

# the condition of education 2008



## INDICATOR 5

# Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

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

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

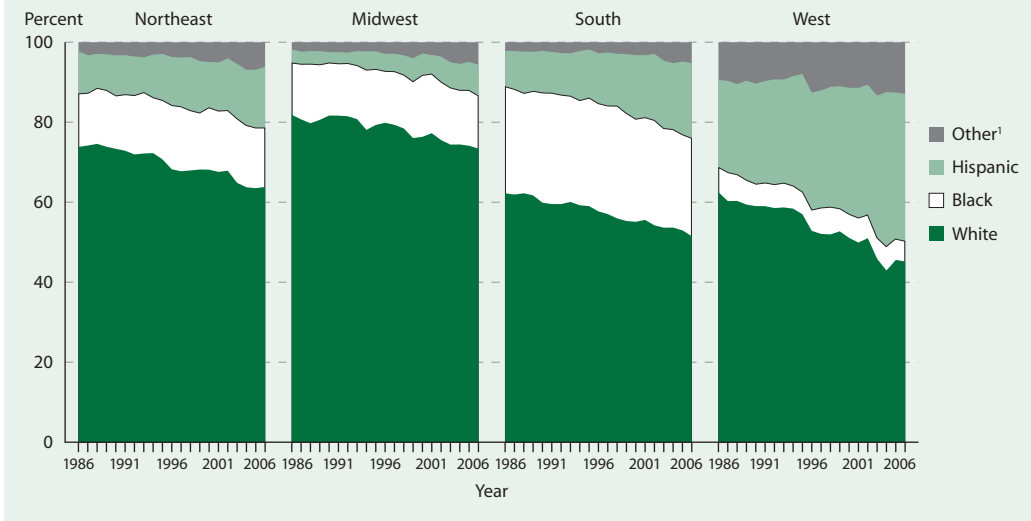
The percentage of racial/ethnic minority students enrolled in the nation's public schools increased between 1986 and 2006, primarily due to an increase in the proportion of Hispanic students.

The shifting racial and ethnic distribution of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade is one aspect of change in the composition of school enrollment. The percentage of public school students who were considered to be part of a racial or ethnic minority group increased from 22 percent in 1972 to 31 percent in 1986 to 43 percent in 2006 (see supplemental table 5-1). Between 1972 and 2006, the percentage of public school students who were White decreased from 78 to 57 percent. The minority increase largely reflected the growth in the proportion of students who were Hispanic. In 2006, Hispanic students represented 20 percent of public school enrollment, up from 6 percent in 1972 and 11 percent in 1986. Since 1986, the proportion of public school students who were Hispanic has increased more than the proportion who were Black or members of other<sup>1</sup> minority groups. For example, in 2006, Black students made up 16 percent of public school enrollment, compared with 17 percent in 1986. Hispanic enrollment measurably surpassed Black enrollment for the first time in 2002. Together, Asian

(3.8 percent), Pacific Islander (0.2 percent), and American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.7 percent) students and students of more than one race (2.7 percent) made up about 7.3 percent of public school enrollment in 2006.

The distribution of minority students in public schools differed by region, though minority enrollment generally grew in all regions between 1986 and 2006 and during the broader period of 1972 and 2006 (see supplemental table 5-2). Between 1972 and 2006, the South and West had larger minority enrollments than the Northeast and Midwest, and the Midwest had the smallest minority enrollment of any region. In the West, beginning in 2003, minority enrollment exceeded White enrollment, and by 2006, minority students made up 55 percent of public school enrollment, compared with 45 percent for White students. In 2006, as in all years since 1972, the percentage of Hispanic students exceeded the percentage of Black students in the West, while in the South and Midwest, the percentage of Black enrollment continued to exceed that of Hispanic enrollment.

**MINORITY ENROLLMENT: Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: October 1986–2006**



<sup>1</sup>Other<sup>1</sup> includes all students who did not identify themselves as White, Black, or Hispanic.

NOTE: Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. See supplemental note 2 for more information on the Current Population Survey. See supplemental note 1 for the states in each region.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1986–2006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 2  
Supplemental Tables 5-1, 5-2



## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

**Table 5-1. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: October 1972–2006**

October of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
1972	77.8	22.2	14.8	6.0	—	—	—	—	1.4
1973	78.1	21.9	14.7	5.7	—	—	—	—	1.4
1974	76.8	23.2	15.4	6.3	—	—	—	—	1.5
1975	76.2	23.8	15.4	6.7	—	—	—	—	1.7
1976	76.2	23.8	15.5	6.5	—	—	—	—	1.7
1977	76.1	23.9	15.8	6.2	—	—	—	—	1.9
1978	75.5	24.5	16.0	6.5	—	—	—	—	2.1
1979	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981	72.4	27.6	16.0	8.7	—	—	—	—	2.9
1982	71.9	28.1	16.0	8.9	—	—	—	—	3.2
1983	71.3	28.7	16.1	9.2	—	—	—	—	3.4
1984	71.7	28.3	16.1	8.5	—	—	—	—	3.6
1985	69.6	30.4	16.8	10.1	—	—	—	—	3.5
1986	69.1	30.9	16.6	10.8	—	—	—	—	3.6
1987	68.5	31.5	16.6	10.8	—	—	—	—	4.0
1988	68.3	31.7	16.5	11.0	—	—	—	—	4.2
1989	68.0	32.0	16.6	11.4	3.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.9	—	0.1
1990	67.6	32.4	16.5	11.7	3.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.9	—	0.3
1991	67.1	32.9	16.8	11.8	3.2 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	—	0.2
1992	66.8	33.2	16.9	12.0	3.3 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	—	0.2
1993	67.0	33.0	16.6	12.1	3.3 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	—	0.2
1994	65.8	34.2	16.7	13.7	2.5 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	—	0.5
1995	65.5	34.5	16.9	14.1	2.3 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.6	—	0.6
1996	63.7	36.3	16.6	14.5	4.1 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.2	—	—
1997	63.0	37.0	16.9	14.9	3.9 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.2	—	—
1998	62.4	37.6	17.2	15.4	4.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.1	—	—
1999	61.9	38.1	16.5	16.2	4.5 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.0	—	—
2000	61.3	38.7	16.6	16.6	4.2 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.3	—	—
2001	61.3	38.7	16.5	16.6	4.3 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.3	—	—
2002	60.7	39.3	16.5	17.6	4.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.2	—	—
2003	58.3	41.7	16.1	18.6	3.7	0.3	0.6	2.4	—
2004	57.4	42.6	16.0	19.3	3.9	0.2	0.8	2.4	—
2005	57.6	42.4	15.6	19.7	3.7	0.2	0.7	2.5	—
2006	56.9	43.1	15.6	20.2	3.8	0.2	0.7	2.7	—

— Not available.

<sup>1</sup> From 1989 through 2002, Asian and Pacific Islander students were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander students are included with Asian students during this period.

NOTE: Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. In 1996, the Census revised procedures for editing and allocating the race variable to offset an underestimation of Asians/Pacific Islanders. One should use caution when making comparisons between data for 1995 and earlier and data for 1996 and later. See *supplemental note 2* for more information on the CPS. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2006.

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

**Table 5-2. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, October 1972–2006**

Region and October of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
<b>Northeast</b>									
1972	81.4	18.6	12.4	5.5	—	—	—	—	0.7
1981	76.5	23.5	13.3	8.2	—	—	—	—	2.0
1986	73.8	26.2	13.3	10.7	—	—	—	—	2.2
1993	72.2	27.8	15.2	8.8	3.4 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.1 <sup>!</sup>	—	0.3 <sup>!</sup>
2000	68.1	31.9	15.5	11.4	4.5 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.4	—	—
2001	67.6	32.4	15.2	12.2	4.4 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.6	—	—
2002	67.9	32.1	15.1	13.1	3.7 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.3	—	—
2003	64.8	35.2	16.0	13.7	3.7	‡	0.2 <sup>!</sup>	1.5	—
2004	63.7	36.3	15.5	13.9	5.1	‡	0.2 <sup>!</sup>	1.5	—
2005	63.5	36.5	15.1	14.5	5.2	‡	‡	1.5	—
2006	63.8	36.2	14.7	15.3	4.4	‡	0.2 <sup>!</sup>	1.5	—
<b>Midwest</b>									
1972	87.5	12.5	10.6	1.5	—	—	—	—	0.3
1981	84.4	15.6	12.1	1.9	—	—	—	—	1.6
1986	81.8	18.2	13.0	3.4	—	—	—	—	1.8
1993	80.8	19.2	13.4	3.6	1.3 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.6	—	0.4
2000	76.3	23.7	15.3	5.5	2.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	—	—
2001	77.2	22.8	14.8	4.8	2.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.2	—	—
2002	75.5	24.5	14.5	6.4	2.6 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.0	—	—
2003	74.4	25.6	14.2	6.4	2.2	0.2 <sup>!</sup>	0.4	2.2	—
2004	74.4	25.6	13.5	6.6	2.3	‡	0.5	2.5	—
2005	74.1	25.9	13.8	7.1	1.9	‡	0.6	2.5	—
2006	73.4	26.6	13.2	7.7	2.6	‡	0.5	2.4	—
<b>South</b>									
1972	69.7	30.3	24.8	5.0	—	—	—	—	0.5
1981	64.1	35.9	25.9	8.5	—	—	—	—	1.4
1986	62.2	37.8	26.6	9.0	—	—	—	—	2.2
1993	60.1	39.9	26.4	10.7	2.0 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.6	—	0.2 <sup>!</sup>
2000	55.1	44.9	25.6	16.0	2.1 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.1	—	—
2001	55.6	44.4	25.6	15.6	2.5 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	0.8	—	—
2002	54.2	45.8	26.2	16.6	1.9 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.0	—	—
2003	53.6	46.4	24.8	16.9	2.1	‡	0.6	2.0	—
2004	53.7	46.3	24.5	16.6	2.4	0.1 <sup>!</sup>	0.6	2.2	—
2005	52.9	47.1	23.9	18.3	1.8	‡	0.6	2.4	—
2006	51.5	48.5	24.5	18.8	1.9	‡	0.7	2.6	—

See notes at end of table.

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

**Table 5-2. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, October 1972–2006—Continued**

Region and October of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
<b>West</b>									
1972	72.8	27.2	6.4	15.3	—	—	—	—	5.5
1981	66.5	33.5	6.8	18.5	—	—	—	—	8.1
1986	62.5	37.5	6.1	22.0	—	—	—	—	9.4
1993	58.7	41.3	6.1	25.9	7.4 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	1.7	—	0.2 <sup>!</sup>
2000	51.1	48.9	5.9	31.6	8.8 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	2.6	—	—
2001	49.9	50.1	6.1	32.5	8.8 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	2.7	—	—
2002	51.0	49.0	5.8	32.6	8.2 <sup>1</sup>	( <sup>1</sup> )	2.4	—	—
2003	45.9	54.1	5.2	35.5	7.5	1.0	1.2	3.6	—
2004	42.9	57.1	6.0	38.7	6.9	0.6	1.6	3.3	—
2005	45.6	54.4	5.2	36.6	7.2	0.6	1.3	3.6	—
2006	45.2	54.8	5.1	36.9	7.1	0.8	1.0	3.9	—

— Not available.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

<sup>1</sup> From 1989 through 2002, Asian and Pacific Islander students were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander students are included with Asian students during this period.

NOTE: Figures include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. In 1994, the survey methodology for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. In 1996, the Census revised procedures for editing and allocating the race variable to offset an underestimation of Asians/Pacific Islanders. One should use caution when making comparisons between data for 1995 and earlier and data for 1996 and later. See *supplemental note 2* for more information on the CPS. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, selected years, 1972–2006.

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

**Table S5-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: October 1972–2006**

October of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
1972	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.09
1973	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.10
1974	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.10
1975	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.10
1976	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.10
1977	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.11
1978	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.12
1979	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
1980	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
1981	0.32	0.37	0.31	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.14
1982	0.34	0.40	0.33	0.39	†	†	†	†	0.16
1983	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.40	†	†	†	†	0.16
1984	0.35	0.40	0.33	0.38	†	†	†	†	0.17
1985	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.35	†	†	†	†	0.16
1986	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.17
1987	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.17
1988	0.39	0.45	0.36	0.40	†	†	†	†	0.19
1989	0.37	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.15	†	0.09	†	0.03
1990	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.15	†	0.09	†	0.05
1991	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1992	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.38	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1993	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.37	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1994	0.36	0.41	0.33	0.39	0.14	†	0.08	†	0.06
1995	0.33	0.35	0.28	0.28	0.11	†	0.06	†	0.06
1996	0.33	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
1997	0.34	0.36	0.28	0.29	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
1998	0.35	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
1999	0.34	0.37	0.28	0.30	0.16	†	0.08	†	†
2000	0.35	0.37	0.28	0.30	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
2001	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.28	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
2002	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.29	0.14	†	0.00	†	†
2003	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.29	0.13	0.04	0.06	0.10	†
2004	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.14	0.03	0.06	0.10	†
2005	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.10	†
2006	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.11	†

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2006.

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

**Table S5-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, October 1972–2006**

Region and October of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
<b>Northeast</b>									
1972	0.53	0.61	0.52	0.55	†	†	†	†	0.13
1981	0.61	0.72	0.57	0.71	†	†	†	†	0.23
1986	0.72	0.84	0.65	0.76	†	†	†	†	0.28
1993	0.74	0.86	0.69	0.70	0.35	†	0.06	†	0.10
2000	0.72	0.77	0.60	0.56	0.34	†	0.11	†	†
2001	0.71	0.76	0.58	0.56	0.33	†	0.13	†	†
2002	0.70	0.74	0.57	0.57	0.30	†	0.09	†	†
2003	0.72	0.76	0.59	0.59	0.30	†	0.07	0.18	†
2004	0.73	0.77	0.58	0.59	0.35	†	0.07	0.18	†
2005	0.72	0.77	0.57	0.60	0.35	†	†	0.18	†
2006	0.79	0.84	0.62	0.67	0.36	†	0.09	0.20	†
<b>Midwest</b>									
1972	0.43	0.50	0.47	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.09
1981	0.52	0.61	0.55	0.35	†	†	†	†	0.21
1986	0.62	0.72	0.63	0.44	†	†	†	†	0.25
1993	0.62	0.72	0.62	0.44	0.20	†	0.14	†	0.11
2000	0.64	0.68	0.58	0.39	0.23	†	0.14	†	†
2001	0.56	0.60	0.50	0.32	0.20	†	0.15	†	†
2002	0.58	0.62	0.51	0.37	0.23	†	0.14	†	†
2003	0.60	0.64	0.51	0.38	0.21	0.07	0.10	0.20	†
2004	0.60	0.64	0.50	0.39	0.22	†	0.11	0.21	†
2005	0.60	0.64	0.51	0.40	0.20	†	0.11	0.21	†
2006	0.64	0.68	0.52	0.44	0.25	†	0.11	0.22	†
<b>South</b>									
1972	0.58	0.67	0.63	0.49	†	†	†	†	0.10
1981	0.61	0.71	0.65	0.64	†	†	†	†	0.18
1986	0.64	0.74	0.68	0.57	†	†	†	†	0.22
1993	0.66	0.76	0.69	0.63	0.22	†	0.12	†	0.06
2000	0.64	0.68	0.60	0.54	0.20	†	0.14	†	†
2001	0.59	0.62	0.55	0.49	0.20	†	0.11	†	†
2002	0.60	0.64	0.56	0.51	0.18	†	0.13	†	†
2003	0.59	0.63	0.54	0.50	0.18	†	0.09	0.17	†
2004	0.59	0.63	0.54	0.50	0.19	0.04	0.10	0.17	†
2005	0.59	0.63	0.53	0.52	0.17	†	0.10	0.18	†
2006	0.57	0.60	0.52	0.50	0.16	†	0.10	0.18	†

See notes at end of table.

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Public School Students

**Table S5-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, October 1972–2006—Continued**

Region and October of year	Minority enrollment								
	White	Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
<b>West</b>									
1972	0.75	0.87	0.48	1.08	†	†	†	†	0.45
1981	0.80	0.93	0.50	1.17	†	†	†	†	0.54
1986	0.84	0.98	0.48	1.09	†	†	†	†	0.59
1993	0.82	0.95	0.46	1.10	0.51	†	0.25	†	0.08
2000	0.75	0.80	0.38	0.79	0.45	†	0.25	†	†
2001	0.72	0.77	0.37	0.77	0.43	†	0.25	†	†
2002	0.72	0.76	0.35	0.76	0.42	†	0.23	†	†
2003	0.72	0.76	0.34	0.78	0.40	0.15	0.17	0.27	†
2004	0.71	0.76	0.36	0.80	0.39	0.12	0.19	0.26	†
2005	0.71	0.76	0.34	0.78	0.39	0.11	0.17	0.27	†
2006	0.67	0.71	0.31	0.74	0.37	0.13	0.14	0.26	†

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, selected years, 1972–2006.