

# the condition of education 2008



## INDICATOR 3

# Past and Projected Public School Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2008*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2008*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2008031>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Elementary/Secondary Education

## Past and Projected Public School Enrollments

Public elementary and secondary enrollment is projected to increase to 54 million in 2017. The South is projected to experience the largest increase in the number of students enrolled.

In 2008, about 49.8 million students are expected to be enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools. Of these students, 34.9 million will be enrolled in prekindergarten (preK) through 8th grade and 14.9 million will be enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

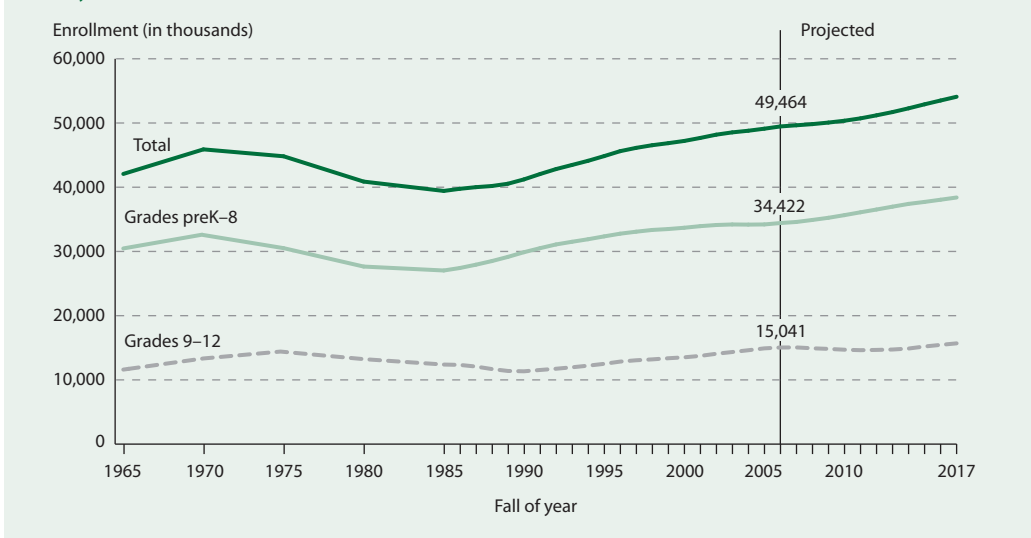
Public school enrollment declined during the 1970s and early 1980s and increased in the latter part of the 1980s. Enrollment continued to increase throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. Between 2000 and 2008, public school enrollment is expected to increase by 2.6 million students, reaching 49.8 million students in 2008 (see supplemental table 3-1). Total public school enrollment is projected to set new enrollment records each year from 2008 through 2017, reaching an estimated high of 54.1 million students.

Enrollment trends in grades preK–8 and 9–12 have differed over time as students move through the public school system. For example, enrollment in grades preK–8 decreased throughout the 1970s and early 1980s, while enrollment in grades 9–12 decreased in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s. Public school

enrollment in grades preK–8 is projected to increase to 34.9 million in 2008 and to reach 38.4 million in 2017. Enrollment in grades 9–12 is projected to decrease from 15 million in 2007 to 14.6 million in 2011 and then increase to 15.7 million in 2017.

Between 2000 and 2008, total enrollment is expected to increase by over 1.8 million students in the South and by 1.0 million students in the West, and to decrease slightly in both the Midwest and Northeast. Since 1965, the South has had the largest share of public school enrollment in the United States. Projections indicate that, by 2008, the share for the South will have increased from 33 percent in 1965 to 38 percent by 2008 and to 40 percent by 2017. The share for the West is projected to increase from 18 percent in 1965 to 25 percent by 2008, and to remain at 25 percent in 2017. In contrast, the share of enrollment in the Midwest is projected to decrease from 28 percent in 1965 to 22 percent by 2008, and to reach 20 percent in 2017. Enrollment in the Northeast is projected to decrease from 21 percent in 1965 to 16 percent by 2008, and to reach 15 percent in 2017.

**SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Public school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12, with projections, by grade level: Various years, fall 1965–2017**



NOTE: Data are fall enrollment counts or estimates for the referenced year. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. See supplemental note 1 for states in each region.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), table 33; Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2017* (NCES 2008-078), table 1; Snyder, T., and Hoffman, C.M. (1995). *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), table 10, retrieved December 4, 2007, from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=95122>; and table ESE65, retrieved December 4, 2007, from <http://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/AnnualReports/historicaltables.asp>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 3  
Supplemental Table 3-1



## Past and Projected Public School Enrollments

**Table 3-1. Public school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12, with projections, by grade level and region: Various years, fall 1965–2017**

Fall of year	Total enrollment			[Totals in thousands]							
	Grades preK–12	Grades preK–8	Grades 9–12	Total and percent enrollment, grades preK–12 by region							
				Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent		
1965	42,068	30,466	11,602	8,833	21.0	11,834	28.1	13,834	32.9	7,568	18.0
1970	45,894	32,558	13,336	9,860	21.5	12,936	28.2	14,759	32.2	8,339	18.2
1975	44,819	30,515	14,304	9,679	21.6	12,295	27.4	14,654	32.7	8,191	18.3
1980	40,877	27,647	13,231	8,215	20.1	10,698	26.2	14,134	34.6	7,831	19.2
1985	39,422	27,034	12,388	7,318	18.6	9,862	25.0	14,117	35.8	8,124	20.6
1986	39,753	27,420	12,333	7,294	18.3	9,871	24.8	14,312	36.0	8,276	20.8
1987	40,008	27,933	12,076	7,252	18.1	9,870	24.7	14,419	36.0	8,468	21.2
1988	40,189	28,501	11,687	7,208	17.9	9,846	24.5	14,491	36.1	8,644	21.5
1989	40,543	29,152	11,390	7,200	17.8	9,849	24.3	14,605	36.0	8,889	21.9
1990	41,217	29,878	11,338	7,282	17.7	9,944	24.1	14,807	35.9	9,184	22.3
1991	42,047	30,506	11,541	7,407	17.6	10,080	24.0	15,081	35.9	9,479	22.5
1992	42,823	31,088	11,735	7,526	17.6	10,198	23.8	15,357	35.9	9,742	22.7
1993	43,465	31,504	11,961	7,654	17.6	10,289	23.7	15,591	35.9	9,931	22.8
1994	44,111	31,898	12,213	7,760	17.6	10,386	23.5	15,851	35.9	10,114	22.9
1995	44,840	32,341	12,500	7,894	17.6	10,512	23.4	16,118	35.9	10,316	23.0
1996	45,611	32,764	12,847	8,006	17.6	10,638	23.3	16,373	35.9	10,594	23.2
1997	46,127	33,073	13,054	8,085	17.5	10,704	23.2	16,563	35.9	10,775	23.4
1998	46,539	33,346	13,193	8,145	17.5	10,722	23.0	16,713	35.9	10,959	23.5
1999	46,857	33,488	13,369	8,196	17.5	10,726	22.9	16,842	35.9	11,093	23.7
2000	47,204	33,688	13,515	8,222	17.4	10,730	22.7	17,007	36.0	11,244	23.8
2001	47,672	33,938	13,734	8,250	17.3	10,745	22.5	17,237	36.2	11,440	24.0
2002	48,183	34,116	14,067	8,297	17.2	10,819	22.5	17,471	36.3	11,596	24.1
2003	48,540	34,202	14,338	8,292	17.1	10,809	22.3	17,673	36.4	11,766	24.2
2004	48,795	34,178	14,617	8,271	17.0	10,775	22.1	17,892	36.7	11,857	24.3
2005	49,113	34,205	14,909	8,240	16.8	10,818	22.0	18,104	36.9	11,951	24.3
<b>Projected</b>											
2006	49,464	34,422	15,041	8,183	16.5	10,809	21.9	18,384	37.2	12,088	24.4
2007	49,644	34,589	15,055	8,123	16.4	10,769	21.7	18,581	37.4	12,172	24.5
2008	49,825	34,903	14,922	8,057	16.2	10,718	21.5	18,802	37.7	12,248	24.6
2009	50,067	35,240	14,826	8,000	16.0	10,674	21.3	19,055	38.1	12,337	24.6
2010	50,353	35,653	14,700	7,948	15.8	10,646	21.1	19,312	38.4	12,447	24.7
2011	50,722	36,096	14,626	7,910	15.6	10,635	21.0	19,599	38.6	12,579	24.8
2012	51,194	36,527	14,667	7,888	15.4	10,647	20.8	19,930	38.9	12,730	24.9
2013	51,701	36,972	14,729	7,879	15.2	10,671	20.6	20,252	39.2	12,900	25.0
2014	52,284	37,403	14,881	7,885	15.1	10,711	20.5	20,598	39.4	13,091	25.0
2015	52,910	37,711	15,199	7,906	14.9	10,759	20.3	20,941	39.6	13,304	25.1
2016	53,503	38,052	15,451	7,927	14.8	10,799	20.2	21,255	39.7	13,522	25.3
2017	54,087	38,399	15,689	7,953	14.7	10,839	20.0	21,553	39.8	13,742	25.4

NOTE: Some data have been revised from previously published figures. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on geographic regions. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2007* (NCES 2008-022), table 33; Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2017* (NCES 2008-078), tables 1 and 4; Snyder, T., and Hoffman, C.M. (1995). *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12, retrieved December 4, 2007, from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=95122>; and table ESE65, retrieved December 4, 2007, from <http://www.nces.ed.gov/surveys/AnnualReports/historicaltables.asp>.