

Innovation Africa

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Partnerships in Learning

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ISASA

Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa



Independent (Private) Schools: The Sector and Opportunities for Partnership



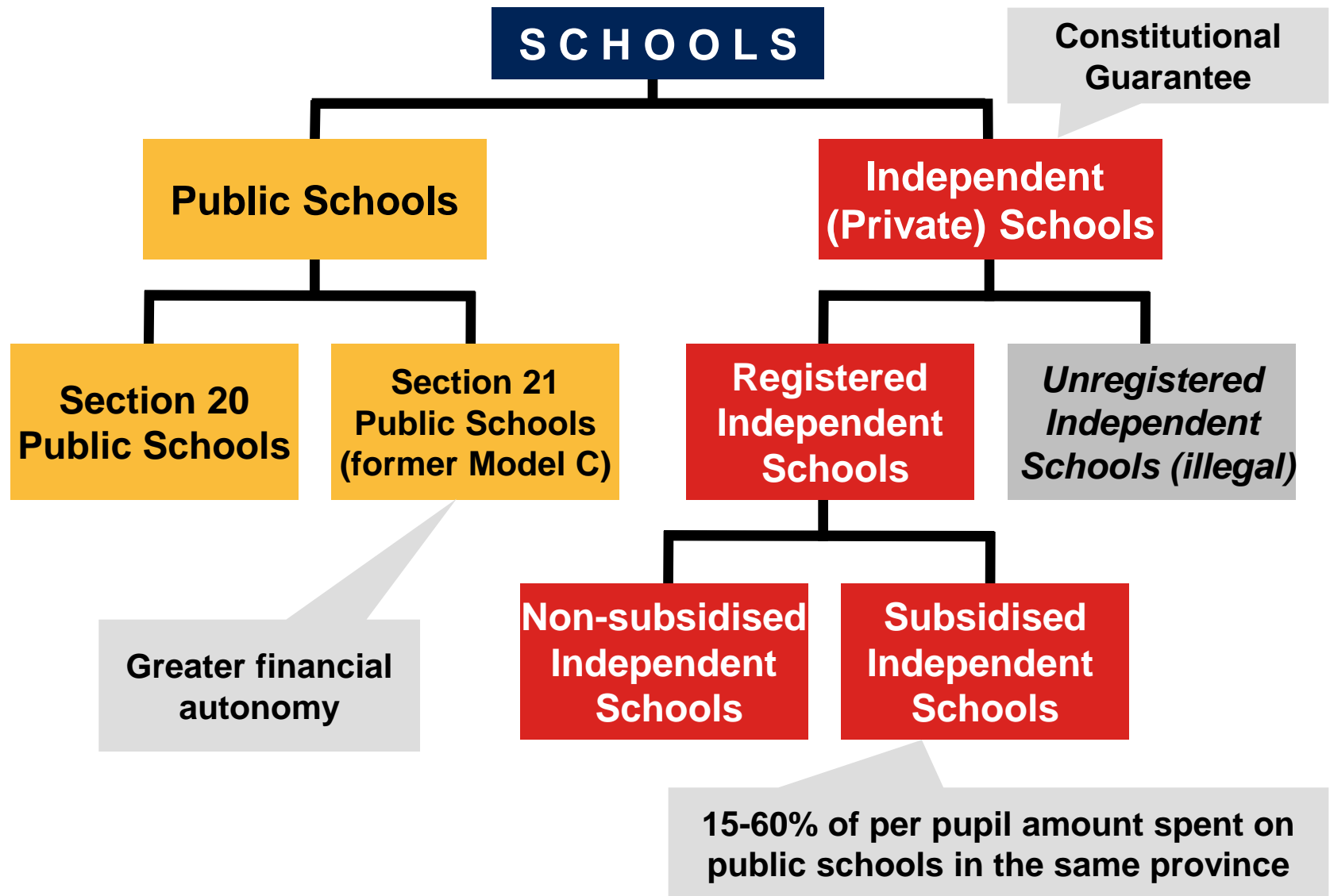
Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa

Quality Values Diversity

Simon Lee

Information and Technology Manager

The South African Schooling Sector

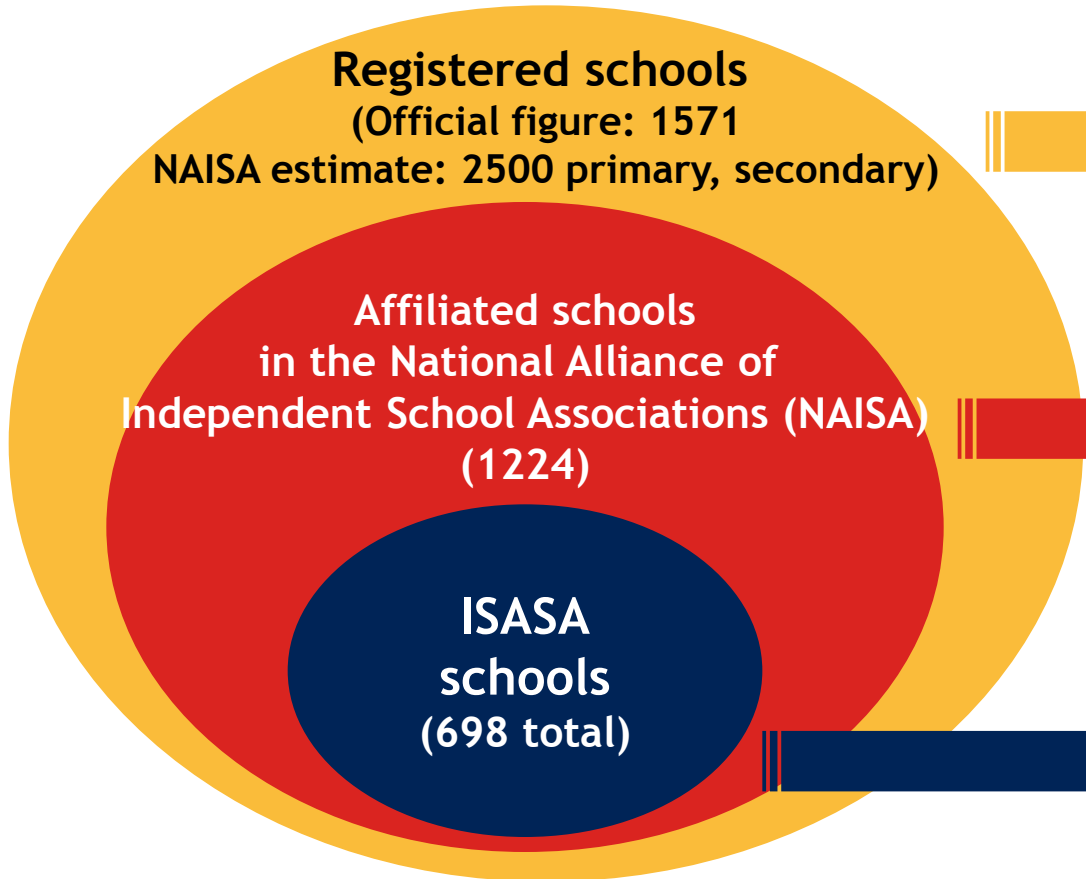


The Independent School Sector

Unregistered schools
(500?)



- Operating illegally
- Quality unknown



Registered schools
(Official figure: 1571
NAISA estimate: 2500 primary, secondary)



- Meet provincial requirements for registration

**Affiliated schools
in the National Alliance of
Independent School Associations (NAISA)**
(1224)



- Association membership by:
- Faith
 - Province
 - Philosophy

**ISASA
schools**
(698 total)



- Quality assured
- Conditions for membership

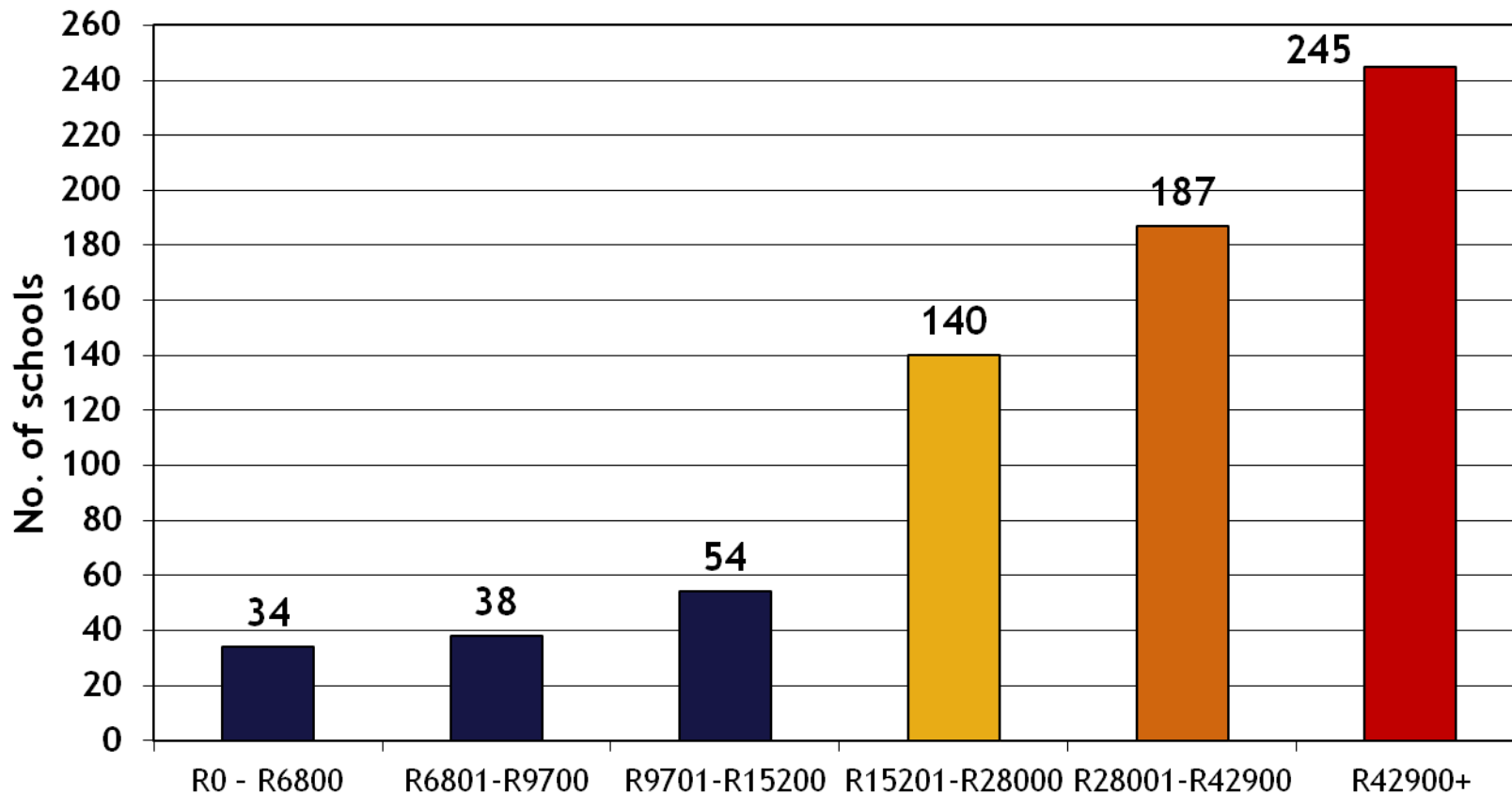
About the Independent School Sector

- **Rapid growth in number of schools**
 - From around 500 in 1994 to 2500 in 2012
- **Rapid growth in number of learners**
 - Between 2000 and 2010 public school enrolments grew 1.4%; independent schools grew 75.9%
 - Pupil numbers nearly doubled from 256 283 (in 2002) to 504 395 (in 2012)
- **Changing demography**
 - Range of schools from low- to high-fee
 - 73% of learners are black
 - Fastest-growing market: black middle, working

About ISASA

- **A voluntary association, not a governing body**
- **Schools**
 - 698 total member schools
 - 657 in South Africa; 41 outside South Africa
 - 204 Pre-primary, 290 Primary, 204 Secondary
- **Teachers and pupils**
 - +/- 12 500 teachers
 - +/- 157 000 pupils
- **Range and diversity**
 - Very low-fee to very high-fee
 - Large and small, rural and urban, religious and secular, boarding and day, monastic and co-

ISASA's Membership by Fee Level, 2012



Many more low-fee and mid-fee schools joining

Total schools with fees below R6 800 p.a.	34
Total schools with fees below R15 200 p.a.	126
Total schools with fees below R28 000 p.a.	266

Some of ISASA's Members



The Wykeham Collegiate, Pietermaritzburg

Some of ISASA's Members



Lobethal School, Tugela Ferry

Some of ISASA's Members



St John's College, Johannesburg

Some of ISASA's Members

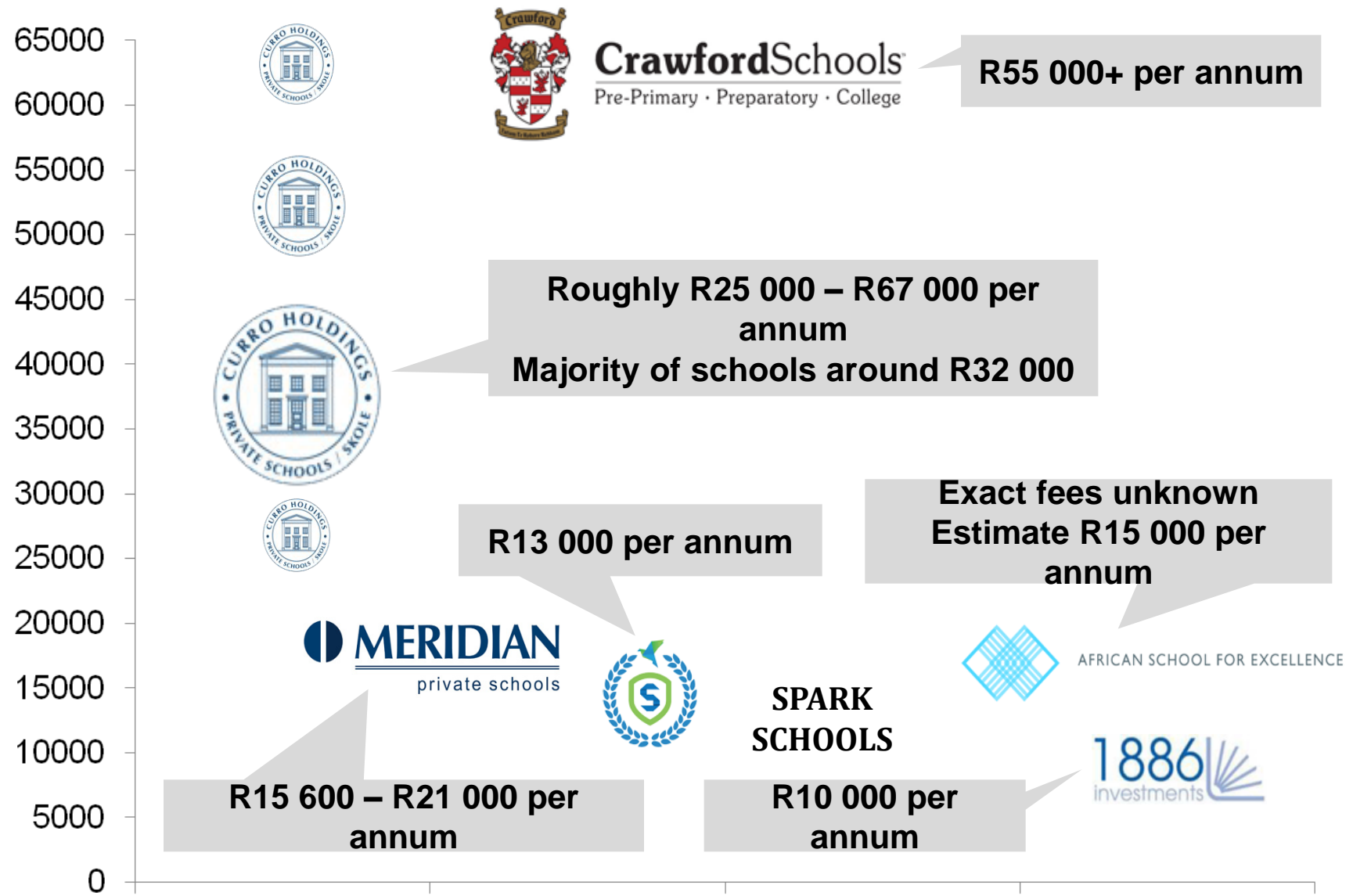


Nanaga Primary, Colchester

Trends in Independent Schooling

- **Rapid growth of new private schools**
 - Non-profit, established, “traditional” private schools
 - Expanding chains of for-profit, high- and mid-fee schools: Crawford, Curro, Centurus
 - New chains of mid- and low-fee schools
 - Meridian, Spark schools, 1886 Foundation, African School for Excellence
- **Increasing international investment**
 - International Finance Corporation (IFC)
 - Investors from India
 - Additional British investors

Where do the Others Fit In?



Issues in Independent Schooling

- The role of **public vs. private education**
- **Changing misperceptions about the sector** in public, media and government
- **Complex government relations**
 - On-going problems re issues such as registration, subsidies, municipal property rates
 - BUT also official recognition and opportunities for partnerships
- **Increased competition**
 - More schools and for-profit school chains
 - More consumerist, demanding and litigious parents

Opportunities for Partnership

- **Partner with an Association**
 - ISASA Corporate membership
 - ISASA Mathematics and English Programme
 - Not involved in decision-making on procurement
- **Partner with a chain of schools**
 - Regional/national projects and initiatives
 - Centralised decision-making on procurement
- **Partner with an individual school**
 - Local-level projects and initiatives
 - Twinning or community development
 - Direct decision-making on procurement

An Example: ISASA M&E Programme

- Contribution to quality education for all learners in Southern Africa
- 2 components – teacher intern and learner sub-programme
- 2 triangular joint ventures to promote development of quality teachers of maths, science and English
 - DBE/Investec/ISASA for teacher intern programme
 - ETDP SETA/Transnet/ISASA for learner programme
- Additional involvement welcome!