

SCHOOL SURVEY SERIES #7

EXPLORING ARIZONA'S PRIVATE EDUCATION SECTOR

Andrew D. Catt



ABOUT EDCHOICE

EdChoice is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing full and unencumbered educational choice as the best pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. EdChoice believes that families, not bureaucrats, are best equipped to make K-12 schooling decisions for their children. The organization works at the state level to educate diverse audiences, train advocates and engage policymakers on the benefits of high-quality school choice programs. EdChoice is the intellectual legacy of Milton and Rose D. Friedman, who founded the organization in 1996 as the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice.

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EDCHOICE SURVEY PROJECT AND PROFILE

TITLE: *Exploring Arizona's Private Education Sector*

SURVEY SPONSOR: The Walton Family Foundation

SURVEY DEVELOPER: EdChoice

SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL: EdChoice and Braun Research, Inc.

INTERVIEW DATES: October 12 to December 2, 2016

INTERVIEW METHOD: Web; SurveyMonkey

INTERVIEW LENGTH: 15.7 minutes (median)

LANGUAGE(S): English only

SAMPLE FRAME: Non-Probability Sampling of Establishments

SAMPLE PROVIDER: Arizona Department of Revenue; United States Department of Education

POPULATION SAMPLE: Attempted census of all K–12 private schools in Arizona

SAMPLE SIZE: Arizona Private School Principals/Administrators, N = 167 (partial and complete)

MARGINS OF ERROR: N/A

RESPONSE RATES (RR) USING AAPOR RR2: $\leq 35.1\%$ (see Appendix A)

WEIGHTING? None

OVERSAMPLING? None

The author is responsible for overall survey design; question wording and ordering (see separate Arizona Private School Survey Questionnaire at www.edchoice.org/AZSchoolSurvey); this paper's analysis, charts, and writing; and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exploring Arizona's Private Education Sector is the seventh entry in the *School Survey Series*.ⁱ This report synthesizes information about Arizona's private schools from two separate surveys conducted by EdChoice and the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE).

Arizona currently has five educational choice programs: four tax-credit scholarship programs launched between 1997 and 2012 and the nation's first education savings account (ESA) program launched in 2011.ⁱⁱ And after nearly two decades of innovation, the state's programs have grown to currently serve more than 51,000 Arizona students.ⁱⁱⁱ

When it comes to educational choice programs, 66 percent of respondent Arizona private schools said they are familiar with education savings accounts (ESAs); 64 percent said they currently enroll students that participate in Arizona's ESA program; 47 percent of the schools not currently participating said they would or probably would participate in Arizona's current ESA program; and 62 percent of respondents said they would or probably would participate in an expanded ESA program that is open to all students.

On the other hand, 95 percent of Arizona private school leaders were familiar with tax-credit scholarship programs; 95 percent currently enroll students that participate in at least one of Arizona's four tax-credit scholarship programs; and 50

percent of the schools not currently participating said they would or probably would participate in a tax-credit scholarship program.

A majority of Arizona private schools currently participate in or are open to joining educational choice programs, and the data show they have the capacity to serve more students. If one were to assume the EdChoice survey data are representative of the state's private schools, then Arizona's private schools have enough empty seats to increase current private school enrollment (45,019 students) by approximately 37 percent. Thus, total enrollment capacity could be reasonably estimated to exceed 61,000 seats, including those currently filled by students.

Additional findings from the EdChoice survey include:

- More than half of respondent schools charge combined tuition and fees rates less than \$6,000 for students in prekindergarten through elementary school
- Nearly half of respondent schools charge \$6,000 or more for middle school
- 43 percent of respondent schools charge \$10,000 or more for high school
- Half of the respondent schools provide an average of \$3,000 or less in tuition assistance per student

ⁱ Although all of the previous surveys in the *School Survey Series* were administered under the banner of the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, the organization changed its name on July 29, 2016 to EdChoice.

ⁱⁱ Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice: The Comprehensive Guide to Every Private School Choice Program in America*, 2016 ed. (Indianapolis: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2016), pp. 11-19, <http://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-ABCs-WEB-1.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Author's calculations; "School Choice in America," EdChoice, last modified Dec. 6, 2016, <http://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/school-choice-in-america>. Assumes 25 percent of scholarships are awarded to students who receive multiple awards.

- Half of the respondent schools provide tuition assistance to up to 34 percent of their students
 - o For context: Average per-student funding in Arizona’s educational choice programs range from \$1,496 in 2014–15 for the “Switcher” Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program to \$11,191 in 2015–16 for the ESA program.^{iv}
- 77 percent of respondent Arizona private schools enroll at least one student with special needs
 - o Half of the respondent schools said 7 percent or more of their enrollments are students with special needs
 - o 10 respondent schools exclusively enroll students with special needs
- 74 percent of respondent schools require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test to measure academic performance
 - o 24 percent of those schools administer the TerraNova
 - o 21 percent administer the Iowa Assessments
 - o 16 percent of the schools administer Arizona’s Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching (AzMERIT)
- 52 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to setting of curriculum and instruction
- 44 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to accommodations for students with special needs
- 44 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to setting of tuition and fees

Findings from the USDOE’s survey include:

- Arizona private schools enroll an average of 165 K–12 students
- 42 percent of Arizona’s private school students belong to at least one racial/ethnic minority group, whereas approximately 59 percent of all Arizona school-aged children belong to at least one racial/ethnic minority group
- 62 percent of Arizona private school graduates continue their education at a four-year college
- 25 percent of Arizona private schools serve grades PK–8
- 12 percent of Arizona private schools serve grades K–8
- 51 percent of Arizona private schools offer prekindergarten, compared with 26 percent of Arizona public schools
- Arizona private schools’ average K–12 student to full-time K–12 teacher ratio is 10.8:1, compared to Arizona’s public school ratio of 18.9:1.
- Arizona private schools operate 7.0 hours per day, on average
- Arizona private schools operate 180 days per year, on average
- 20 percent of Arizona’s private schools are in Tucson
- 55 percent of Arizona’s private schools are in Maricopa County
- 52 percent of Arizona’s private schools are in a city, as opposed to a suburb or town or rural area
- 73 percent of Arizona’s private schools belong to at least one association

^{iv} “School Choice in America,” EdChoice, last modified Dec. 6, 2016, <http://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/school-choice-in-america>.

- The largest private school associations in Arizona are the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

OVERVIEW

Educational choice has been a part of Arizona’s K–12 education system for nearly two decades. The state’s first tax-credit scholarship, the Original Individual Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program, launched in 1997 and is open to all Arizona K–12 students and preschool enrollees identified by their school district as having a disability.¹ Arizona also launched a tax-credit scholarship program specifically for students from low-income families in 2006 (Low-Income Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program) and a tax-credit scholarship program specifically for students with disabilities in 2009 that expanded to include students in foster care (Lexie’s Law for Disabled and Displaced Students Tax Credit Scholarship Program).²

In 2011, Arizona became the first state to launch an education savings account (ESA) program, the newest educational choice mechanism.

Arizona’s ESA program, known as Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, allows parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a portion of their public funding deposited into an account to pay for approved educational expenses, such as private school tuition, education therapies, online education, private tutoring, homeschool curriculum, and even future educational expenses like college tuition.

At the publication of this report, Arizona’s ESAs are not open to all students. Eligible ESA recipients include students with special needs, students attending “D” or “F” schools, children in foster care, children living on Native American reservations, siblings of current ESA students, and children of active-duty military members or those killed in the line of duty.

Arizona’s ESA students receive 90 percent of the charter school per-student base funding. For the 2015–16 school year, that amounted to \$4,645 (K–8) or \$4,904 (9–12) for students who do not have special needs. Students with special needs receive additional funding, and those amounts vary depending on the services a student’s disability requires.³

Arizona’s Department of Education (ADE) provides useful information for those interested in ESAs, including a dedicated website with frequently asked questions, eligibility and application information, and a parent handbook.⁴ However, ADE does not provide much information on private schools in general. It does not have a current private school directory nor does it provide enrollment, administration, or capacity reports, so there is not a comprehensive state-level resource for data on private schools.⁵

For more than 20 years, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has conducted its own biennial survey of private schools across the country. Additionally, EdChoice conducted its own survey of Arizona private schools in 2016. This report synthesizes information collected by both surveys, starting with a short overview of the data sources followed by the key findings from the surveys.

Each survey offers key profile and demographic characteristics of Arizona’s private schools and should assist with any potential program expansion, aid future policy decisions, and inform any addition to Arizona’s private school choice environment.

Survey Methodology and Data Sources

EdChoice. From Oct. 12 to Dec. 2, 2016, EdChoice administered a first-of-its-kind survey of Arizona’s private K–12 schools. The purpose of that assessment was sevenfold: (1) forecast a count of currently available seats and capacities to enroll additional students, (2) measure the familiarity with, current participation in, and potential interest in various private educational choice programs, (3) determine the rules and regulations that concern schools the most, (4) estimate the average and median private school tuition, (5) document how many schools provide tuition assistance, (6) determine the current testing programs, if any, in effect for those schools, and (7) document how many schools serve students with special needs.

According to the USDOE, there were 341 private schools serving 45,019 students overall in 2013–14.⁶ The EdChoice survey received responses from 146 private schools operating in Arizona serving at least 19,048 K–12 and ungraded students.⁷ Based on the USDOE’s total number of Arizona private school students, this represents 42 percent of the state’s private school population. Based on the USDOE’s total number of Arizona K–12 private schools, the percentage is slightly higher at 43 percent of the state’s private schools. There were 476 private schools on the survey contact list that met at least two conditions:

- (1) the school had a working email address or phone number; and
- (2) the school was not part of a residential treatment facility, such as an in-patient mental health hospital.

Therefore, the EdChoice survey had a 31 percent school-level response rate for enrollment and capacity and equal or lower response rates for the

other data points, except for contact information. Complete responses were received from 122 private schools, which equates to a 26 percent complete response rate.⁸

To minimize coverage bias, the author took the following steps:

- compiled private school email list from association membership searches and the Arizona Department of Revenue and added schools from PSS;
- called schools to collect missing email addresses;
- contacted all 476 schools at least three times directing them to the SurveyMonkey link containing the survey;
- obtained the endorsement of five school associations and one accrediting organization;
 - four of these entities sent e-mails to their member schools encouraging participation
- verified school email addresses through school websites, where possible; and
- called remaining non-respondents to ensure email was received and to further encourage participation.⁹

EdChoice’s survey sample should provide a meaningful representation of the state’s private school sector.

U.S. Department of Education. The federal government has conducted biennial surveys of private schools in each state for more than two decades. USDOE’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) started collecting data every other school year to generate information on the number of private schools, students, and teachers and to build a list of private schools starting with the 1989–90 school year through its Private School

Universe Survey (PSS).¹⁰ The most recent survey—with data publicly available—was conducted in the 2013–14 school year.¹¹ For this installment of the *School Survey Series*, we were unable to analyze the 1989–90, 1991–92, and 1993–94 datasets because there were too many potential K-terminal schools that could not be clearly identified.

Each year the USDOE has asked for information about certain school qualities, such as address and primary contact information, school district and county of residence, grade span, number of teachers, number of students, website, and any school association membership. According to the USDOE’s most recent survey report, there are 341 private schools in Arizona serving 45,019 students overall.¹² Of those, the USDOE received survey responses from 291 schools serving 38,794 K–12 and ungraded students.¹³ However, those numbers include 61 kindergarten-terminal (PK–K, or K only) schools serving 779 kindergarteners.¹⁴ Excluding those schools, the USDOE received survey responses from 230 schools serving 38,008 K–12 and ungraded students. Therefore, excluding kindergarten-terminal schools, the USDOE had an 82 percent response rate. Appendix B shows what some of the data look like for kindergarten-terminal schools.

Survey Response Rates

	USDOE (2013–14)	EdChoice (2016–17)
Number of Private Schools Responding	230	167
Number of K–12 Private School Students Represented	38,008	19,048
School Response Rate	82%	35%

Note: USDOE response rate is based on 280 schools serving at least one grade higher than kindergarten. The number of schools that responded to the EdChoice survey includes those that submitted, at least, contact information. The EdChoice response rate is based on the 476 private schools that met the criteria for inclusion on the survey list.

PART I

EdChoice (2016–17)

Do Arizona’s private schools have available seats for new students?

Of the schools taking part in the EdChoice survey, cautious estimates show 8,244 open seats—across PK–12—are available in Arizona’s private education sector. Note that this is an estimate provided directly by the 146 private schools in this survey. The projected estimate for Arizona’s private education sector in total is closer to 16,500 open PK–12 seats.

Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools

Private School Grade Level	Number of Open Seats
TOTAL	8,244
Prekindergarten	736
Kindergarten	654
Elementary School	2,295
Middle School	1,816
High School	2,617
Ungraded	126

number of respondent schools = 146; item response rate = 31%

Are schools familiar with the concept of education savings accounts (ESAs)?

Arizona private schools were asked how familiar they are with the concept of ESAs for K–12 education. ESAs allow parents to withdraw their children from public district or charter schools and receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, and other higher education expenses.¹⁵ Nearly two out of three private schools (66%; 91 of 138 schools) indicated they were already familiar with ESAs. Nearly one-fifth of Arizona private schools (18%; 25 of 138 schools) said they were “not at all familiar” with ESAs, meaning they may not have heard of the concept prior to the survey.

Familiarity with ESAs

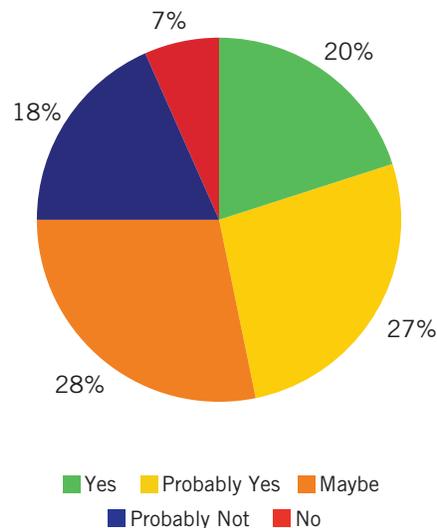
Response	Percent of Private Schools
Very Familiar	34%
Somewhat Familiar	32%
Not Too Familiar	16%
Not At All Familiar	18%

number of respondent schools = 138; item response rate = 29%

How many schools participate in Arizona’s ESA program? Of those that do not, how many would?

We asked Arizona private schools whether they currently enroll students that participate in Arizona’s ESA program. Nearly two out of three private schools (64%; 79 of 123 schools) indicated that they participate in the current program. Of those that do not currently participate, nearly half of the respondent private schools (47%; 28 of 60 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes” when asked if they would be interested in participating in Arizona’s ESA program.

Private School Responses to Current ESA Program Participation

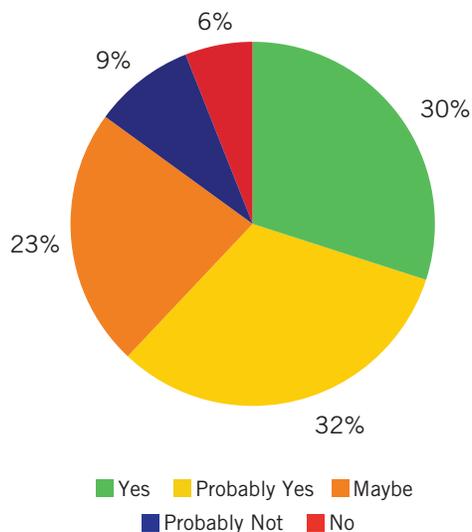


number of respondent schools = 60; item response rate = 13%

If expanded to include all students, would schools participate in Arizona’s ESA program?

When provided with the previous definition and asked if they would participate in an ESA program open to all students, more than three-fifths of all respondent private schools (62%; 83 of 134 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes.” Another 23 percent of schools (31 of 134 schools) said “maybe,” in other words, they would consider participating. Twelve schools (9%) said they would probably not participate, and eight schools (6%) said “no” when asked if they would participate.

Private School Responses to Potential Universal ESA Program Participation



number of respondent schools = 134; item response rate = 28%

Are schools familiar with the concept of tax-credit scholarships?

Arizona private school leaders answered a question new to the *School Survey Series*: How familiar are you with tax-credit scholarships? Tax-credit scholarships allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships. Eligible taxpayers can include both individuals and businesses.¹⁶ Arizona currently has four tax-credit scholarship programs.¹⁷ More than nine out of 10 private schools (95%; 127 of 134 schools) indicated they were already familiar with tax-credit scholarships. Only three Arizona private schools said they were “not at all familiar” with tax-credit scholarships, meaning they may not have heard of the concept prior to the survey.

Familiarity with Tax-Credit Scholarships

Response	Percent of Private Schools
Very Familiar	87%
Somewhat Familiar	8%
Not Too Familiar	3%
Not At All Familiar	2%

number of respondent schools = 134; item response rate = 28%

How many schools participate in at least one of Arizona’s tax-credit scholarship programs? Of those that do not, how many would?

We asked Arizona private schools whether or not they currently enroll students that participate in one of Arizona’s tax-credit scholarship programs. More than nine out of 10 private schools (95%; 122 of 129 schools) indicated that they participate in at least one of Arizona’s current tax-credit scholarship programs. Of those that do not currently participate, half of the respondent private schools (50%; 6 of 12 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes” when asked if they would be interested in participating in a tax-credit scholarship program. Two schools (17%) said “maybe;” in other words, they would consider participating. Two schools (17%) said they would probably not participate, and two schools (17%) said “no” when asked if they would participate.

Which private school choice program rules and regulations would concern schools most?

Approximately three out of four schools (74%; 124 of 167 schools) that responded to EdChoice’s survey shared their concerns about potential rules and regulations from state government for at least one of the categories. On average, respondent schools were most concerned with rules pertaining to:

- setting of curriculum and instruction,
- accommodations for students with special needs,
- school admissions and enrollment guidelines,
- setting of tuition and fees, and
- school eligibility for a program, such as registering with the state.

More than half of the schools that responded to that question (52%; 64 of 124 schools) said they would have “very high” or “somewhat high” concerns with regulations concerning the setting of curriculum and instruction.

Continued...

Average Concern Level for Specific Rules and Regulations (1 = Very Low, 5 = Very High)

Rule/Regulation	Average Concern Level
Curriculum & Instruction	3.5
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	3.3
School Admissions & Enrollment Guidelines	3.3
Tuition & Fees	3.3
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	3.2
Testing & Accountability	3.1
Paperwork & Reporting	3.1
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	3.1
Teacher/Staff Certification & Licensure	3.1
Financial Reporting & Disclosure	2.9
Building Safety & Security	2.7

number of respondent schools = 124; item response rate = 26%

Number of Private Schools with Somewhat High or Very High Concern for Specific Rules and Regulations

Rule/Regulation	Number of Private Schools
Curriculum & Instruction	64
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	55
Tuition & Fees	55
School Admissions & Enrollment Guidelines	51
Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit)	51
School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state)	50
Teacher/Staff Certification & Licensure	49
Testing & Accountability	45
Paperwork & Reporting	42
Financial Reporting & Disclosure	37
Building Safety & Security	32

number of respondent schools = 124; item response rate = 26%

Which geographic areas have the most open seats in Arizona's private schools?

Of the private schools that responded to the EdChoice survey, Maricopa County had the most open PK–12 private school seats during the 2016–17 school year. Tucson had more open PK–12 private school seats than any other city in the state.

- Phoenix had approximately three-fourths (74%) the number of open seats Tucson had. Tempe and Chandler each had a little less than one-fourth (24% and 23%, respectively) the number of open seats Tucson had.
- Pima County had a little more than half (53%) the number of open seats Maricopa County had.

Top 10 Arizona Cities with Largest Number of Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools

City	Number of Open Seats
Tucson	2,359
Phoenix	1,754
Tempe	567
Chandler	532
Mesa	404
Scottsdale	343
Gilbert	319
Glendale	288
Nogales	263
Prescott	140

number of schools responding = 146; item response rate = 31%

Top 10 Arizona Counties with Largest Number of Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools

Counties	Number of Open Seats
Maricopa	4,579
Pima	2,440
Santa Cruz	263
Yavapai	220
Gila	143
Yuma	135
Mohave	119
Apache	83
Cochise	79
Navajo	72

number of respondent schools = 146; item response rate = 31%

Which geographic areas have the most respondent private schools?

More than half (56%) of the Arizona private schools that responded to the EdChoice survey are situated in Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa, or Tempe (94 of 167 schools).

Approximately three-fifths (60%) of the state's respondent private schools are located in Maricopa County (101 of 167 schools).

Top 13 Arizona Cities with Largest Number of Respondent Private Schools

City	Number of Private Schools
Phoenix	35
Tucson	33
Mesa	13
Tempe	13
Chandler	9
Scottsdale	9
Glendale	8
Gilbert	4
Flagstaff	3
Nogales	3
Oro Valley	3
Prescott	3
Yuma	3

number of schools responding = 167; item response rate = 35%

Top 12 Arizona Counties with Largest Number of Respondent Private Schools

County	Number of Private Schools
Maricopa	101
Pima	36
Yavapai	6
Navajo	4
Coconino	3
Santa Cruz	3
Yuma	3
Apache	2
Cochise	2
Gila	2
Mohave	2
Pinal	2

number of schools responding = 167; item response rate = 35%

What is the cost of combined tuition and fees among private schools?

Half of private schools for which combined tuition and fee data are available charge \$5,675 or less for elementary, \$6,100 or less for middle school grades, and \$9,500 or less for high school grades.

At all levels there are some especially expensive schools that create the gaps between “average” and “median” private school tuition and fee rates seen in the first accompanying table. The minimum combined tuition and fees charged at any level is \$0 and the maximum combined tuition and fees charged at any level is \$96,000. One school did not charge for prekindergarten or kindergarten and one K–12 school did not charge tuition.

Nearly three-fourths of Arizona private schools (73%) charge less than \$6,000 for prekindergarten, whereas nearly two-fifths charge the same range for kindergarten and elementary school grades (58% and 56%, respectively), nearly half (48%) charge the same range for middle school grades, and nearly one-third charge the same range for high school grades (32%).

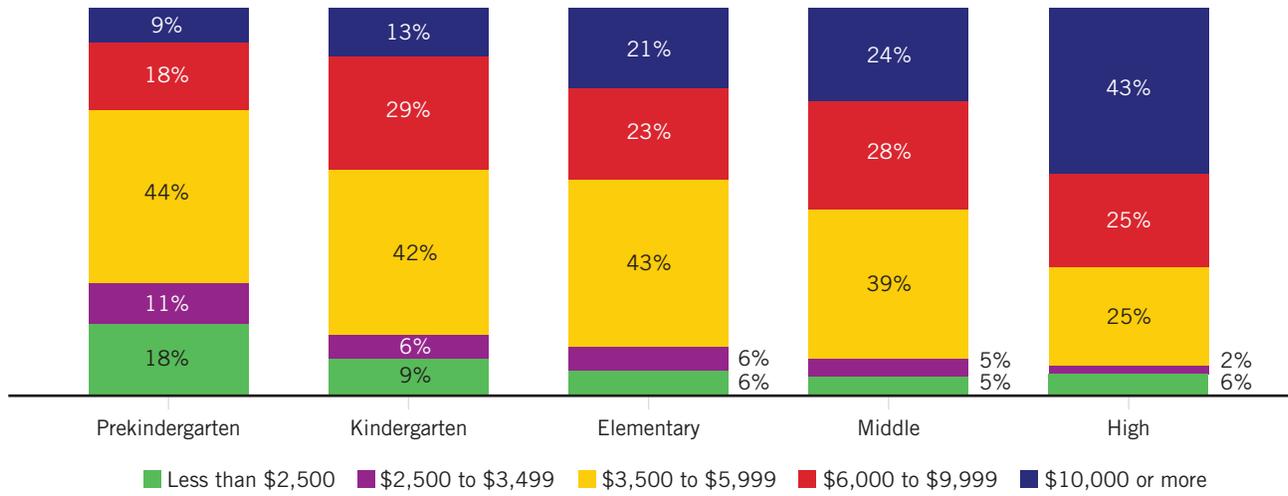
Combined Tuition and Fees Amounts for Arizona Private Schools

Grade(s)	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum
OVERALL	\$7,898	\$5,550	\$0	\$96,000
Prekindergarten	\$5,319	\$4,500	\$0	\$33,975
Kindergarten	\$6,581	\$5,419	\$0	\$28,800
Elementary School	\$7,858	\$5,675	\$0	\$29,700
Middle School	\$8,453	\$6,100	\$0	\$29,700
High School	\$14,089	\$9,500	\$0	\$96,000

number of respondent schools = 145; item response rate = 30%

Continued...

Arizona Private School Combined Tuition and Fees Ranges by Grade Level



What do private schools charge in fees?

Half of schools for which fee data are available charge \$250 or less, and the Arizona private schools for which fee data are available charge \$25 to \$11,550 in total fees. Those fees are in addition to the tuition that schools charge students. The fee category in which Arizona schools charge the most, on average, is “Other.” Fees under that category included those for classroom supplies, athletics, field trips, and general student activities.

Fee Amounts for Arizona Private Schools

Fee Category	Average Fee	Median Fee	Minimum Fee	Maximum Fee
TOTAL	\$490	\$250	\$25	\$11,550
Registration/Application	\$223	\$165	\$20	\$1,750
Textbooks	\$179	\$110	\$25	\$500
Technology	\$324	\$138	\$10	\$1,750
Transportation	\$958	\$1,000	\$775	\$1,100
Uniforms	\$129	\$125	\$10	\$500
Other	\$567	\$175	\$5	\$10,000

number of respondent schools = 116; item response rate = 24%

What proportion of Arizona’s private education sector offers some form of financial assistance, and how much do they offer?

More than four-fifths of the state’s private schools for which tuition data are available (85%) provide some form of tuition assistance. Half of those schools provide financial assistance to more than one-third of their students (34%), and half of those schools provide \$3,000 or more in financial assistance.

Tuition Assistance Provided by Arizona Private Schools

	Average	Median
Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Assistance (Including Discounts)	42%	34%
Tuition Assistance Per Student	\$15,230	\$3,000

number of respondent schools = 123; item response rate = 26%

What proportion of Arizona’s private schools’ students have special needs?

For the schools that responded to this question, estimates show, on average, one out of five students who attended Arizona private schools (20%) had special needs in 2016–17.¹⁸ Comparatively, slightly more than one-ninth of Arizona public school students (12 percent) had special needs in 2013–14.¹⁹

However, it is important to note that, in 10 of the respondent schools, students with special needs made up the entire student body, so the median proportion of students (7%) may be more important for comparisons. A median of that data point could not be found for Arizona public schools.

Arizona Private Schools’ Percentage of Students with Special Needs

Student Profile	Average Percent of Private School's Students	Median Percent of Private School's Students
With Special Needs	20%	7%
Without Special Needs	80%	93%

number of respondent schools = 95; item response rate = 20%

What proportion of Arizona’s private education sector enrolls students with special needs?

Of those schools that responded to the question, nearly four-fifths (77%; 98 of 127 schools) enrolled at least one student with special needs in 2016–17.

Arizona Private Schools’ Percentage of Students with Special Needs

Enrolled Student(s) with Special Needs	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Yes	98	77%
No	29	23%

number of respondent schools = 127; item response rate = 27%

Do Arizona private schools test their students annually?

Nearly three out of four respondent Arizona private schools (74%) require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test to measure student academic performance. Of those schools, nearly one-fourth (24%; 23 of 95 schools) reported they administer the TerraNova. Slightly more than one out of five testing schools (21%; 20 of 95 schools) administer the Iowa Assessments, and nearly one-sixth of responding testing schools (16%; 15 of 95 schools) administer Arizona’s Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching (AzMERIT).

Tests Arizona Private Schools Administer

Tests Administered	Number of Testing Schools	Percentage of State's Private Schools
TOTAL	95	74%
TerraNova	23	18%
Iowa Assessments	20	16%
Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching (AzMERIT)	15	12%
Stanford 10	12	9%
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)	7	5%
PSAT	7	5%
Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Science	7	5%
ACT	4	3%
SAT	4	3%
ACT Aspire	3	2%
ERB	3	2%
Arizona's English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA)	3	2%
Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)	1	1%
Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards Alternate (AIMS A)	1	1%

number of respondent schools = 128; item response rate = 27%

Continued...

Number of Private Schools Testing by Test and Grade Level in Arizona

	AzMERIT	AIMS	MSAA	AIMS A	AZELLA	Other(s)
TOTAL	15	7	1	1	3	77
Kindergarten	1	0	0	0	2	29
First Grade	1	0	0	0	3	34
Second Grade	1	0	0	0	3	43
Third Grade	8	0	1	0	3	58
Fourth Grade	9	5	1	0	3	59
Fifth Grade	8	0	1	0	3	57
Sixth Grade	10	1	1	0	3	54
Seventh Grade	10	0	1	0	3	52
Eighth Grade	8	4	1	0	2	53
Ninth Grade	5	0	0	0	0	24
10th Grade	5	1	0	0	0	24
11th Grade	6	0	0	0	0	24
12th Grade	5	0	0	0	0	18

number of respondent schools = 128; item response rate = 27%

Note: The school that indicated it administered the AIMS A did not provide information on which grade levels it tests.

PART II

U.S. Department of Education:
PSS datasets 1995–96 to 2013–14

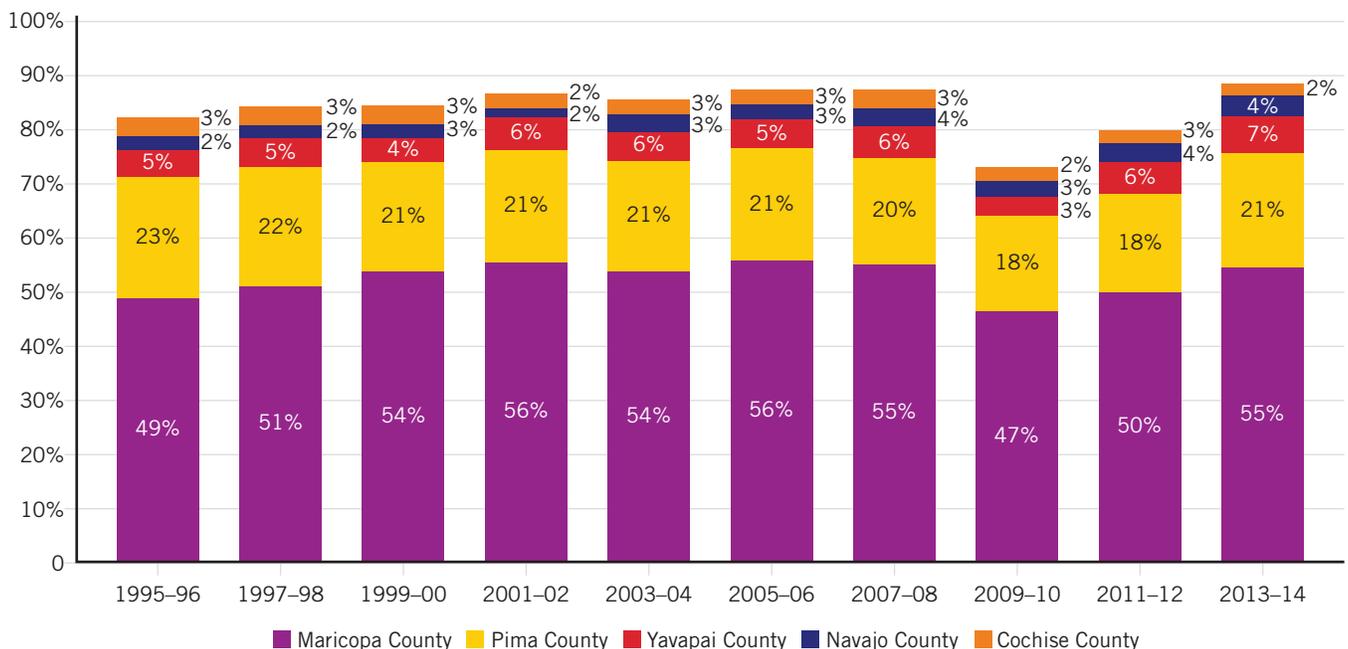
Which geographic areas have the most private schools?

Generally speaking, the following three areas represent the cradles of private schools in Arizona: Maricopa County, which has more than half of the state's private schools (55%; 126 of 230 schools), Pima County, which has slightly more than one-fifth of the state's private schools (21%; 49 of 230 schools), and Yavapai County, which has approximately 7 percent (15 of 230 schools). Both Maricopa and Yavapai counties' proportion of the state's private schools has slightly increased since 1995–96, while the proportion of schools in Pima County has decreased.²⁰

Top 12 Arizona Counties with the Private Schools (2013–14)

County	Number of Private Schools	Number of Private School Students
Maricopa	126	25,099
Pima	49	7,984
Yavapai	15	1,231
Navajo	9	489
Cochise	5	555
Apache	4	507
Pinal	4	284
Mohave	4	279
Santa Cruz	3	574
Yuma	3	499
Gila	3	264
Coconino	3	209

Proportion of Arizona Private Schools by County (1995–96 to 2013–14)



What types of communities have the most private schools?

More than half of Arizona's private schools (52%) are in a city (119 of 230 schools), whereas nearly one-fourth (23%) are in a town or rural area (52 of 230 schools). However, 63 percent of Arizona's private school students attend school in a city, compared with 24 percent in suburban areas, 5 percent in towns, and 8 percent in rural areas. These community types are assigned by NCES and are based on 2000 Census geography.²¹

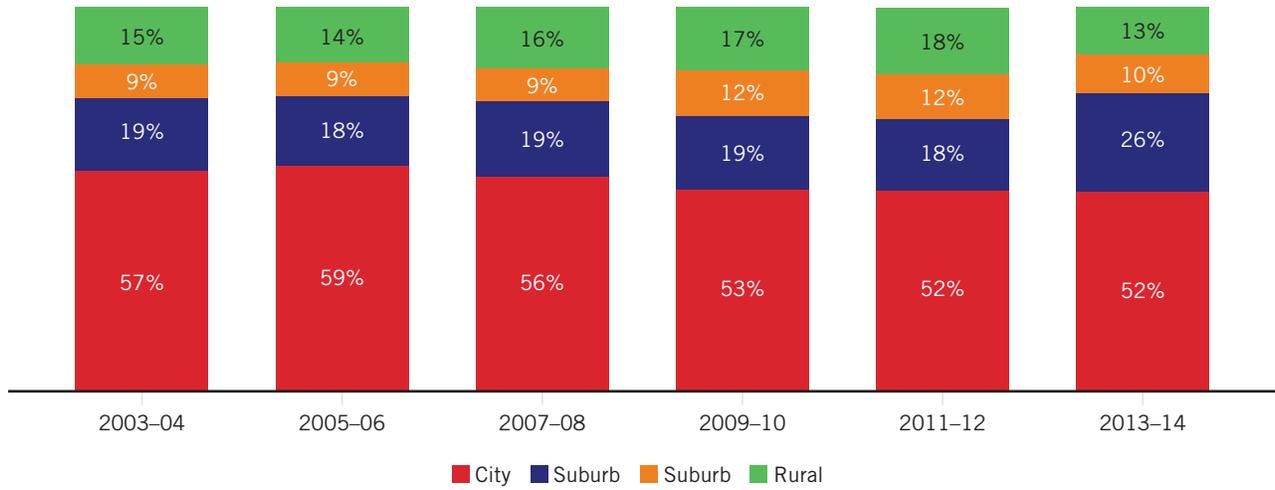
The distribution of Arizona's private schools by community type has changed little over time. However, there has been a slight increase in the share of schools in suburban areas and a small drop in the share of schools in cities.

Arizona Private Schools and Students by Community Type (2013–14)

Community Type	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools	Number of Private School Students	Percent of State's Private School Students
City	119	52%	23,780	63%
Suburb	59	26%	9,265	24%
Town	23	10%	1,950	5%
Rural	29	13%	3,013	8%

Continued...

Proportion of Arizona Private Schools by Community Type (2003–04 to 2013–14)



Which cities have the most private schools?

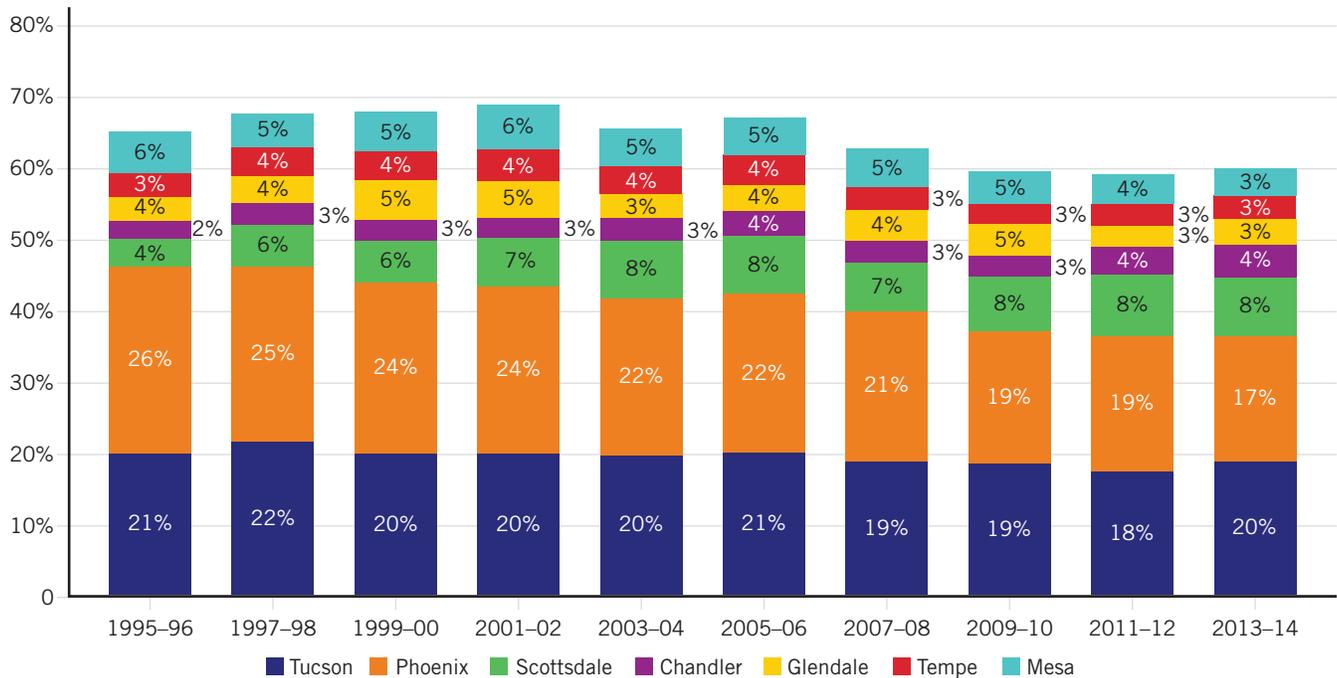
Nearly two-fifths of the state's private schools (37%) are in Tucson or Phoenix (85 of 230 schools).

The percentages of the state's private schools in Tucson and Chandler have fluctuated slightly over time but have remained fairly consistent overall, the proportion in Scottsdale has increased, and the concentration of schools in Phoenix has decreased. Those four areas have accounted for anywhere from slightly less than half (48% in 2009–10) to nearly three-fifths (55% in 1997–98) of the state's private schools over time.

Top 11 Arizona Cities with the Largest Number of Private Schools (2013–14)

City	Number of Private Schools	Number of Private School Students
Tucson	45	7,481
Phoenix	40	11,690
Scottsdale	19	3,478
Chandler	10	2,156
Glendale	8	1,347
Tempe	8	1,230
Mesa	8	728
Gilbert	7	1,284
Prescott	5	560
Paradise Valley	4	1,184
Peoria	4	151

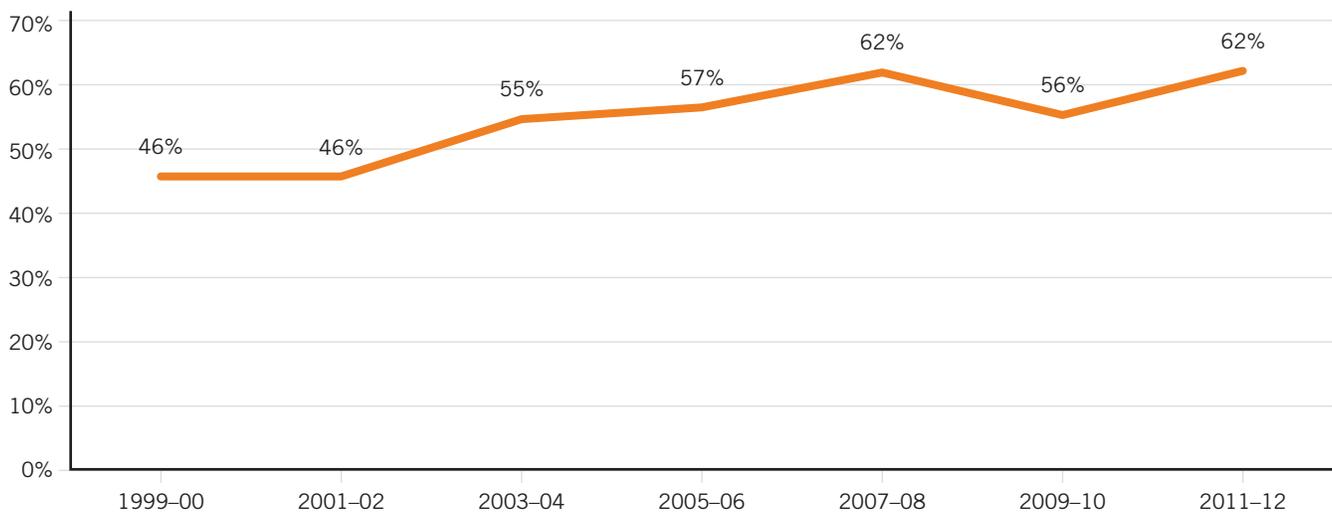
Proportion of Arizona Private Schools by City (1995–96 to 2013–14)



How many Arizona private school graduates went to four-year colleges?

Nearly two-thirds of private school students who graduated with a diploma in 2010–11 (62%) continued their education at a four-year college. This is slightly less than the national average for private school graduates (65%). Although there has been some fluctuation, the percent of seniors graduating Arizona private schools with a diploma and going on to a four-year college has increased overall since 1999–00.

Proportion of Arizona Private School Graduates Who Enrolled in a Four-Year College (1999–00 to 2011–12)

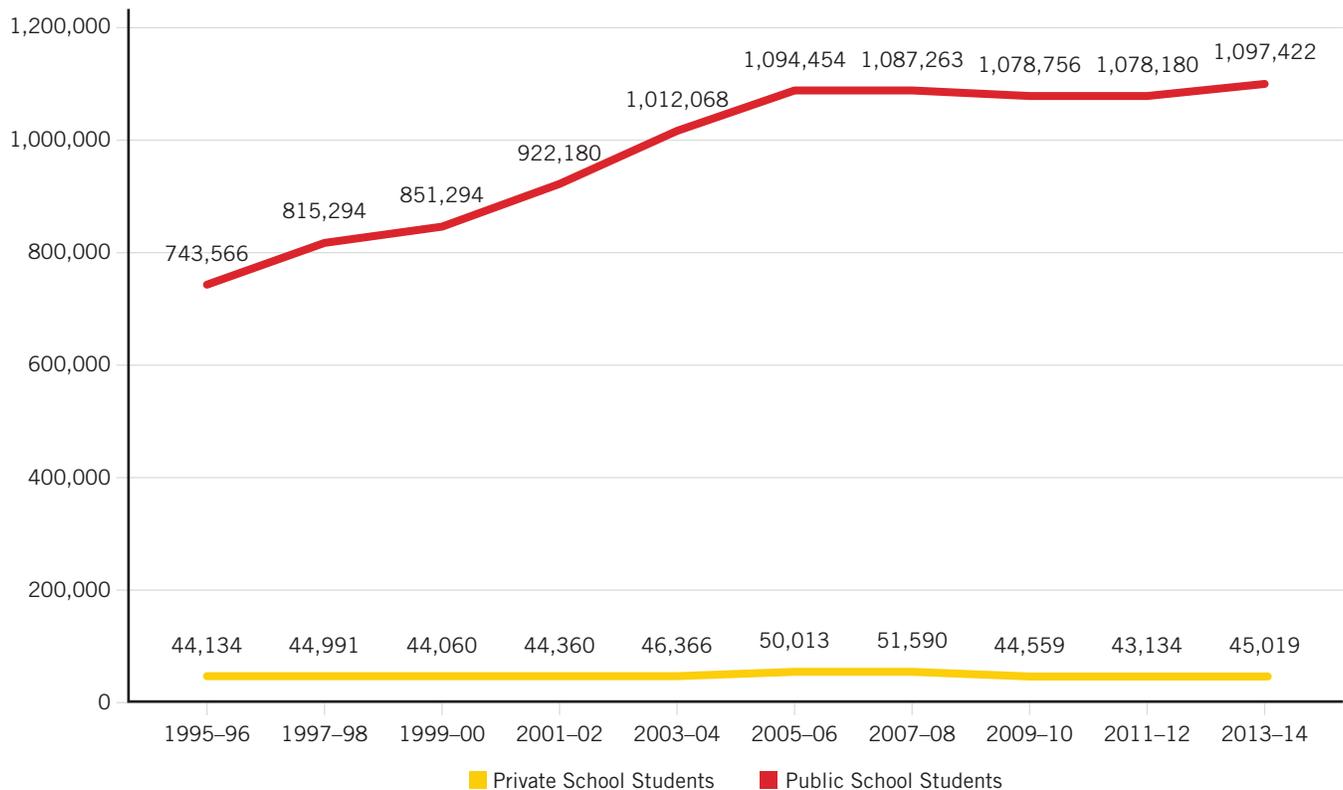


How many of Arizona's students attend private school?

More than 45,000 students attend private school in Arizona, according to the most recent data currently available. This is an increase of approximately 2 percent from 1995–96. By contrast, the number of students attending public school in Arizona has increased approximately 48 percent across the same time periods.²²

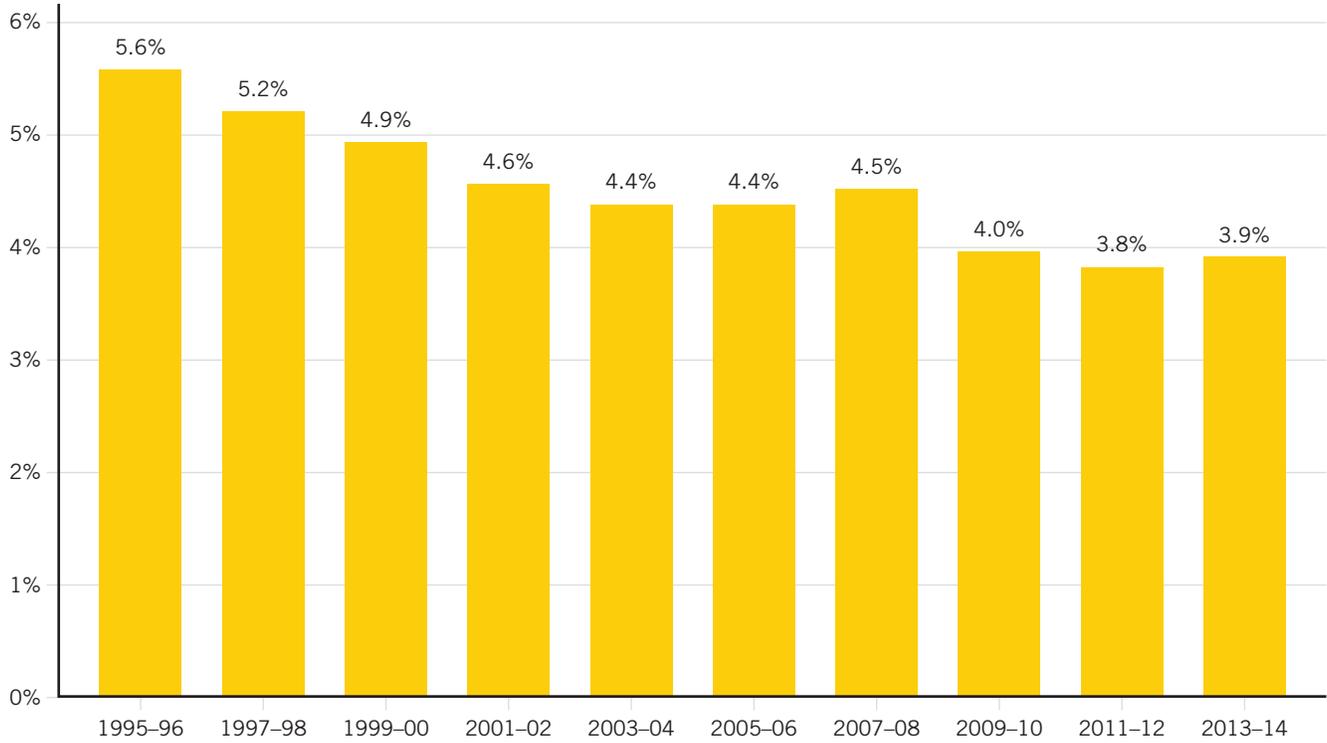
Nearly one out of 20 Arizona students (4%) attend private school. Over the course of nearly 20 years, this proportion has slightly decreased, although there has been an increase of 353,856 public school students and an increase of 885 private school students.²³

Number of K–12 Students in Arizona (1995–96 to 2013–14)



Continued...

Proportion of Arizona Students Attending Private School (1995–96 to 2013–14)

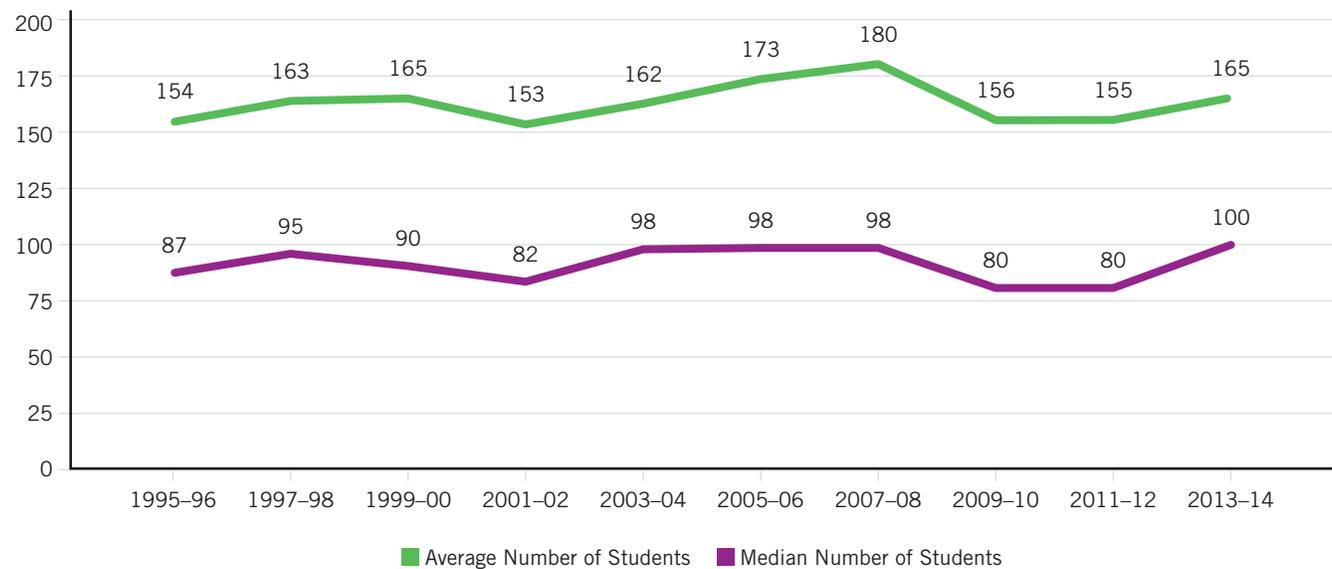


What is the state’s average and median private school size (enrollment)?

The average private school size in Arizona is 165 K–12 students, and the median private school size is 100 K–12 students (half of all private schools are above/below that enrollment number). The reason the median is so much lower than the average is most likely a result of there being 36 schools with fewer than 30 K–12 students.

After an overall slight decline in the state’s average private school size in the late 1990s, enrollment fluctuated until eventually reaching the most recent number. The state’s median private school size experienced a similar fluctuation. Speculative reasons for the change could be anything from a greater number of schools with fewer than 30 K–12 students responding in some years more than others to the merging of some schools with separate schooling levels (K–6 and 7–12).

Enrollments of Arizona Private Schools (1995–96 to 2013–14)

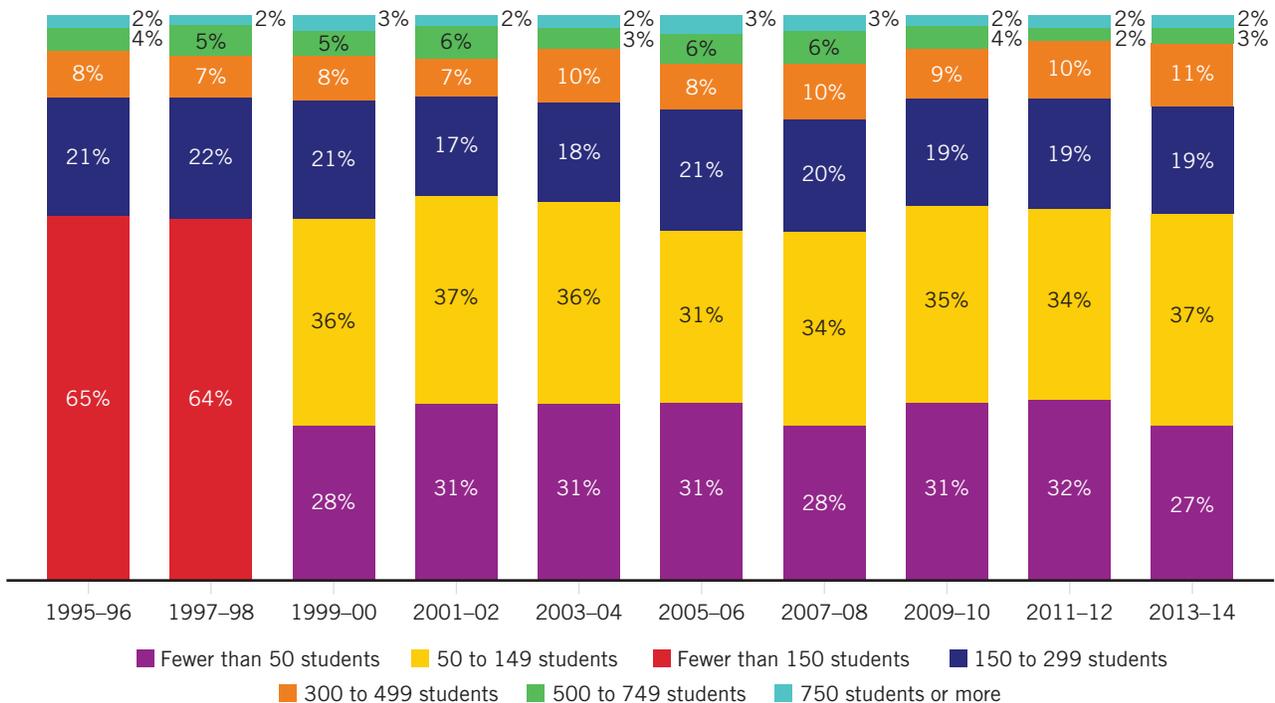


What are the enrollment sizes of the state's private schools?

Slightly more than one out of four of Arizona's private schools (27%) enroll fewer than 50 students (63 of 230 schools). When including the schools enrolling 50 to 149 students, more than nearly two out of three of Arizona private schools (65%) enroll fewer than 150 students (149 of 230 schools).

The proportion of schools enrolling fewer than 150 students has fluctuated over time but has remained fairly consistent overall. Although there has been some fluctuation, the proportion of schools enrolling 150 to 299 students has decreased over time. The proportion of schools enrolling 300 to 499 students has increased over time.

Proportion of Arizona Private Schools by Enrollment Size (1995–96 to 2013–14)



What are the most common grade spans for Arizona's private schools?

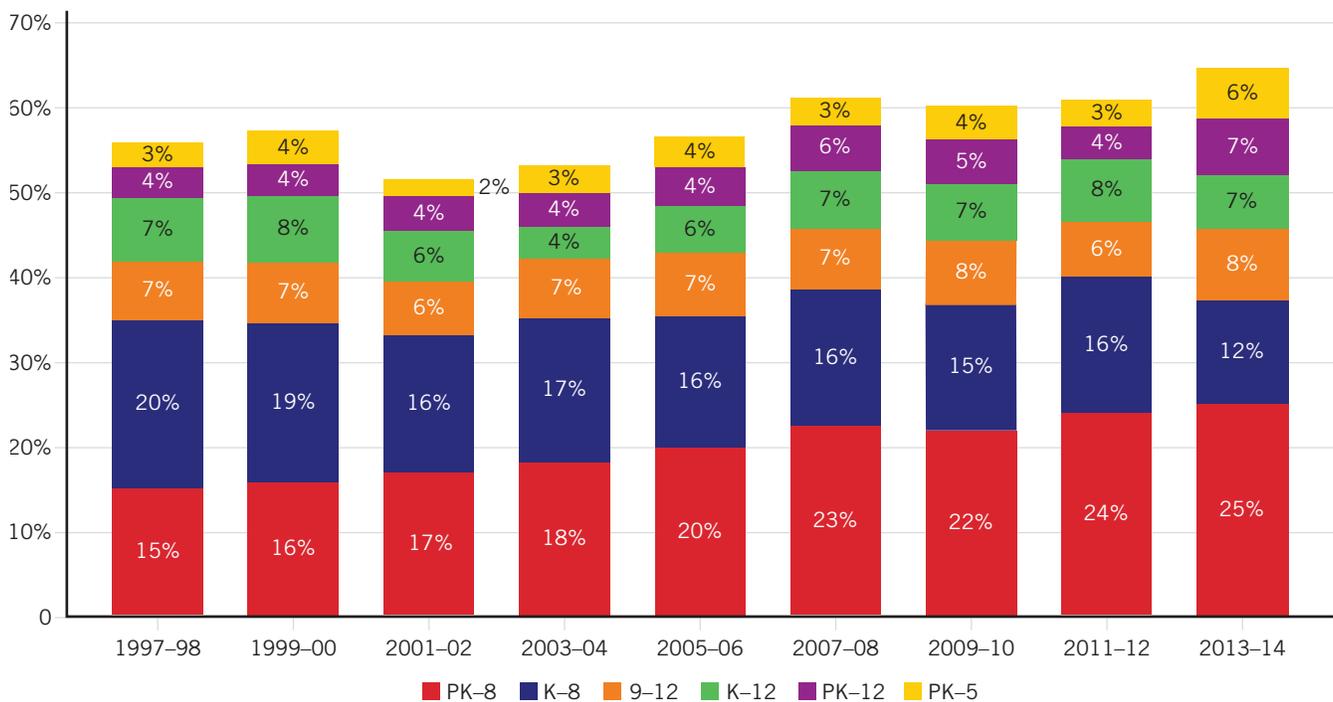
Approximately one out of four (25%) Arizona private schools (58 of 230 schools) have the grade span of prekindergarten through eighth grade (PK-8). The proportion for that span is more than double the proportion of private schools in the state that span K-8 (12%). Arizona's private schools offer at least 40 different grade spans.

Although schools with the grade span of PK-8 account for a quarter of the private schools in Arizona (25%), they once represented slightly more than one out of seven (15%). This may be explained by schools serving grades K-8 adding prekindergarten, since the percent of schools with this grade span used to be 20 percent (1995-96) but decreased to 12 percent (2013-14).

11 Most Common Grade Spans of Arizona Private Schools (2013-14)

City	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
PK-8	58	25%
K-8	28	12%
9-12	19	8%
K-12	15	7%
PK-12	15	7%
PK-5	14	6%
PK-3	8	3%
1-12	7	3%
6-12	6	3%
PK-4	6	3%
PK-6	6	3%

Most Common Grade Spans of Arizona Private Schools (1997-98 to 2013-14)



What proportion of the state’s private schools also offer prekindergarten? How many schools?

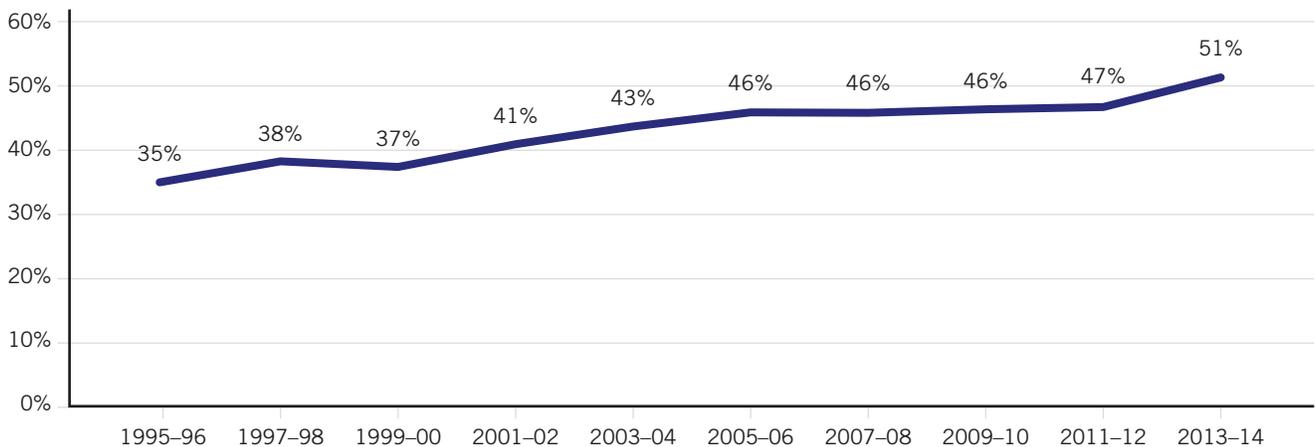
An estimated 117 private schools in Arizona offer prekindergarten, representing slightly more than half of the state’s private schools (51%). By comparison, 581 public schools in Arizona provide prekindergarten, representing more than one-fourth of the state’s public schools (27%).²⁴

The share of private schools offering PK jumped from slightly more than two-thirds (35%) in 1995–96 to more than half (51%) in 2013–14. This suggests an increase in demand of PK over time, which could be influenced by a variety of factors.

Arizona Schools Offering Prekindergarten (2013–14)

Offer PK	Number of Public Schools	Percent of State's Public Schools	Number of Private Students	Percent of State's Private School
Yes	581	27%	117	51%
No	1,592	73%	113	49%

Proportion of Arizona Private Schools Offering Prekindergarten (1995–96 to 2013–14)



What is the gender makeup of the state's private schools?

Overall, there are slightly more male private school students (52%) in Arizona than there are female (48%). By comparison, these proportions are somewhat similar for public school students in Arizona (49% female; 51% male).²⁵

Arizona Students by Gender

Gender	Number of Private School Students (2011–12)	Percent of State's Private School Students (2011–12)	Number of Public School Students (2013–14)	Percent of State's Public School Students (2013–14)
Female	18,750	48%	534,040	49%
Male	20,221	52%	563,126	51%

What is the racial makeup of the state's private schools?

More than half of Arizona private school students (58%) are white, compared with 41 percent of Arizona's public school students who identify as white.²⁶

From 2005–06 to 2013–14, the population size of Arizona's white private school students fell 32 percent, compared with Arizona's white public school students decreasing 14 percent and the overall size of Arizona's white citizenry increasing slightly more than 2 percent from 2006 to 2013.

Meanwhile, Hispanic private school students decreased 19 percent, whereas the state's population of Hispanic public school students increased 13 percent and the state's Hispanic citizen population increased 11 percent. Conversely, the state's number of Asian or Pacific Islander private school students rose 36 percent, compared with Arizona's Asian or Pacific Islander public school students increasing 24 percent and the overall size of Arizona's Asian or Pacific Islander citizenry rising 34 percent.

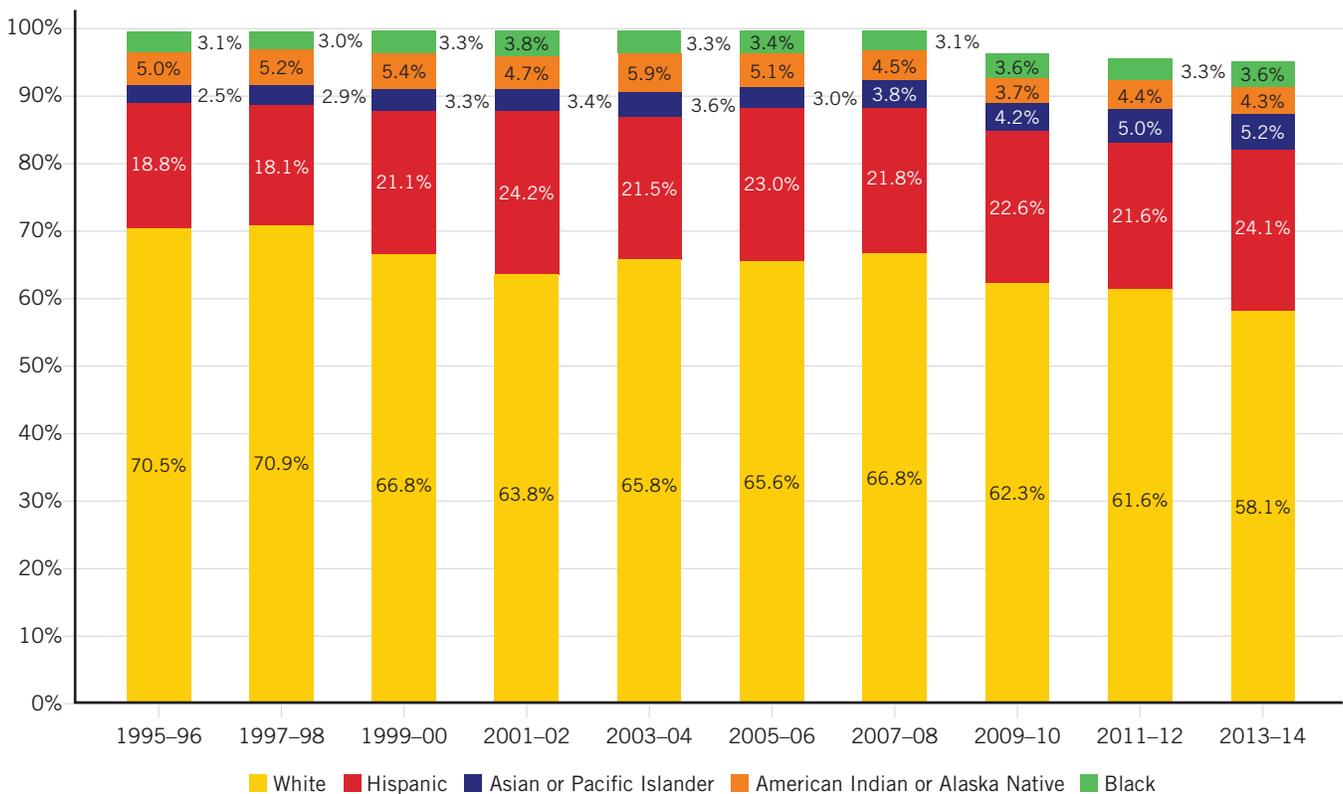
During those same timeframes, the state's population of black private school students dropped 20 percent, whereas the population of similar public school students decreased by less than 1 percent and the population of similar Arizona citizens increased 32 percent. The population of American Indian or Alaska Native private school students fell 36 percent; the state's population of similar public school students decreased 22 percent, and the population of similar citizens in Arizona increased 3 percent.²⁷

Continued...

Arizona Students by Race and Ethnicity (2013–14)

	Number of Private School Students	Percent of State's Private School Students	Number of Public School Students	Percent of State's Public School Students
Hispanic or Latino	8,789	24.1%	483,630	44.1%
White	21,142	58.1%	446,154	40.7%
Black	1,298	3.6%	56,835	5.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,550	4.3%	52,461	4.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,901	5.2%	33,652	3.1%
Two or More	1,730	4.8%	24,434	2.2%

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Arizona Private Schools (1995–96 to 2013–14)





How long is each year and day for students attending the state's private schools?

Students attend Arizona's private schools for approximately 7.0 hours per day for 180 days of the year, on average.

Length of School Year and Day for Arizona Private Schools (2013–14)

	Average	Median
Number of School Days/Year	180	180
Number of School Hours/Day	7.0	7.0

Do the state's private schools offer full-day kindergarten, half-day kindergarten, or both?

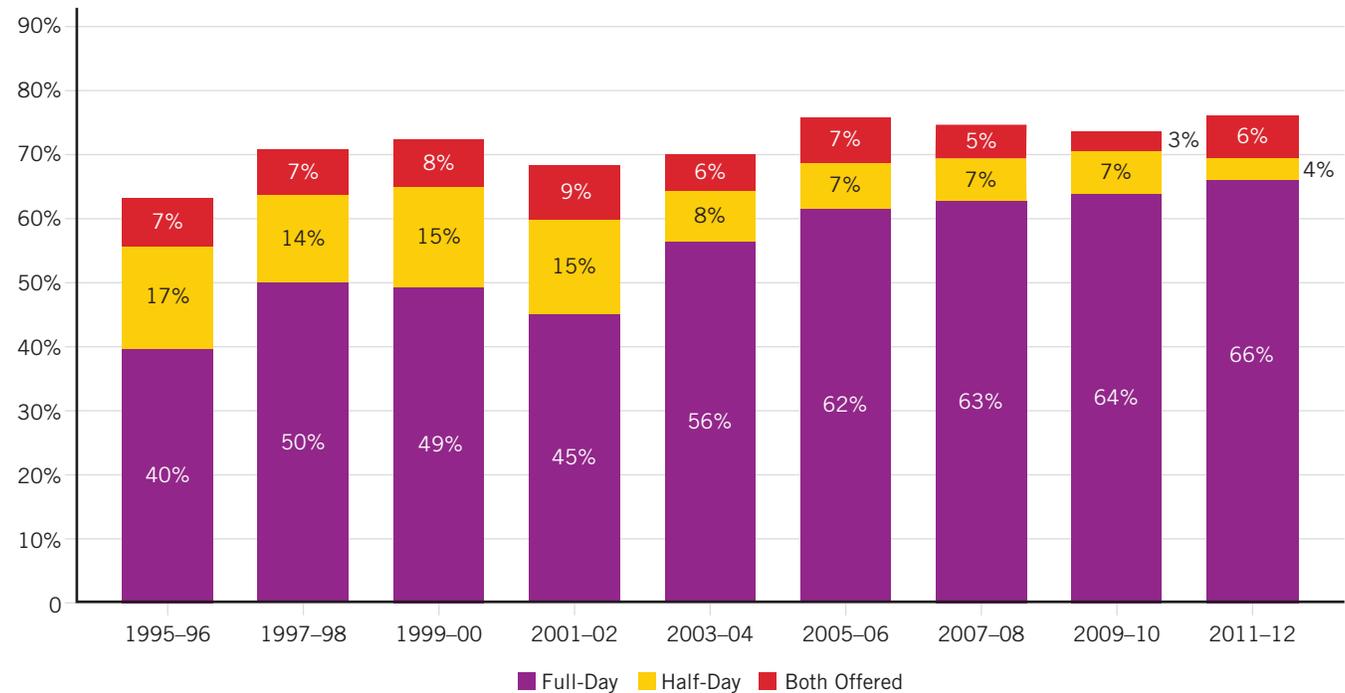
The majority (66%) of Arizona private schools offer only full-day kindergarten (165 of 249 schools in 2011–12).

The overall proportion of Arizona private schools that offer kindergarten has somewhat increased over time, and many schools seem to have switched from offering only half-day kindergarten to offering only full-day kindergarten.

Arizona Private Schools Kindergarten (2011–12)

	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Full Day	165	66%
Half Day	9	4%
Both	15	6%

Arizona Private Schools Kindergarten (1995–96 to 2011–12)



What is the average Arizona private and public school class size?

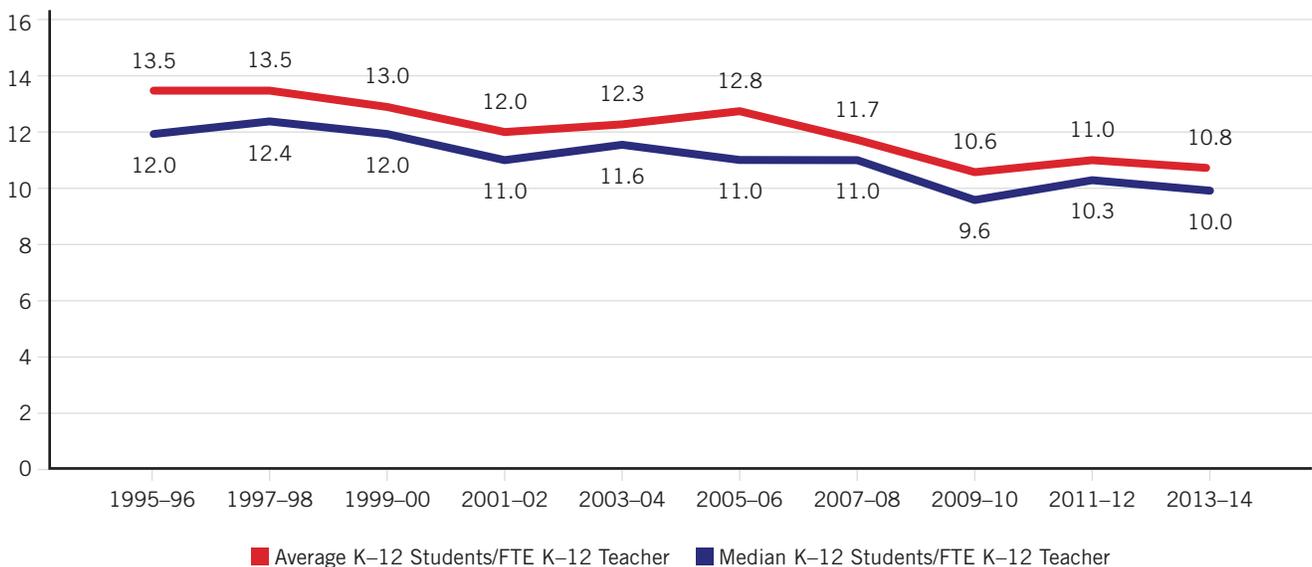
On average, there are more than 10 K–12 students per full-time equivalent (FTE) K–12 teacher (10.8:1) in Arizona’s private schools. By comparison, there are nearly 19 K–12 students per FTE K–12 teacher (18.9:1) in Arizona’s public schools.²⁸

Private schools have gradually increased the number of FTE K–12 teachers per K–12 student since the mid-1990s. Overall, the average number of K–12 students per FTE K–12 teacher has decreased over time (13.5:1 to 10.8:1).

Number of K–12 Students/FTE K–12 Teacher in Arizona Schools (2013–14)

	Average	Median
Public	18.9	19.0
Private	10.8	10.0

Student-Teacher Ratios in Arizona Private Schools (1995–96 to 2013–14)



How many schools are religious and which denominations are represented?

Nearly three-fourths of Arizona private schools are religious in origin (72%; 166 of 230 schools). Arizona's private schools have consistently been mostly religious in origin, although the population of nonsectarian schools has decreased from 32 percent to 28 percent of the state's total private school marketplace. Of those schools that are religious, nearly one out of three are Roman Catholic (31%; 51 of 166 schools).

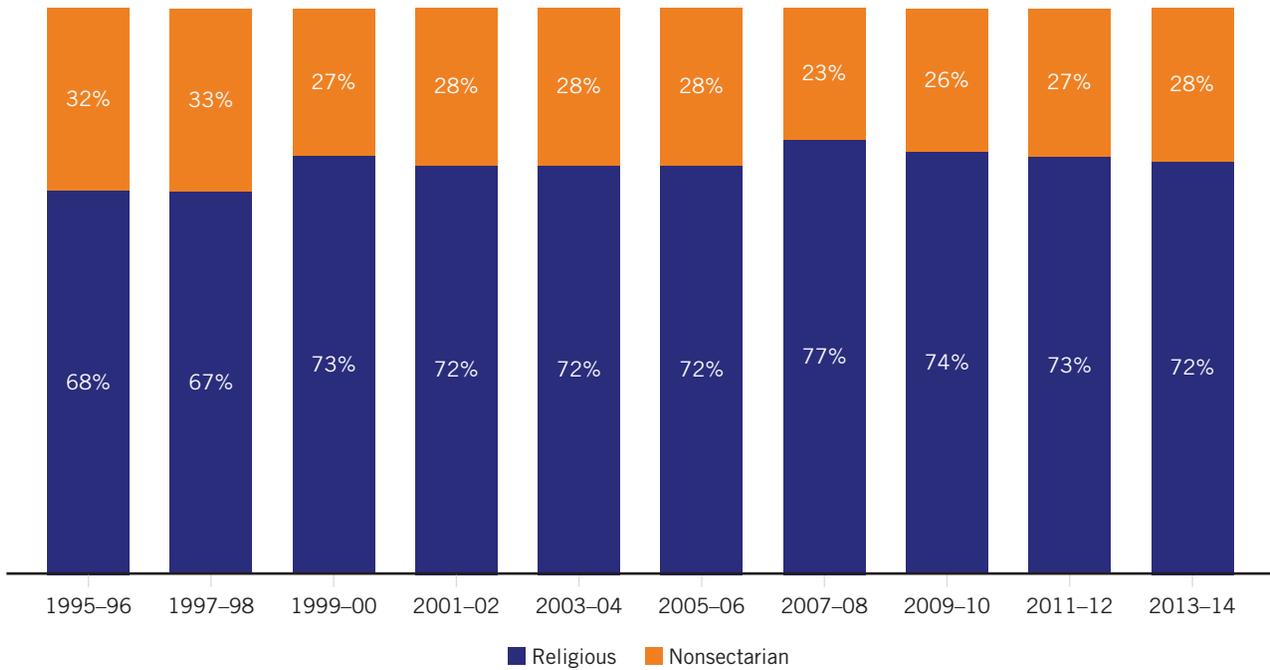
Of the top five religious groupings, the percent of Roman Catholic schools is the only one that seems to have significantly grown (47 of 248 schools in 1995–96; 51 of 230 in 2013–14). The percent of Arizona's private schools that self-identify as non-denominational Christian increased from slightly more than one out of six in 1995–96 (18%; 45 of 248 schools) to a little less than one out of five (19%; 43 of 230 schools). On average, over time, more than half of the private schools in Arizona (56%) have belonged to one of those five denominations: Roman Catholic, Christian (no specific denomination), Baptist, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Religiosity of Arizona Private Schools (2013–14)

	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Religious	166	72%
Nonsectarian	64	28%

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Religiosity of Arizona Private Schools (1995–96 to 2013–14)

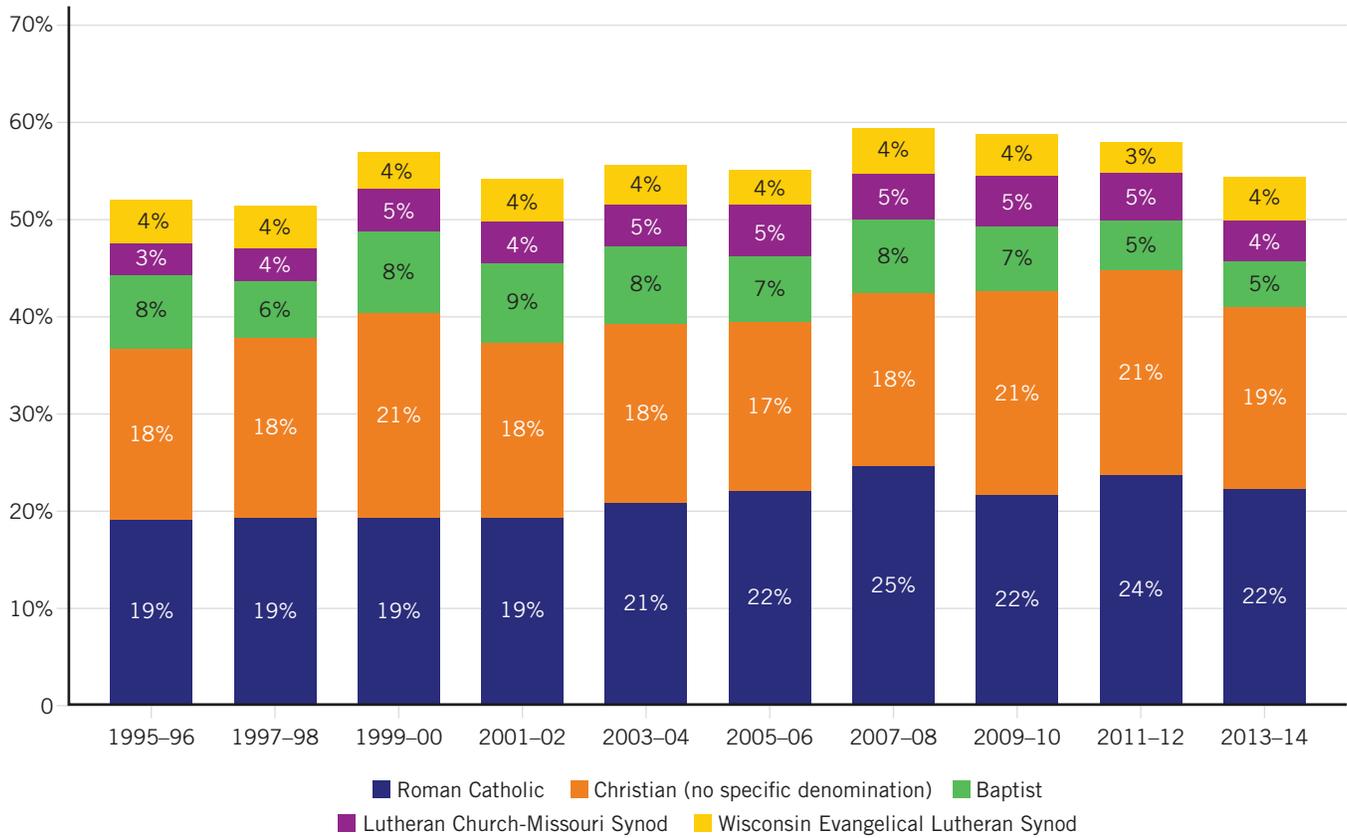


Five Most Common Denominations of Arizona Private Schools (2013–14)

Denomination	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Roman Catholic	51	22%
Christian (no specific denomination)	43	19%
Baptist	11	5%
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod	10	4%
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	10	4%

Continued...

Most Common Denominations of Arizona Private Schools (1995–96 to 2013–14)



How many schools belong to an association, and to what associations do they belong?

Nearly three out of four Arizona private schools belong to at least one association (73%; 169 of 230 schools). Of those schools, nearly one-third belong to the Association of Christian Schools International (30%; 51 of 169 schools).²⁹

Of Arizona private schools' top three individual association memberships in 2013–14, the proportion of schools belonging to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has grown over time, from 21 percent in 1995–96 (53 of 248 schools) to 22 percent (51 of 230 schools), as has the percentage of schools belonging to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), approximately one out of six schools in 1995–96 (17%; 43 of 248 schools) to nearly one out of five schools (18%; 42 of 230 schools). ACSI, NCEA, and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) have represented between two-fifths and one-half of the private schools in Arizona in each school year analyzed.

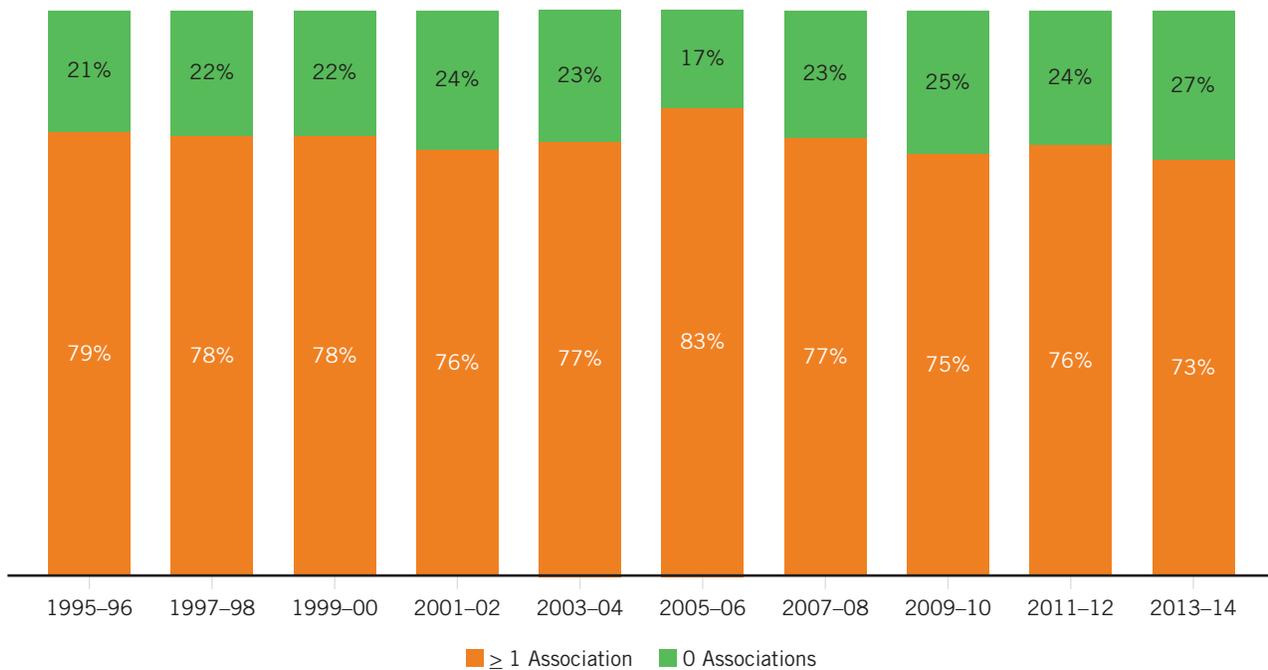
Because the PSS data only cover respondents, it is important to note that these numbers may not accurately reflect the associations' memberships. In 2016–17, ACSI had 60 members, NCEA had 57 members, and NAIS had 10 members.³⁰

Association Affiliation of Arizona Private Schools (2013–14)

Affiliation	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Belong to ≥ 1 Association	169	73%
Belong to 0 Associations	61	27%

Continued...

Association Affiliations of Arizona Private Schools (1995–96 to 2013–14)

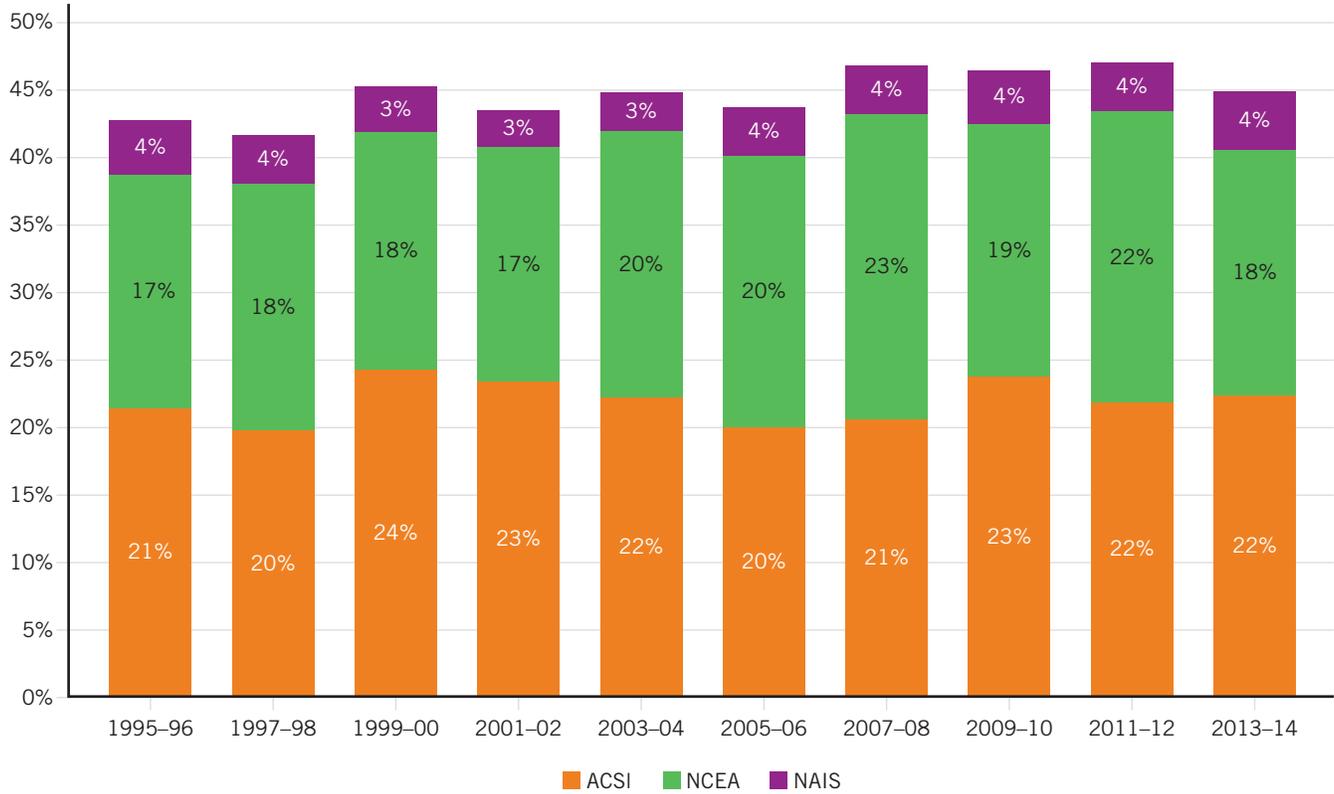


Eight Most Common Affiliations of Arizona Private Schools (2013–14)

Association	Number of Private Schools	Percent of State's Private Schools
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)	51	22%
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)	42	18%
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)	10	4%
Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) or (School of Tomorrow)	7	3%
National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA)	7	3%
State or Regional Independent School Association	7	3%
American Montessori Society (AMS)	6	3%
National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES)	6	3%

Continued...

Most Common Association Affiliations of Arizona Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



APPENDIX A: Response Rates Using AAPOR RR2

Question/Item	Number of Respondents	Response Rate
Contact Information*	167	35.1%
Enrollment and Capacity*	146	30.7%
Prekindergarten	89	18.7%
Kindergarten	108	22.7%
Elementary School	98	20.6%
Middle School	88	18.5%
High School	51	10.7%
Ungraded	13	2.7%
School Tuition and Fees*	145	30.5%
Prekindergarten	89	18.7%
Kindergarten	109	22.9%
Elementary School	99	20.8%
Middle School	89	18.7%
High School	53	11.1%
School Fees	116	24.4%
Registration/Application	111	23.3%
Textbooks	23	4.8%
Technology	10	2.1%
Transportation	3	0.6%
Uniforms	16	3.4%
Other	35	7.4%
Financial Aid	123	25.8%
Education Savings Accounts		
Familiarity	138	29.0%
Currently Participate	123	25.8%
Potential Current Program Participation	60	12.6%
Potential Universal ESA Participation	134	28.2%
Tax-Credit Scholarships		
Familiarity	134	28.2%
Currently Participate	129	27.1%
Potential Current Program Participation	12	2.5%
Rules and Regulations	124	26.1%
Accommodations for Students with Special Needs	116	24.4%
Building Safety and Security	117	24.6%
Curriculum and Instruction	118	24.8%
Financial Reporting and Disclosure	118	24.8%
Paperwork and Reporting	118	24.8%
School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines	120	25.2%
School Eligibility for Program	115	24.2%
Student Eligibility for Program	123	25.8%
Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure	118	24.8%
Testing and Accountability	118	24.8%
Tuition and Fees	115	24.2%
Other	14	2.9%
Standardized Assessments/Testing*	128	26.9%
Tests Administering*	95	20.0%
Grade Levels Tested	94	19.7%
Special Education*	127	26.7%
Percentage	95	20.0%
COMPLETED SURVEY	122	25.6%

*Response to this item was required in order to continue survey

APPENDIX B: PSS Respondent K-Terminal Schools

When included in the overall universe of Arizona private schools that responded to the most recent PSS survey, kindergarten-terminal (PK-K or K only) schools account for 21 percent of the total. Those 61 schools:

- Mostly serve both prekindergarteners and kindergarteners (97%; 59 of 61 schools),
- Serve more prekindergarteners than kindergarteners,
 - o 82 percent of students served are prekindergarteners
 - o 18 percent of students served are kindergarteners
 - o Less than 1 percent of students are ungraded
- Are mostly in Phoenix (30%; 18 of 61 schools),
- Are mostly in a city (62%; 39 of 61 schools),
- Have an average enrollment of 73 students and a median enrollment of 64 students,
- Serve mostly white students (68%),
- Serve students for an average of 6.1 hours per day for an average of 185 days per year,
- Have an average of 7.7 students per teacher and a median of 6.0 students per teacher,
- Are predominately nonsectarian (59%; 36 of 61 schools), and
 - o Seven schools are Christian (no specific denomination)
 - o Three schools are Baptist
 - o Two schools are Roman Catholic, and
 - o Two schools belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Nearly half belong to at least one association (46%; 28 of 61 schools).
 - o 11 percent (7 of 61 schools) belong to the American Montessori Society (AMS)
 - o 10 percent (6 of 61 schools) belong to the Association Montessori International
 - o 10 percent (6 of 61 schools) belong to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - o 5 percent (3 of 61 schools) belong to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

NOTES

1. Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice: The Comprehensive Guide to Every Private School Choice Program in America*, 2016 ed. (Indianapolis: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2016), p. 11, <http://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-ABCs-WEB-1.pdf>.
2. Ibid., pp. 13-15.
3. Ibid., p. 17.
4. “Empowerment Scholarship Account Program,” Ariz. Dept. of Education, accessed Nov. 29, 2016, <http://www.azed.gov/esa>.
5. “Private Schools,” Ariz. Dept. of Education, accessed Nov. 29, 2016, <http://www.azed.gov/private-schools>.
6. Stephen P. Broughman and Nancy L. Swaim, *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2013–14 Private School Universe Survey*, NCES 2016-243 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 15, p. 21, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016243.pdf>.
7. This is only the number of respondents that entered at least enrollment and capacity data. There were 122 respondents that completed the entire survey. One school that submitted a response saying it closed, four respondents that did not meet the criteria for inclusion, and 14 duplicate entries were removed from the dataset.
8. EdChoice incentivized schools to complete the survey by entering them into a randomized drawing to win a \$1,000 gift card or one of five \$200 gift cards.
9. Braun Research assisted with list compilation, missing email address collection, email address verification, and calling remaining non-respondents to ensure email was received and to further encourage participation.
10. “Private School Universe Survey (PSS),” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Nov. 28, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp>.
11. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013–14 school year, accessed Aug. 30, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch>.
12. See note 6 above.
13. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013–14 school year, accessed Aug. 30, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch>. “Ungraded students are those who are not assigned to a particular grade level (kindergarten, first grade, second grade, etc.) For example, special education centers and alternative schools often classify their students as ungraded. Students in Montessori schools are also considered ungraded if the school assigns them to ‘primary’ and ‘intermediate’ levels instead of specific grades.” Stephen P. Broughman and Nancy L. Swaim, *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2011-12 Private School Universe Survey*, NCES 2013-316 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), pp. A-3-4, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013316.pdf>.
14. “A school is kindergarten-terminal (K-terminal) if kindergarten is the highest grade offered at the school.” Broughman and Swaim, *Results From the 2011-12 Private School Universe Survey*, p. A-1.
15. Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice*, p. 5.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid., pp. 11-19.
18. Students with special needs were defined on the survey as those having autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, or other health impairments.
19. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), “Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey,” 2012-13 v.1a, “Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey,” 2013-14 v.1a, and “State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey,” 2013-14 v.1a, accessed Nov. 28, 2016 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>.
20. Maricopa County accounted for 125 of 249 PSS respondents the author examined in 2011–12, 123 of 264 in 2009–10, 139 of 253 in 2007–08, 151 of 270 in 2005–06, 141 of 261 in 2003–04, 150 of 270 in 2001–02, 129 of 239 in 1999–00, 130 of 255 in 1997–98, and 122 of 248 in 1995–96. Pima County accounted for 46 of 249 PSS respondents the author examined in 2011–12, 47 of 264 in 2009–10, 51 of 253 in 2007–08, 57 of 270 in 2005–06, 54 of 261 in 2003–04, 57 of 270 in 2001–02, 49 of 239 in 1999–00, 57 of 255 in 1997–98, and 56 of 248 in 1995–96. Yavapai County accounted for 14 of 249 PSS respondents the author examined in 2011–12, 9 of 264 in 2009–10, 14 of 253 in 2007–08, 14 of 270 in 2005–06, 15 of 261 in 2003–04, 16 of 270 in 2001–02, 10 of 239 in 1999–00, 14 of 255 in 1997–98, and 12 of 248 in 1995–96.
21. National Center for Education Statistics, *2011-12 Private School Universe Survey Public-Use Codebook* (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2014), <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/pdf/codebook20112012.pdf>. A city is defined as territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city; a suburb is defined as territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area; a town is defined as territory inside an urban cluster; and rural is defined as a Census-defined rural territory. “Locale Codes,” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Nov. 28, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/commonfiles/localedescription.asp>.
22. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), “Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey,” 2013-14 v.1a and “State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey,” 2013-14 v.1a, accessed July 11, 2016 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>; Broughman and Lenore A. Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey, 1995-96*, NCES 98-229 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1998), table 17, p. 22, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs98/98229.pdf>; Broughman and Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey, 1997-98*, NCES 1999-319 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 22, p. 27, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs99/1999319.pdf>; Broughman and Colaciello, *Private School Universe Survey: 1999-2000*, NCES 2001-330 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics), table 22, p. 26, <http://nces.ed.gov/>

pubs2001/2001330.pdf; US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, “Private School Universe Survey (PSS) – Data Tables – High School Graduates,” accessed Nov. 28, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/tables1112.asp>.

23. Author’s calculations; Ibid.

24. Does not include 30 PK-only, seven K-terminal schools, or 71 schools without this data. “Search for Public Schools,” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Nov. 22, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/index.asp>.

25. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), “Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey,” 2013–14 v.1a and “State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey,” 2013–14 v.1a, accessed Nov. 22, 2016 via ELSi *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>. Male and female are the only options presented on the federal surveys.

26. Author’s calculations; Ibid.

27. Ibid.; “American FactFinder,” United States Census Bureau, 2006 ACS and 2013 ACS 1-year estimates, table DP05, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>.

28. Does not include 30 PK-only, seven K-terminal schools, or 885 schools without this data. “Search for Public Schools,” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Nov. 22, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/index.asp>.

29. The only specific school associations that the PSS has as options are Accelerated Christian Education (ACE), the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS), the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS), the Association of Classical and Christian Schools (ACCS), Christian Schools International (CSI), the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA), Friends Council on Education (FCE), the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC), the Islamic School League of America (ISLA), the Jesuit Secondary Education Association (JSEA), the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES), the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the National Christian School Association (NCSA), the National Society of Hebrew Day Schools (Torah U’Mesorah), Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF), The Jewish Community Day School Network (RAVSAK), the Solomon Schechter Day Schools Association (SSDSA), the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools (SBACS), the American Montessori Society (AMS), Association Montessori International (AMI), the Association of Military Colleges and Schools (AMCS), the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA), the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC), the European Council for International Schools (ECIS), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of Laboratory Schools (NALS), the National Coalition of Girls’ Schools (NCGS), the Alternative School Network (ASN), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools (NCACS), the National Independent Private School Association (NIPSA), and The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS).

30. “Find a School,” Association of Christian Schools International, accessed Nov. 28, 2016, <https://www.acsi.org/member-search/index>; “School Locator,” National Catholic Educational Association, accessed Nov. 28, 2016, http://www.ncea.org/NCEA/School_Locator/NCEA/School_Locator.aspx; “NAIS School Search,” National Association of Independent Schools, accessed Nov. 28, 2016, <http://www.nais.org/Users/Pages/SchoolSearch.aspx>.

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Andrew D. Catt is the director of state research and policy analysis for EdChoice. In that role, Drew conducts analyses on private school choice programs, conducts surveys of private school leaders, and supports quality control as EdChoice’s research and data verifier.



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All remaining errors are mine. The views expressed in this report are the author’s and do not necessarily represent the views of EdChoice.

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The author welcomes any and all questions related to methods and findings.



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