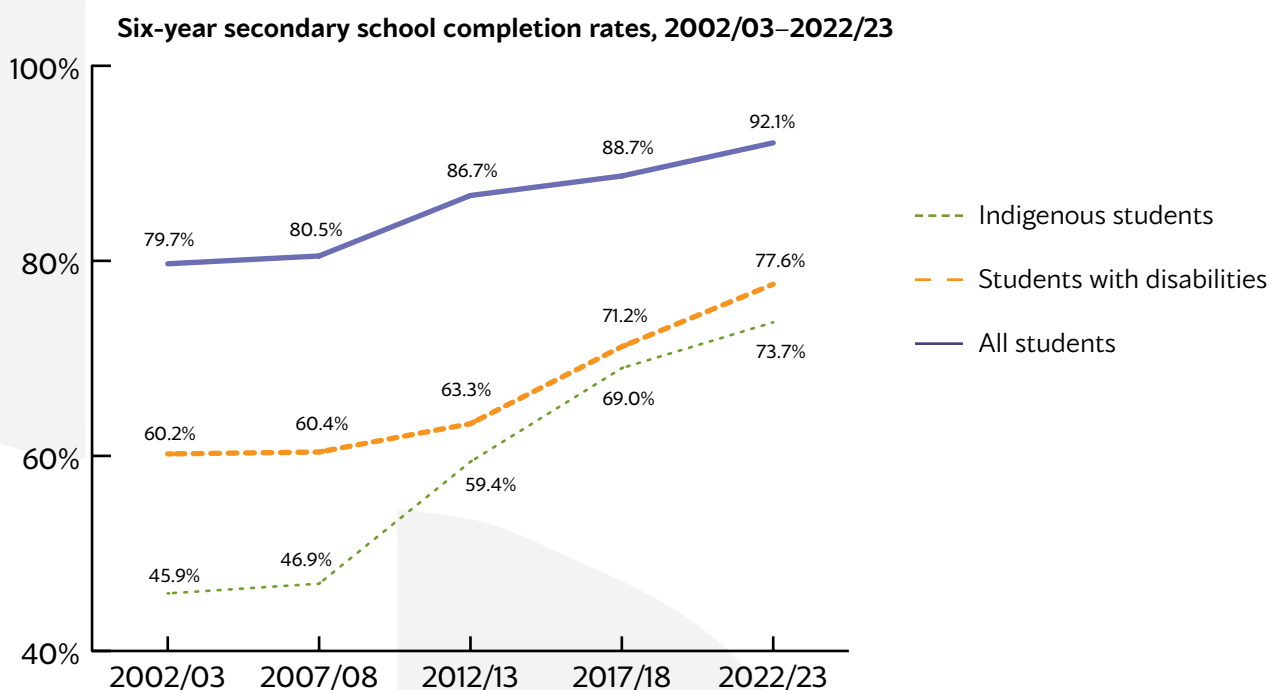# Inequities in the education system

Everyone has the **right to education**. Schools should be safe, inclusive and accessible for all students.

Unequal access to education

When students - such as young people with disabilities—can't fully take part in school because of unfair barriers, it leads to differences in how well they do in their education. Those who face exclusion, racism and discrimination in schools can see worse educational outcomes—because they don't have access to the same learning opportunities as other students.

Six-year secondary school completion rates, 2002/03–2022/23

Legend:
- Indigenous students
- Students with disabilities
- All students

All students: 79.7%, 80.5%, 86.7%, 88.7%, 92.1%

Students with disabilities: 60.2%, 60.4%, 63.3%, 71.2%, 77.6%

Indigenous students: 45.9%, 46.9%, 59.4%, 69.0%, 73.7%

X-axis: 2002/03, 2007/08, 2012/13, 2017/18, 2022/23

Y-axis: 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%
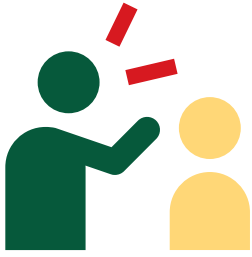
Barriers for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities can face exclusion from activities, isolation and lack of support.

In one survey, 18 per cent of parents report their disabled child was physically restrained at school.

Racism and discrimination

58% of students witness racism in schools.

LGBTQ2SAI+ students

National surveys show that the majority of students report hearing negative remarks about or related to a person's gender and hearing homophobic comments either daily or weekly.

62% of LGBTQ2SAI+ students feel unsafe at school, experiencing exclusion, harassment, intimidation and violence. This is particularly concerning given nearly one in five high school students identifies as LGBTQ2SAI+.
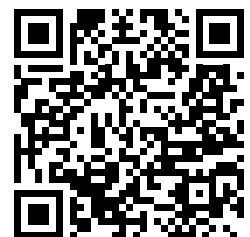
Discrimination and bullying lead to higher rates of mental health struggles.

About BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

Under B.C.'s *Human Rights Code*, B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in the province. Learn more about our Office at bchumanrights.ca

10 key systems impacting human rights in B.C.

This fact sheet is based on the Commissioner's 2024 report, Rights in Focus: Lived Realities in B.C., which highlights significant inequities and injustices affecting B.C. residents across 10 key systems. These include inequities in housing, the social safety net, health care, education, employment, child welfare, criminal justice, public spaces and the family sphere, as well as in the effects of the environmental crisis. Exploring these systems is an important way to determine the state of human rights in British Columbia.

baseline.bchumanrights.ca/in-focus