics
- » Nepal Trek
- » Oliphant Science Awards
- » Outdoor Education
- » OzClo Computational Linguistics
- » Pathways Week
- » Paul Dillon - Drug and Alcohol Research Training Australia
- » RAA Street Smart
- » Rostrum Voice of Youth
- » Round Square Exchange Program
- » SONY Camp
- » SUBS in Schools Competition
- » Tournament of Minds



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

- » Nature Play
- » Adventures into Language and Bike Riding
- » Ballarat Educational Tour
- » Canberra Educational Tour
- » Gymnastics

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

- » Bushwalking
- » Orienteering
- » Kayaking
- » REALISE Extended Stay Residential Program
- » Sailing
- » Surfing
- » High Ropes
- » Rock-climbing
- » Camping





# COMMITTEES

Our clubs and committees are a valuable addition to our curriculum, offering a wide range of opportunities both within and outside the classroom. Lunchtime clubs cater for interests as diverse as chess, writing, the environment, debating, junior theatre, private music lessons and community service.

- » Careers Committee
- » Digital Technology Committee
- » Environment Club
- » ‘Girl Up’ Club
- » House Committee
- » International Students Committee
- » Library Committee
- » Media Team
- » Music Committee
- » Performing Arts Committee
- » Peer Support Committee
- » Round Square Committee
- » Sport Committee
- » Student Foundation Committee
- » Form Representatives
- » Year 12 Committee

# SPORTS PARTICIPATION

Our extensive Sports program also provides opportunities for personal development. We encourage every girl to participate at a level appropriate to her ability and to evaluate her performance both at a personal and team level. Sport allows our students, whether captain or team player, to develop qualities of commitment, teamwork and competitiveness, as well as a positive attitude to personal fitness.

- » Athletics
- » Australian Rules Football
- » Badminton
- » Basketball
- » Cricket
- » Cross Country
- » Hockey
- » IGSSA Representative Teams
- » Lacrosse
- » Minkey
- » Netball
- » Netta
- » Rowing
- » SAPSASA Representative Teams
- » SSSSA Sport Competitions
- » Soccer
- » Swimming
- » Tennis
- » Touch Football
- » Volleyball
- » Water Polo





## LEADERSHIP FOR LIFE

At Wilderness, we prepare girls for the leadership opportunities they will encounter in life. All students are encouraged to take up leadership roles throughout their time here.

Formal student leadership is encouraged through class representation, the House system and student committees in the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.



We believe that effective student leadership includes a broad range of experiences for all girls.

We aim to build the understandings and skills of leadership through the curriculum and the many, varied activities of School life to assist girls to become respected leaders who act with integrity and model ethical behaviour. In this way, students develop their individual capacity to lead and influence others in a responsible manner.

Learning to lead is integral to a Wilderness education, preparing girls for full participation as responsible citizens in an increasingly globalised society.

Our hope is that our students will have the personal attributes to lead at any level, both wisely and with compassion. Opportunities arise on a daily basis for girls to take leadership roles in class. Subject teachers encourage girls to build on these.

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| » Alliance of Girls' Schools Student Leadership Conference | » House and Sport Captains                    | » SRC Executive Committee                  |
| » Boarding House Captains                                  | » House Committees                            | » Student led assemblies and presentations |
| » Boarding Prefects  | » International Student Ambassador Program    | » Team Captains and Junior Coaches         |
| » Buddy Program  | » Junior Student Representative Council (SRC) | » Year Level and Form Representatives      |
| » Careers Committee  | » Leadership workshops                        | » Year 10 Leadership Day                   |
| » Creative Arts Representatives                            | » Media and Magazine Representative           | » Year 10 Pathways Week                    |
| » Community Service Representatives                        | » Middle Student Representative Council (SRC) | » Year 11 Leadership Days                  |
| » Debating Coaching  | » Music Captains                              |  |
| » Digital Technology Representative                        | » Music Ensemble Leaders                      |  |
| » Environment Representatives                              | » Poetry Representative                       |  |
| » Events and PR Representatives                            | » Round Square School Ambassadors             |  |
| » 'Girl Up' Club / Committee                               | » Round Square Committee                      |  |
| » Glee Competition   | » Sports Representative                       |  |
| » Group Dynamics   | » Student Foundation Representatives          |  |
| » GRIP Leadership Conference                               | » Student IT Committee                        |  |
| » House Birthday Coordinator                               | » Student Media Team                          |  |





## RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

All of our students take part in our Community Service program. Girls are not only encouraged to feel connected to their immediate community, but to broaden their horizons and contribute to the wider world.



# COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

- » Anglicare Fun in the Wilderness Program for Vulnerable Children (Care Packages for Foster Carers and Move-in Packages for Vulnerable Young Adults)
- » Bhadaure School - Nepal
- » BIO-R Planting Festival
- » Buddy Program
- » Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- » Girl Up – United Nations Foundation
- » Mother's Day Classic – Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
- » Nepal Boarding House Fund
- » Local ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services
- » Reconciliation Week
- » Remembrance Day Service
- » Rotary Seed Propagation
- » Smith Family
- » Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp
- » St Vincent de Paul
- » Student2Student Buddy Reading Program
- » Traffic Monitoring with SAPOL
- » Treasure Boxes
- » Variety Children's Foundation Picnics
- » Wilderness in Nepal: Walk Everest in a Day
- » Wrap with Love







## 2 TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Wilderness is a learning community, providing opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to question and to develop skills of critical thinking, resourcefulness, reflection and risk-taking.

We believe in lifelong learning and have a strong commitment in providing generous opportunities for staff to participate in a wide variety of professional development.



# TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A complete list of teacher qualifications is available at the front of the 2024 Semper Verus yearbook.

The teaching staff at Wilderness School are highly qualified and possess qualifications including Doctorates, Bachelor and Masters Degrees, Graduate Diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates.

- Of our teaching staff:
- » 14% with 4 or more professional qualifications
  - » 24% with 3 professional qualifications
  - » 45% with 2 professional qualifications
  - » 17% with 1 professional qualification

We are a community of learners. Our staff participate in ongoing professional development which enables them to continue to be leaders within their educational disciplines.

## Some staff professional development opportunities included the following:

- » Aboriginal Immersion program
- » ACEL Middle Leaders
- » ACHPER
- » AI
- » Assessment Design
- » Assessment Moderation
- » ACEL Conference Adelaide
- » Australian Association of Teachers of English National Conference
- » Beginning Teachers
- » BETA SA
- » Coaching for Learning Impact
- » Cultures of Thinking
- » Differentiation
- » Difficult Conversations
- » Dylan Williams Master Class
- » Edutech EdVal Training
- » Effective Assessment Design
- » ATSSA Conference
- » Flourish Forward
- » Geography Teachers Association of South Australia Annual Conference
- » Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- » HTASA State Conference
- » Igniting Leadership Potential
- » Kurna Language
- » Leading Change
- » Leading Data Informed Change Learning vs Performance Modes
- » Making Meetings Matter
- » Managing People
- » Master of Education
- » Master of Business Administration
- » Microsoft Power Applications
- » Moderation of Standards Training
- » NAPLAN: Exploring the Analysis Tool
- » National Education Summit: Libraries
- » Positive Intelligence
- » Resilient Leaders
- » Round Square Forum
- » Rubric Writing
- » SACE Forums
- » SACE Leaders Conference
- » SACE Renewal Panels
- » SAFTA Conference
- » SASTA
- » School Box
- » SHINE
- » SLASA Conference
- » STEM in Education Conference
- » South Australian English Teachers Association Annual Conference
- » Supporting Writers at Risk
- » The Science of Language and Reading
- » Trust and Leadership
- » Version 9 Australian Curriculum
- » VET Conferences and Meet Ups
- » Young Mental Health
- » Wheel Throwing - Jam Factory



# 3 WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

In 2024, there was a range of staff employed by the School to support each girl to be the best she can be.

- » 91 teachers (including the Principal), 31 of whom hold senior leadership roles
- » 26 peripatetic Music staff
- » 2 student counsellors
- » 1 Director of Learning and Teaching
- » 1 Careers Counsellor
- » 1 Careers Assistant
- » 1 International Student Coordinator
- » 2 Health Officers

Wilderness School teaching staff have current Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care Training, First Aid Certificates and a Working With Children Check.







# 4 STUDENT ATTENDANCE RECORDS

In 2024, the average rate for student attendance across the School was consistently high. For students in Years 1 - 10, the average attendance rate was **92.6%**.

Parents receive an SMS message if a girl is unaccountably absent.



# 5 JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Wilderness School is committed to maximising student outcomes by providing innovative and responsive academic programs that meet the needs of all our girls. This section highlights some of the outcomes that demonstrate the success of Wilderness students across the curriculum.

Wilderness is a non-selective School that welcomes students with diverse learning needs and abilities. The literacy and numeracy difficulties experienced by a small number of students are well understood and are addressed with individual learning plan.





# Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

## 2024 School Proficiency Level

### READING

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	47	Strong	1	0	0
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	91	Strong	0	0	0
Year 9	92	Strong	0	0	1

### WRITING

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	47	Strong	1	0	1
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	88	Strong	2	0	1
Year 9	88	Strong	3	0	2

### SPELLING

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	47	Strong	1	0	0
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	89	Strong	0	0	2
Year 9	92	Strong	0	0	1

### GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	47	Strong	1	0	0
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	89	Strong	0	0	2
Year 9	92	Strong	0	0	1

### NUMERACY

	Total number of students	School Proficiency level	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	47	Strong	1	0	0
Year 5	48	Strong	0	0	1
Year 7	91	Strong	0	0	0
Year 9	92	Strong	0	0	1





# 6 SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Once again, our students achieved excellent results in 2024. There were 90 girls who applied for the ATAR this year.

Of the cohort, **14% were placed in the top 1%, 47% in the top 5% and 64% in top 10%** of Year 12 students. The median ATAR achieved was **93.83**.

The position of Dux was awarded to **Lilianna Pourgiezis**, who attained an **ATAR of 99.95**.

Two girls were selected for the highest accolade of the SACE, The Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award, recognising overall excellence in the SACE.

We are pleased to advise that **Lilianna Pourgiezis** achieved **6 Merits** and **Sonakshi Cooray** achieved **4 Merits**.

There were **91 merit listings**.

The Class of 2024 can all feel proud of the academic results they have achieved this year. They are truly outstanding.



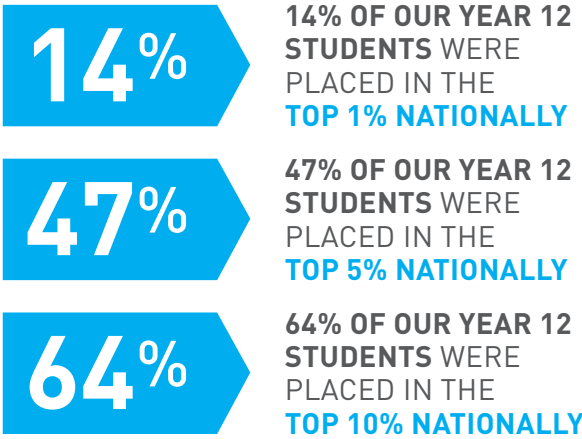
# 2024 ACCOLADES

WILDERNESS  
STUDENTS ACHIEVED  
**91 MERIT LISTINGS**

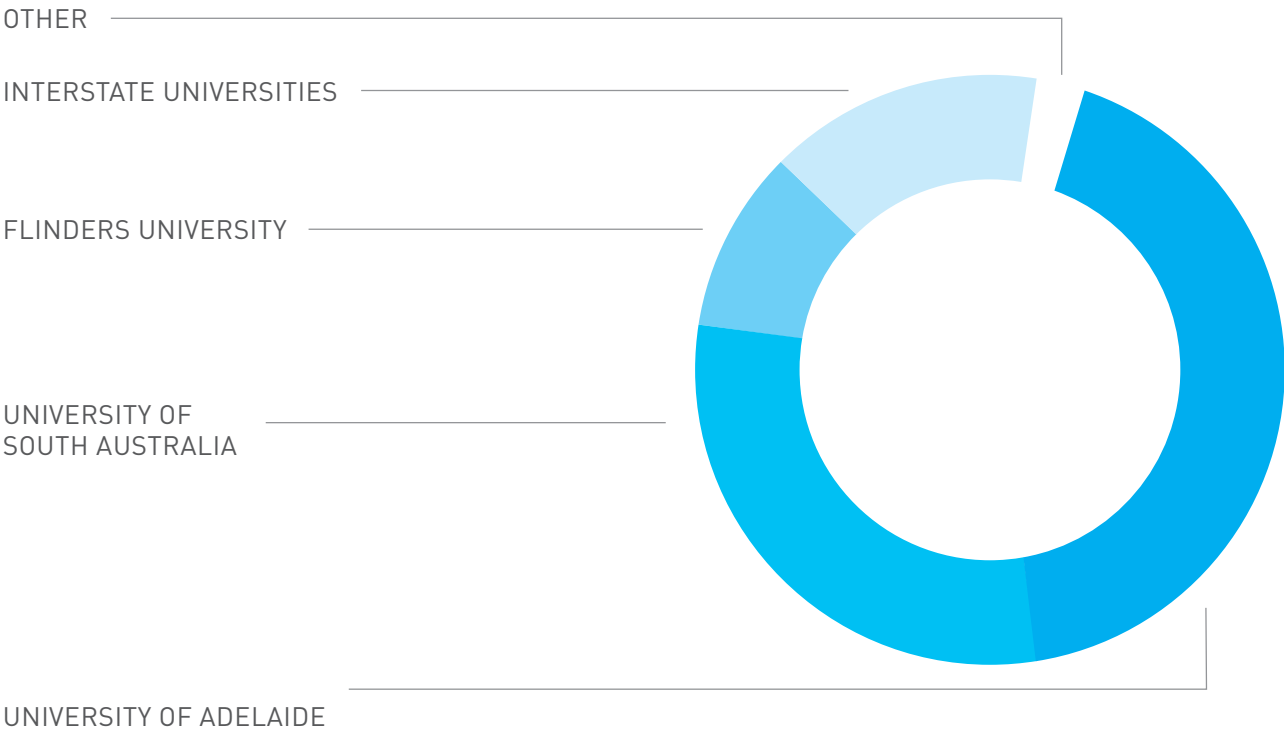
IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- Activating Identities and Futures
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - English
  - English Literary Studies
  - General Mathematics
  - Industry and Entrepreneurial Solutions
- Legal Studies
  - Mathematical Methods
  - Music Performance - Ensemble
  - Music Performance - Solo
  - Physical Education
  - Society and Culture
  - Specialist Mathematics

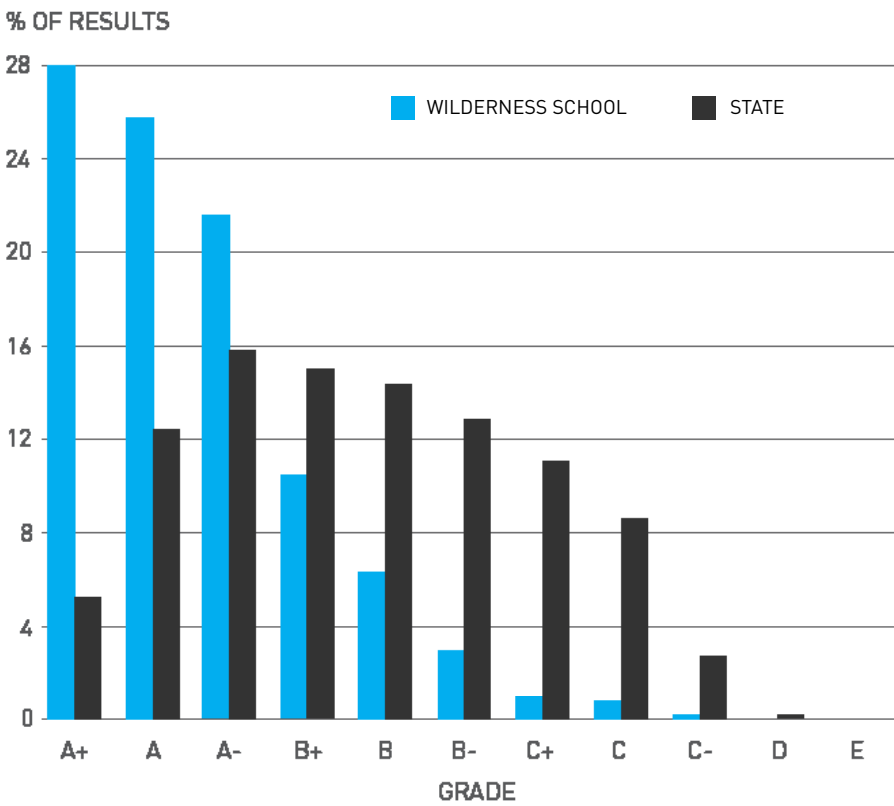
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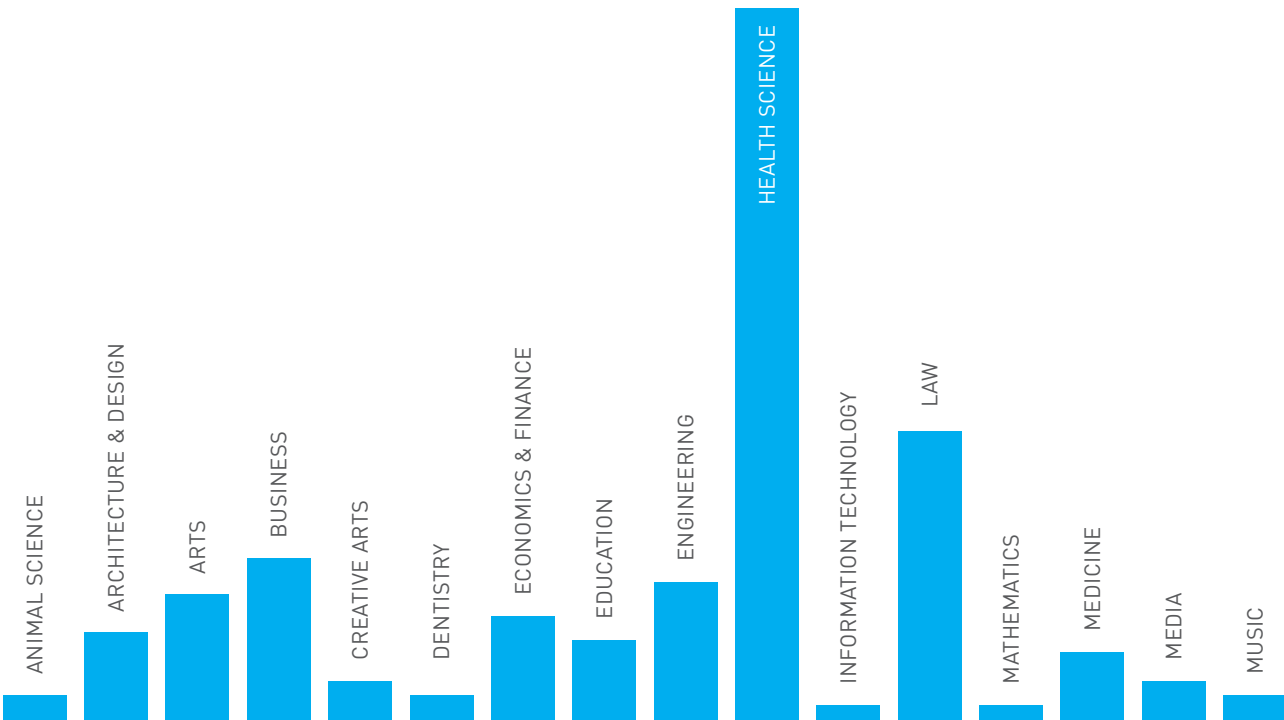
# POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS



# 2024 GRADE DISTRIBUTION



# 2024 FIELDS OF EDUCATION





# 7 PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

It is evident through our high retention of staff and students and the overall feedback given by parents and students at various times throughout the year that there is a high level of satisfaction within our community at Wilderness.

At the end of the 2024 academic year 72.5% of teaching staff were retained. The reasons for leaving were 11 resignations and 14 contracts concluding.







WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

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