

# The Condition of Education 2009

## Indicator 4 *Public School Enrollment*

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2009*. 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 2009*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009081>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Public School Enrollment

*Public elementary and secondary enrollment is projected to increase to 54 million in 2018. Over the period of 2006 to 2018, the South is the region of the country projected to experience the largest increase (18 percent) in the number of students enrolled.*

In 2006, about 49.3 million students were enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools. Of these students, 34.2 million were enrolled in prekindergarten (preK) through grade 8, and 15.1 million were 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 2006, public school enrollment increased by 2.1 million students, reaching 49.3 million students in 2006 (see table A-4-1). Total public school enrollment is projected to set new enrollment records each year from 2007 through 2018, reaching an estimated high of 53.9 million students in 2018 (the last year for which projected data are available).

Enrollment trends in grades preK–8 and 9–12 have differed over time as successive cohorts of students have moved 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. Enrollments at both grade levels increased from 1990 through 2006. Public school enrollment in grades preK–8 is projected to increase from 34.2 million in 2006 to 38.2 million in 2018. Enrollment in grades 9–12 is projected to increase to 15.1 million in 2007 before decreasing to 14.6 million in 2011; it is then expected to increase again to 15.8 million in 2018.

Since 1970, the South has been the region of the country with the largest share of public school enrollment in the United States. However, the regional distribution of students in public schools has not remained static. The share of total public school enrollment in the Northeast and the Midwest decreased between 1970 and 2000

(from 21 to 17 percent and 28 to 23 percent, respectively), while the share for both the South and the West increased during this period (from 32 to 37 percent and 18 to 24 percent, respectively). The number of students enrolled followed a similar pattern between 2000 and 2006, decreasing slightly in both the Northeast and Midwest, but increasing by one-half million students in the West and 1.0 million students in the South. According to projections, by 2018, some 14 percent of public school students will be in the Northeast, 20 percent will be in the Midwest, 25 percent will be in the West, and 40 percent will be in the South.

From 2006 to 2018, public school enrollment in grades preK through 12 in the United States is projected to increase by 9 percent (see table A-4-2). The rate of increase in overall U.S. enrollment is not expected to be evenly distributed by grade level or among states. For example, enrollment in grades preK–8 is projected to increase more than enrollment in grades 9–12 during this period (12 vs. 4 percent). In grades preK–8, enrollment is expected to increase by more than 30 percent in Arizona, Nevada, and Texas, but to decrease by more than 5 percent in Rhode Island and New York. Projections indicate that enrollment in grades 9–12 will experience a wider range of percent change than enrollment in grades preK–8 between 2006 and 2018: enrollment in Arizona, Nevada, and Texas is projected to increase by more than 30 percent, while enrollment in Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia is projected to decrease by more than 20 percent.



**For more information:** *Tables A-4-1 and A-4-2; Indicators 10 and 11*

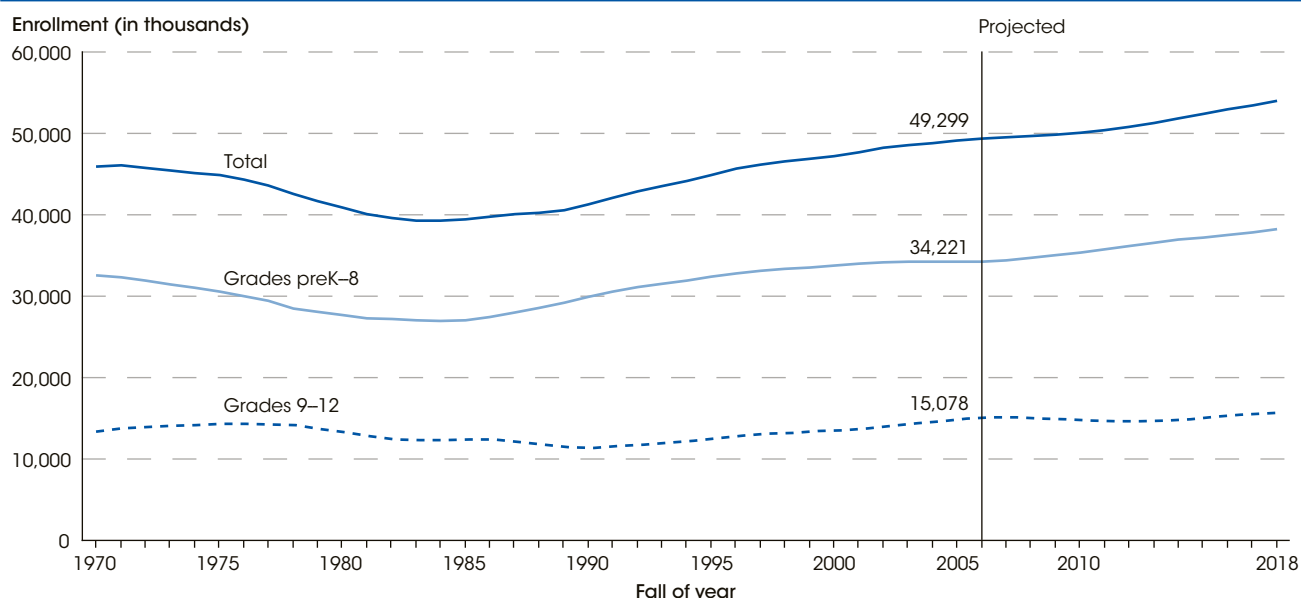
**Glossary:** *Elementary/secondary school, Public school*

## Technical Notes

The most recent year of actual data is 2006, and 2018 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2009-062.

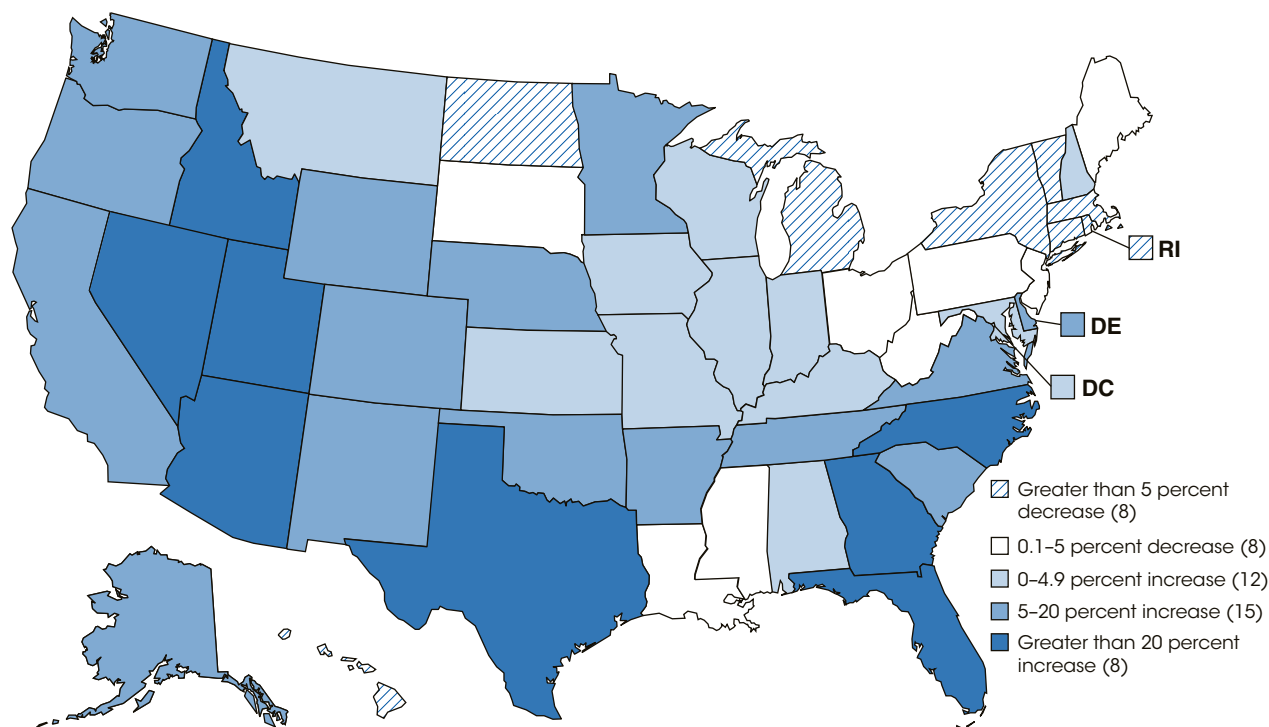
Some data have been revised from previously published figures. For a list of the states in each region, see *supplemental note 1*.

**Figure 4-1. Actual and projected public school enrollment in grades prekindergarten (preK) through 12, by grade level: Fall 1970–2018**



NOTE: The most recent year of actual data is 2006, and 2018 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2009-062. Some data have been revised from previously published figures.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1993–94 through 2006–07, *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12, retrieved December 24, 2008, from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=95122>; and National Elementary and Secondary Enrollment Model, 1972–2006.

**Figure 4-2. Projected percent change in public school enrollment in grades prekindergarten through 12, by state: Between fall 2006 and fall 2018**



NOTE: The most recent year of actual data is 2006, and 2018 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2009-062. For a list of states in each region, see *supplemental note 1*.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 2006–07; and Public State Elementary and Secondary Enrollment Model, 1980–2006.

# Supplemental Tables to Indicator 4

## Public School Enrollment

**Table A-4-1. Actual and projected public school enrollment in grades prekindergarten (preK) through 12, by grade level and region: Selected years, fall 1970–2018**

[Totals in thousands]

Fall of year	Total enrollment			Total and percent enrollment, grades preK–12 by region							
	Grades preK–12	Grades preK–8	Grades 9–12	Northwest		Midwest		South		West	
				Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
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	34,179	14,617	8,271	17.0	10,775	22.1	17,892	36.7	11,857	24.3
2005	49,113	34,205	14,908	8,240	16.8	10,819	22.0	18,103	36.9	11,951	24.3
2006	49,299	34,221	15,078	8,258	16.8	10,811	21.9	18,289	37.1	11,942	24.2
<b>Projected</b>											
2007	49,470	34,383	15,087	8,141	16.5	10,757	21.7	18,527	37.5	12,045	24.3
2008	49,623	34,667	14,955	8,055	16.2	10,708	21.6	18,744	37.8	12,116	24.4
2009	49,788	34,973	14,815	7,969	16.0	10,661	21.4	18,962	38.1	12,197	24.5
2010	50,034	35,335	14,698	7,902	15.8	10,628	21.2	19,203	38.4	12,300	24.6
2011	50,349	35,732	14,617	7,848	15.6	10,615	21.1	19,469	38.7	12,417	24.7
2012	50,767	36,126	14,641	7,810	15.4	10,624	20.9	19,779	39.0	12,554	24.7
2013	51,239	36,523	14,716	7,788	15.2	10,649	20.8	20,092	39.2	12,710	24.8
2014	51,769	36,903	14,866	7,779	15.0	10,689	20.6	20,416	39.4	12,886	24.9
2015	52,346	37,160	15,186	7,783	14.9	10,736	20.5	20,744	39.6	13,083	25.0
2016	52,892	37,496	15,396	7,790	14.7	10,777	20.4	21,042	39.8	13,284	25.1
2017	53,426	37,838	15,588	7,801	14.6	10,814	20.2	21,322	39.9	13,488	25.2
2018	53,933	38,179	15,754	7,815	14.5	10,845	20.1	21,580	40.0	13,693	25.4

NOTE: The most recent year of actual data is 2006, and 2018 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2009-062. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. For a list of states in each region, see *supplemental note 1*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1993–94 through 2006–07. *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12, retrieved December 24, 2008, from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=95122>; and National Elementary and Secondary Enrollment Model, 1972–2006.

# Supplemental Tables to Indicator 4

## Public School Enrollment

**Table A-4-2. Projected percent change in public school enrollment in grades prekindergarten (preK) through 12, by grade level, region, and state: Fall 2006 and fall 2018**

[Numbers in thousands]

Region and state	Grades preK-12			Grades preK-8			Grades 9-12		
	Actual enrollment 2006	Projected enrollment 2018	Projected percent change 2006-2018	Actual enrollment 2006	Projected enrollment 2018	Projected percent change 2006-2018	Actual enrollment 2006	Projected enrollment 2018	Projected percent change 2006-2018
<b>United States</b>	<b>49,299</b>	<b>53,933</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>38,179</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>15,078</b>	<b>15,754</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Northeast	8,258	7,815	-5.4	5,574	5,435	-2.5	2,684	2,380	-11.3
Connecticut	575	541	-5.9	398	382	-4.0	177	159	-10.1
Maine	194	185	-4.5	132	133	0.6	62	52	-15.5
Massachusetts	969	909	-6.2	671	641	-4.4	298	267	-10.3
New Hampshire	204	206	1.1	136	145	6.8	67	60	-10.3
New Jersey	1,389	1,356	-2.4	964	952	-1.2	425	404	-5.0
New York	2,810	2,556	-9.0	1,888	1,780	-5.7	922	776	-15.8
Pennsylvania	1,871	1,840	-1.7	1,220	1,241	1.7	651	599	-8.1
Rhode Island	152	134	-11.5	102	96	-5.8	50	38	-23.1
Vermont	95	88	-7.4	64	64	-0.2	32	25	-22.0
Midwest	10,811	10,845	0.3	7,396	7,576	2.4	3,415	3,269	-4.3
Illinois	2,118	2,167	2.3	1,478	1,526	3.2	641	641	0.1
Indiana	1,046	1,079	3.2	730	753	3.2	316	326	3.1
Iowa	483	489	1.3	326	335	2.7	157	154	-1.6
Kansas	470	487	3.8	326	342	4.8	143	145	1.5
Michigan	1,715	1,579	-7.9	1,163	1,117	-3.9	552	462	-16.3
Minnesota	841	887	5.5	558	614	10.0	282	273	-3.4
Missouri	920	964	4.7	634	678	6.9	286	286	-0.1
Nebraska	288	308	7.0	196	212	8.4	92	95	3.9
North Dakota	97	88	-8.5	64	62	-3.6	32	26	-18.3
Ohio	1,836	1,780	-3.1	1,253	1,233	-1.6	583	547	-6.3
South Dakota	121	121	-0.5	83	85	2.8	38	35	-7.6
Wisconsin	877	896	2.2	585	618	5.7	292	278	-4.8
South	18,289	21,580	18.0	12,986	15,462	19.1	5,303	6,118	15.4
Alabama	744	754	1.4	529	535	1.2	215	219	1.9
Arkansas	476	520	9.1	337	367	8.9	140	153	9.7
Delaware	122	137	11.7	85	95	12.1	37	41	10.5
District of Columbia	73	75	3.1	52	59	12.3	20	16	-20.6
Florida	2,672	3,313	24.0	1,867	2,383	27.7	805	929	15.5
Georgia	1,629	2,039	25.2	1,167	1,444	23.8	463	595	28.6
Kentucky	683	707	3.6	487	501	2.7	196	207	5.6
Louisiana	676	651	-3.6	492	490	-0.5	184	162	-12.0
Maryland	852	872	2.4	579	629	8.6	273	243	-10.7
Mississippi	495	491	-0.8	356	352	-1.3	139	139	0.3
North Carolina	1,444	1,775	22.9	1,027	1,260	22.7	417	515	23.3
Oklahoma	639	685	7.1	460	495	7.7	179	189	5.4
South Carolina	703	744	5.8	497	535	7.7	206	208	1.1
Tennessee	978	1,105	12.9	692	780	12.7	286	325	13.4
Texas	4,600	6,077	32.1	3,320	4,385	32.1	1,280	1,692	32.2
Virginia	1,220	1,361	11.5	842	960	14.0	379	401	5.9
West Virginia	282	275	-2.4	198	192	-2.7	84	83	-1.8

See notes at end of table.

**Table A-4-2. Projected percent change in public school enrollment in grades prekindergarten (preK) through 12, by grade level, region, and state: Fall 2006 and fall 2018—Continued**

[Numbers in thousands]

Region and state	Grades preK-12			Grades preK-8			Grades 9-12		
	Actual enrollment 2006	Projected enrollment 2018	Projected percent change 2006-2018	Actual enrollment 2006	Projected enrollment 2018	Projected percent change 2006-2018	Actual enrollment 2006	Projected enrollment 2018	Projected percent change 2006-2018
<b>United States</b>	<b>49,299</b>	<b>53,933</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>38,179</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>15,078</b>	<b>15,754</b>	<b>4.5</b>
West	11,942	13,693	14.7	8,266	9,706	17.4	3,676	3,987	8.5
Alaska	133	144	8.5	90	106	18.0	42	38	-11.6
Arizona	1,065	1,515	42.2	758	1,075	41.7	307	440	43.6
California	6,407	6,958	8.6	4,410	4,956	12.4	1,997	2,002	0.3
Colorado	794	947	19.3	559	667	19.3	235	280	19.2
Hawaii	181	170	-5.7	126	124	-1.5	55	46	-15.2
Idaho	267	337	26.1	187	235	25.8	80	102	26.9
Montana	144	149	3.3	97	105	8.3	47	44	-6.9
Nevada	424	595	40.2	303	424	40.0	121	171	40.8
New Mexico	328	363	10.5	230	260	13.0	98	103	4.6
Oregon	563	625	11.0	381	438	15.1	182	186	2.4
Utah	524	679	29.7	371	464	25.1	152	214	40.8
Washington	1,027	1,116	8.7	695	786	13.1	332	330	-0.5
Wyoming	85	94	10.6	58	65	12.2	27	29	7.1

NOTE: The most recent year of actual data is 2006, and 2018 is the last year for which projected data are available. For more information on projections, see NCES 2009-062.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," selected years, 2000-01 through 2006-07; and Public State Elementary and Secondary Enrollment Model, 1980-2006.