Table 38.—Historical summary of public elementary and secondary school statistics: 1869–70 to 1997–98

Item	1869–70	1879–80	1889–90	1899–1900	1909–10	1919–20	1929–30	1939–40	1949–50	1959–60	1969–70	1979–80	1989–90	1990–91	1996–97	1997–98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Population, pupils, and instructional staff																
Total population,[1] in thousands	38,558	50,156	62,622	75,995	90,490	104,514	121,878	131,028	149,188	177,830	201,385	224,567	246,819	249,464	265,229	267,784
Population aged 5–17 years,[1] in. thousands	11,683	15,066	18,473	21,573	24,011	27,571	31,414	30,151	30,223	43,881	52,386	48,041	44,947	45,325	49,816	50,505
Percent of total population 5–17	30.3	30.0	29.5	28.4	26.5	26.4	25.8	23.0	20.3	24.7	26.0	21.4	18.2	18.2	18.8	18.9
Total enrollment in elementary and secondary schools, in thousands[2]	[3]7,562	9,867	12,723	15,503	17,814	21,578	25,678	25,434	25,112	36,087	45,550	41,651	40,543	41,217	45,611	46,127
Kindergarten and grades 1–8, in thousands	[3]7,481	9,757	12,520	14,984	16,899	19,378	21,279	18,833	19,387	27,602	32,513	28,034	29,152	29,878	32,764	33,073
Grades 9–12, in thousands	[3]80	110	203	519	915	2,200	4,399	6,601	5,725	8,485	13,037	13,616	11,390	11,338	12,847	13,054
Enrollment as a percent of total population	[3]19.6	19.7	20.3	20.4	19.7	20.6	21.1	19.4	16.8	20.3	22.6	18.5	16.4	16.5	17.2	17.2
Enrollment as a percent of 5- to. 17-year-olds	[3]64.7	65.5	68.9	71.9	74.2	78.3	81.7	84.4	83.1	82.2	87.0	86.7	90.2	90.9	91.6	91.3
Percent of total enrollment in high schools (grades 9–12 and postgraduate)	[3]1.1	1.1	1.6	3.3	5.1	10.2	17.1	26.0	22.8	23.5	28.6	32.7	28.1	27.5	28.2	28.3
High school graduates, in thousands	—	—	22	62	111	231	592	1,143	1,063	1,627	2,589	2,748	2,320	2,235	2,357	2,440
Average daily attendance, in thousands	4,077	6,144	8,154	10,633	12,827	16,150	21,265	22,042	22,284	32,477	41,934	38,289	37,799	38,427	42,262	42,855
Total number of days attended by pupils enrolled, in millions	539	801	1,098	1,535	2,011	2,615	3,673	3,858	3,964	5,782	7,501	[4]6,835	—	—	—	—
Percent of enrolled pupils attending daily	59.3	62.3	64.1	68.6	72.1	74.8	82.8	86.7	88.7	90.0	90.4	[4]90.1	—	—	—	—
Average length of school term, in days	132.2	130.3	134.7	144.3	157.5	161.9	172.7	175.0	177.9	178.0	178.9	[4]178.5	—	179.8	—	—
Average number of days attended per pupil	78.4	81.1	86.3	99.0	113	121.2	143	151.7	157.9	160.2	161.7	[4]160.8	—	—	—	—
Total instructional staff, in thousands	—	—	—	—	—	678	880	912	963	1,457	2,286	2,406	2,986	3,051	3,448	3,573
Supervisors, in thousands	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Principals, in thousands	—	—	—	—	—	14	31	32	43	64	91	106	126	127	124	126
Teachers, librarians, and other nonsupervisory instructional staff,[5] in thousands	201	287	364	423	523	657	843	875	920	1,393	2,195	2,300	2,860	2,924	3,324	3,447
Men, in thousands	78	123	126	127	110	93	140	195	196	[4]404	[4]711	[4]782	—	—	—	—
Women, in thousands	123	164	238	296	413	585	703	681	724	[4]989	[4]1,484	[4]1,518	—	—	—	—
Percent men	38.7	42.8	34.5	29.9	21.1	14.1	16.6	22.2	21.3	[4]29.0	[4]32.4	[4]34.0	—	—	—	—
	Amounts in millions of current dollars															
Revenues and expenditures																
Total revenue receipts	—	—	$143	$220	$433	$970	$2,089	$2,261	$5,437	$14,747	$40,267	$96,881	$208,548	$223,341	$305,065	$325,976
Federal government	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	40	156	652	3,220	9,504	12,701	13,776	20,081	22,202
State governments	—	—	—	—	—	160	354	684	2,166	5,768	16,063	45,349	98,239	105,325	146,436	157,645
Local sources, including intermediate	—	—	—	—	—	808	1,728	1,536	3,116	8,327	20,985	42,029	97,608	104,240	138,548	146,129
Percent distribution of revenue receipts																
Federal government	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	1.8	2.9	4.4	8.0	9.8	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.8
State governments	—	—	—	—	—	16.5	16.9	30.3	39.8	39.1	39.9	46.8	47.1	47.2	48.0	48.4
Local sources, including intermediate	—	—	—	—	—	83.2	82.7	68.0	57.3	56.5	52.1	43.4	46.8	46.7	45.4	44.8
Total expenditures for public schools	$63	$78	$141	$215	$426	$1,036	$2,317	$2,344	$5,838	$15,613	$40,683	$95,962	$212,770	$229,430	$313,151	334,322
Current expenditures[6]	—	—	114	180	356	861	1,844	1,942	4,687	[7]12,329	[7]34,218	[7]86,984	[7]188,229	[7]202,038	[7]270,174	[7]285,490
Capital outlay[8]	—	—	26	35	70	154	371	258	1,014	2,662	4,659	6,506	17,781	19,771	31,429	36,168
Interest on school debt	—	—	—	—	—	18	93	131	101	490	1,171	1,874	3,776	4,325	6,899	7,779
Other current expenditures[9]	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	13	36	133	636	[10]598	2,983	3,296	4,649	4,885
Percent distribution of total expenditures																
Current expenditures[6]	—	—	81.3	83.5	83.6	83.1	79.6	82.8	80.3	[7]79.0	[7]84.1	[7]90.6	[7]88.5	[7]88.1	[7]86.3	[7]85.4
Capital outlay[8]	—	—	18.7	16.5	16.4	14.8	16.0	11.0	17.4	17.0	11.5	6.8	8.4	8.6	10.0	10.8
Interest on school debt	—	—	—	—	—	1.8	4.0	5.6	1.7	3.1	2.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.3
Other current expenditures[9]	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.6	[10]0.6	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5