

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 343 946

TM 019 127

TITLE American Education at a Glance.
 INSTITUTION National Center for Education Statistics (ED),
 Washington, DC.
 REPORT NO NCES-92-696
 PUB DATE Mar 92
 NOTE 13p.
 PUB TYPE Statistical Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
 DESCRIPTORS Educational Attainment; Educational Finance;
 *Educational Trends; Elementary Secondary Education;
 *Enrollment; Graphs; Higher Education; *Private
 Schools; *Public Schools; *School Statistics; Tables
 (Data); Teacher Salaries; Trend Analysis

IDENTIFIERS Fact Sheets

ABSTRACT

This brochure presents essential facts about educational trends in the United States in table or graph form. Trends are detailed in 16 tables and six graphs related to the following: (1) participation in education; (2) number of schools; (3) enrollment; (4) teachers; (5) revenues; (6) expenditures; and (7) educational attainment. Over 25% of the people in the United States are students or are employed by schools or colleges. About 15,400 school districts operated over 83,000 public elementary schools and secondary schools in 1989. There were about 26,800 private elementary schools and secondary schools and about 3,500 colleges and universities. After years of decline, public elementary school and secondary school enrollment began to rise in 1985, as did enrollment in higher education. Mean salaries for the nation's more than 2.7 million elementary school and secondary school teachers have risen steadily, although more slowly than the inflation rate of the late 1970s and more rapidly than the inflation rate of the 1980s. In 1979, the state share of revenues for schools rose above the local share for the first time. The Federal share has remained relatively small. Expenditures for both elementary and secondary education and higher education were rising in 1989. Dropout rates for blacks and all students were declining; and the numbers of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees were increasing. Five sources for the data are listed, including preeminently NCES's "Digest of Education Statistics, 1991."

 * Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
 * from the original document. *

AMERICAN EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

ED343946

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

- This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
- Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

National Center for Education Statistics
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education

TM018127

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1. Participation in Education

- Over 25% of the people in the United States are students or are employed by schools or colleges.

| Education participants | Fall 1999 (estimated, in millions) |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Number of students | |
| Elementary and secondary | 46.2 |
| Higher education | 14.0 |
| Teachers and faculty | 3.5 |
| Nonteaching staff | 3.8 |
| Total participants | 67.5 |
| Total population | 250.4 |

2. Number of Schools

- About 15,400 school districts operated over 83,000 public elementary and secondary schools in 1989.
- There were approximately 26,800 privately operated elementary and secondary schools in 1987.
- There were approximately 3,500 colleges and universities in 1989.

| Elementary and secondary schools | Public fall 1989 | Private fall 1987 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Elementary | 59,757 | 16,936 |
| Secondary | 20,359 | 2,395 |
| Combined | 2,280 | 6,023 |
| Other schools* | 1,029 | 1,453 |
| Total | 83,425 | 26,807 |

* Includes special education, alternative, and others not reported by grade span.

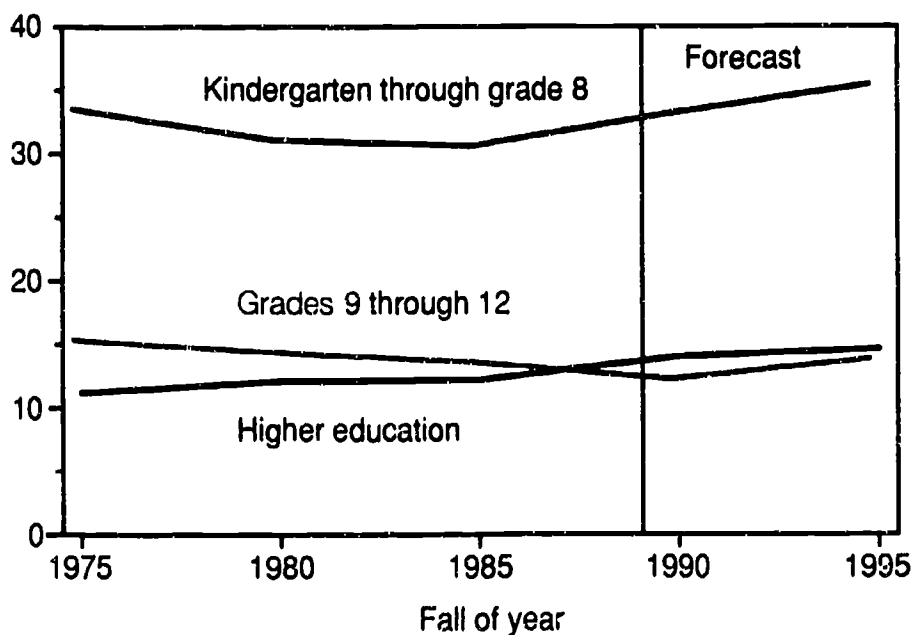
| | Fall 1989 | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Colleges and universities | Total | Public | Private |
| 4-year colleges | 2,127 | 595 | 1,532 |
| 2-year colleges | 1,408 | 968 | 440 |
| Total | 3,535 | 1,563 | 1,972 |

3. Enrollment

- After years of decline, public elementary and secondary (el/sec) school enrollment began rising again in 1985.
- Private school enrollment has remained relatively stable since 1980.
- Higher education enrollment has continued to increase during the past two decades despite a drop in the traditional college-age population beginning in the early 1980s.

Enrollment in all public and private elementary and secondary schools, and higher education

Number of students
(millions)



Enrollment in fall
(students, in millions)

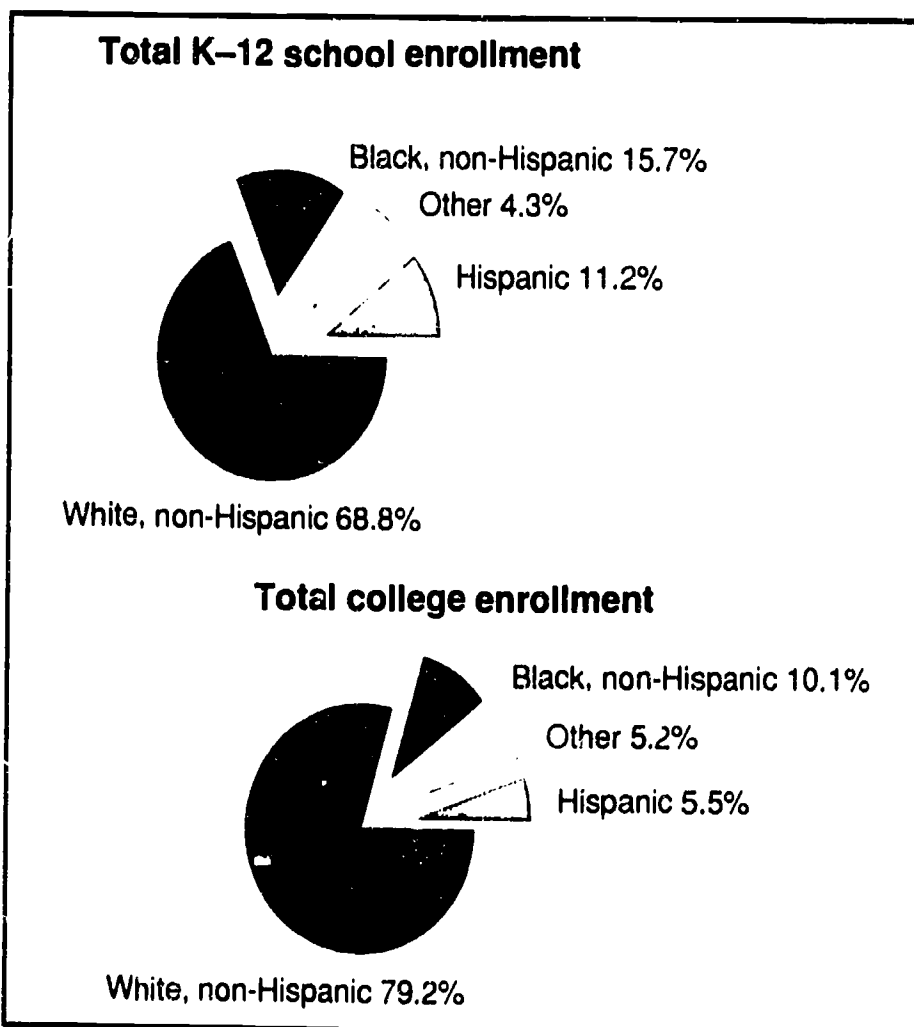
| | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 ¹ | 1995 ² |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Elementary (K-8) | 34.2 | 31.7 | 31.2 | 33.8 | 36.1 |
| Public | 30.5 | 27.7 | 27.0 | 29.7 | 31.8 |
| Private | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| Secondary (9-12) | 15.6 | 14.5 | 13.8 | 12.4 | 14.0 |
| Public | 14.3 | 13.2 | 12.4 | 11.3 | 12.7 |
| Private | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Total el/sec (K-12) | 49.8 | 46.2 | 45.0 | 46.2 | 50.1 |
| Public | 44.8 | 40.9 | 39.4 | 41.0 | 44.4 |
| Private | 5.0 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.6 |
| Higher education | 11.2 | 12.1 | 12.2 | 14.0 | 14.6 |
| Public | 8.8 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 10.9 | 11.4 |
| Private | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Total | 61.0 | 58.3 | 57.2 | 60.2 | 64.7 |

¹ Estimated.

² Projected.

- In 1990, 27 percent of elementary and secondary students were black or Hispanic while 16 percent of college students were black or Hispanic.

Student race/ethnicity, 1990



| Student race/ethnicity | % Distribution in fall ¹ | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | 1975 ² | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 |
| Public and private el/sec enrollment | | | | |
| White, non-Hispanic | 77.4 | 74.4 | 71.3 | 68.8 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 14.4 | 15.2 | 15.5 | 15.7 |
| Hispanic | 6.6 | 8.1 | 9.7 | 11.2 |
| Other | 1.7 | 2.3 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| Public and private higher education enrollment | | | | |
| White, non-Hispanic | 84.0 | 83.1 | 81.0 | 79.2 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 9.6 | 9.9 | 9.5 | 10.1 |
| Hispanic | 4.2 | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.5 |
| Other | 2.3 | 2.8 | 4.2 | 5.2 |

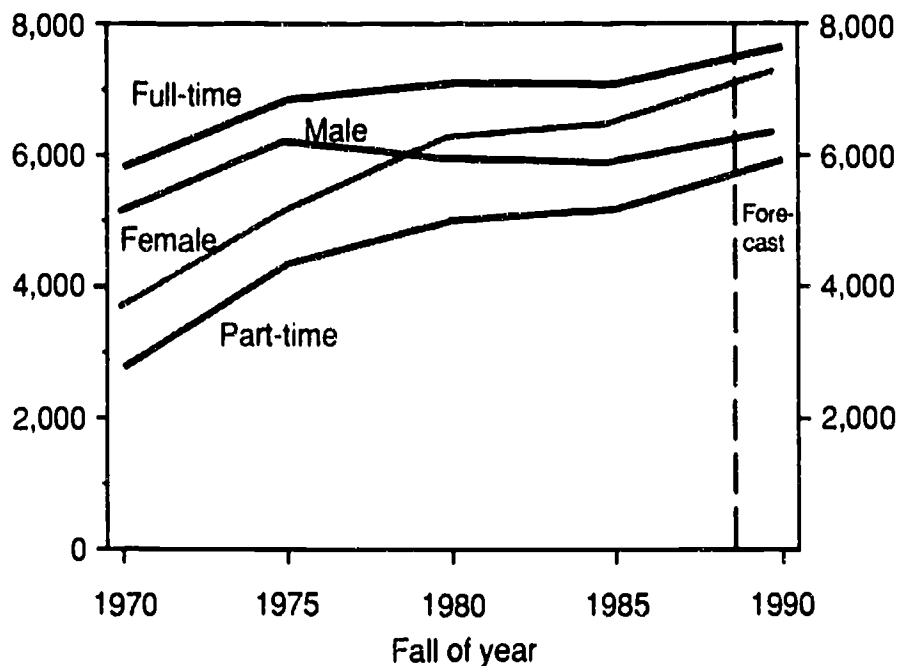
¹ Data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

² Excludes persons 35 years old and older.

- The rise in higher education is partially due to a substantial increase in the number of women, older students, and part-time students attending college.

Enrollment in higher education, by sex and attendance status

Enrollment (in thousands)



Total higher education enrollment

| | % Distribution in fall | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1990* |
| Male | 58.8 | 55.0 | 48.6 | 47.5 | 45.3 |
| Female | 41.2 | 45.0 | 51.4 | 52.5 | 54.7 |
| Full-time | 67.8 | 61.2 | 58.7 | 57.8 | 56.9 |
| Part-time | 32.2 | 38.8 | 41.3 | 42.2 | 43.1 |
| 14-21 years old | 55.2 | 47.4 | 46.1 | 42.6 | 41.4 |
| 22-29 years old | 29.5 | 31.5 | 31.9 | 31.7 | 30.0 |
| 30 years old & older | 15.3 | 21.0 | 22.0 | 25.7 | 28.6 |

* Estimated.

4. Teachers

Number of elementary and secondary teachers

| Fall of year | Total | Public | Private |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 1960 | 1,600,000 | 1,408,000 | 192,000 |
| 1965 | 1,933,000 | 1,710,000 | 223,000 |
| 1970 | 2,288,000 | 2,055,000 | 233,000 |
| 1975 | 2,451,000 | 2,196,000 | 255,000 |
| 1980 | 2,485,000 | 2,184,000 | 301,000 |
| 1985 | 2,550,000 | 2,207,000 | 343,000 |
| 1986 | 2,592,000 | 2,244,000 | 348,000 |
| 1987 | 2,631,000 | 2,279,000 | 353,000 |
| 1988 | 2,668,000 | 2,323,000 | 345,000 |
| 1989 | 2,734,000 | 2,356,000 | 377,000 |
| 1990 ² | 2,744,000 | 2,391,000 | 353,000 |

¹ Estimated.

² Preliminary.

- In the fall of 1989, there were over 2.7 million elementary and secondary school teachers in public and private schools.
- Over the past 20 years, the number of teachers has risen despite declining numbers of students.
- Since 1970, the faculty in public institutions of higher education has increased at a faster rate than the faculty at private institutions.

Number of faculty in institutions of higher education¹

| Fall of year | Total | Public | Private |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1970 | 474,000 | 314,000 | 160,000 |
| 1975 ² | 628,000 | 443,000 | 185,000 |
| 1980 ² | 686,000 | 495,000 | 191,000 |
| 1985 ² | 715,000 | 503,000 | 212,000 |
| 1990 ² | 762,000 | 539,000 | 223,000 |

¹ Includes all full-time and part-time, junior and senior faculty.

² Estimated.

- Although mean salaries for public school teachers have risen steadily since 1976, they rose more slowly than the inflation rate between 1976 and 1980 and faster than the inflation rate in the 1980s.

Salaries in public schools and higher education

| | School year ending | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 1976 | 1980 | 1988 | 1990 |
| | (constant 1989-90 dollars) | | | |
| Teachers ¹ | | | | |
| Average | \$27,535 | \$24,931 | \$29,317 | \$31,315 |
| Beginning | 19,024 | 17,433 | 19,372 | 20,476 |
| Higher education faculty ² | 38,085 | 34,947 | 39,347 | 39,965 |

¹ Figures from the American Federation of Teachers.

² Includes full-time instructional faculty at public and private institutions.

- The percentage of female el/sec public school teachers has been between 65% and 70% for the last 20 years.
- The percentage of black teachers was about 8% in 1987, considerably lower than the proportion of black students. About 87% of all public el/sec teachers are white.

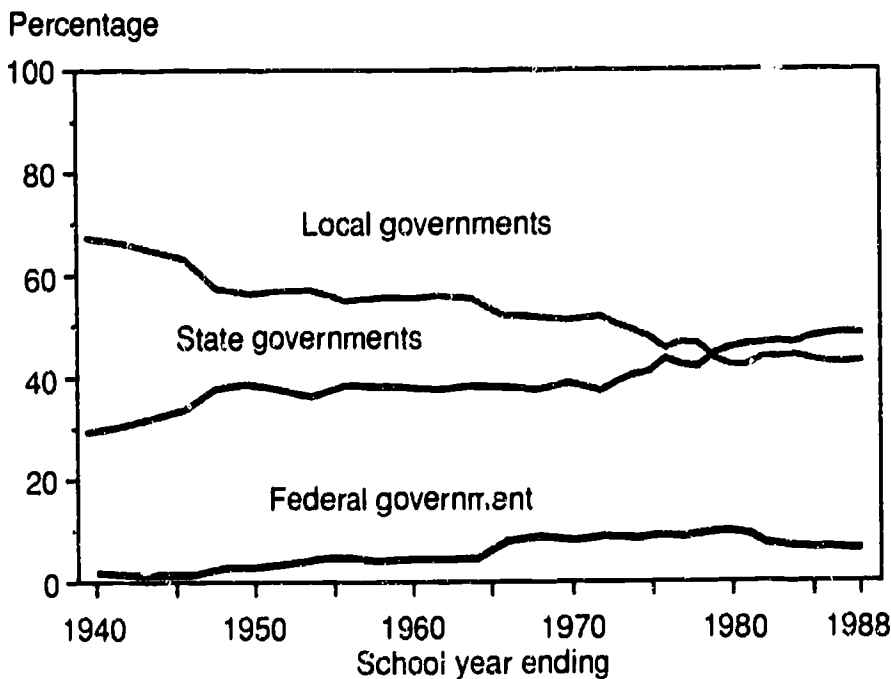
Public el/sec school teachers, by sex

| | % Distribution in fall | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1966 | 1971 | 1976 | 1981 | 1986 | 1987 |
| Male | 31.1 | 34.3 | 32.9 | 33.1 | 31.2 | 29.5 |
| Female | 69.0 | 65.7 | 67.0 | 66.9 | 68.8 | 70.5 |

5. Revenues

- In 1979, a historic shift occurred when the state share of elementary and secondary school revenues rose above the local share for the first time. The federal share for elementary and secondary schools has always been relatively small.

Revenues for public elementary and secondary schools, by source



- Despite dramatic tuition increases in recent years, tuition accounted for only about 15% of all revenues at public institutions in 1987 and for about 40% at private ones.

Sources of higher education revenues: 1987-88*

| | Percent distribution | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Tuition | Federal | State | Local | Other |
| Public | 15.0 | 10.3 | 43.4 | 3.7 | 27.6 |
| Private | 39.1 | 16.6 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 41.1 |

* Preliminary data.

- Beginning in 1982, inflation-adjusted current expenditures¹ per student in public elementary/secondary schools began rising, reaching an estimated record high of \$4,929 in 1990.
- Higher education expenditures² per student dropped between 1980 and 1982 after adjustment for inflation, but then started rising again with expenditures increasing more quickly at private institutions than at public institutions.

| School year ending | Expenditures per student in current dollars | | | Expenditures per student in 1989-91 dollars | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| | Public el/sec ¹ | Higher education ² Public | Private | Public el/sec ¹ | Higher education ² Public | Private |
| 1975 | 1,365 | \$3,951 | \$6,217 | 3,345 | \$9,687 | \$15,242 |
| 1980 | 2,272 | 5,908 | 9,140 | 3,716 | 9,663 | 14,949 |
| 1985 | 3,470 | 8,720 | 14,006 | 4,166 | 10,469 | 16,815 |
| 1987 | 3,970 | 9,981 | 16,670 | 4,532 | 11,394 | 19,029 |
| 1988 | ³ 4,240 | ³ 10,471 | ³ 17,940 | ³ 4,648 | ³ 11,477 | ³ 19,664 |
| 1989 | ⁴ 4,639 | — | — | ⁴ 4,860 | — | — |
| 1990 | ⁴ 4,929 | — | — | ⁴ 4,929 | — | — |

— Not available.

¹ Current expenditures exclude capital outlay and interest on school debt.

² Current-fund expenditures are monies spent to meet current operating costs. They exclude capital expenditures, interest on school debts, loans, and investments. Constant dollars computed using the Consumer Price Index.

³ Preliminary.

⁴ Estimated.

- Total expenditures for all educational institutions account for about 7 percent of the gross national product (GNP).
- After rising rapidly between 1959 and 1969, the proportion of GNP spent on education dipped slightly during the 1970s as enrollment in elementary and secondary schools declined.

| Calendar year | GNP in billions | School year ending | Expenditures ¹ | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| | | | in billions | As % GNP |
| 1959 | \$495.8 | 1960 | \$23.9 | 4.8 |
| 1969 | 963.9 | 1970 | 68.5 | 7.1 |
| 1979 | 2,508.2 | 1980 | 165.6 | 6.6 |
| 1980 | 2,732.0 | 1981 | 182.8 | 6.7 |
| 1985 | 4,014.9 | 1986 | 269.5 | 6.7 |
| 1986 | 4,231.6 | 1987 | 291.8 | 6.9 |
| 1987 | 4,515.6 | 1988 | ² 313.0 | 6.9 |
| 1988 | 4,873.7 | 1989 | ³ 340.6 | 7.0 |
| 1989 | 5,200.8 | 1990 | ³ 365.4 | 7.0 |
| 1990 | 5,463.6 | 1991 | ³ 392.6 | 7.2 |

¹ Includes all expenditures on public and private elementary, secondary, and higher education.

² Preliminary.

³ Estimated.

7. Educational Attainment

- The dropout rate among blacks 16 to 24 years old dropped from 28 percent in 1970 to 13 percent in 1990. The dropout rate for all 16- to 24-year-olds was 12 percent in 1990, down from 15 percent in 1970.

Percent of high school dropouts among persons 16 to 24 years old¹

| School year ending | Percent of persons who dropped out | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | All races | White ² | Black ² | Hispanic ³ |
| 1970 | 15.0 | 13.2 | 27.9 | --- |
| 1975 | 13.9 | 12.6 | 22.8 | 29.2 |
| 1980 | 14.1 | 13.3 | 19.3 | 35.2 |
| 1985 | 12.6 | 12.2 | 15.7 | 27.6 |
| 1986 | 12.1 | 11.9 | 13.7 | 30.0 |
| 1987 | 12.7 | 12.5 | 14.5 | 28.6 |
| 1988 | 12.9 | 12.7 | 14.9 | 35.8 |
| 1989 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 13.8 | 33.0 |
| 1990 | 12.1 | 12.0 | 13.2 | 32.4 |

¹ "Status" dropouts are persons who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates.

² Includes persons of Hispanic origin.

³ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

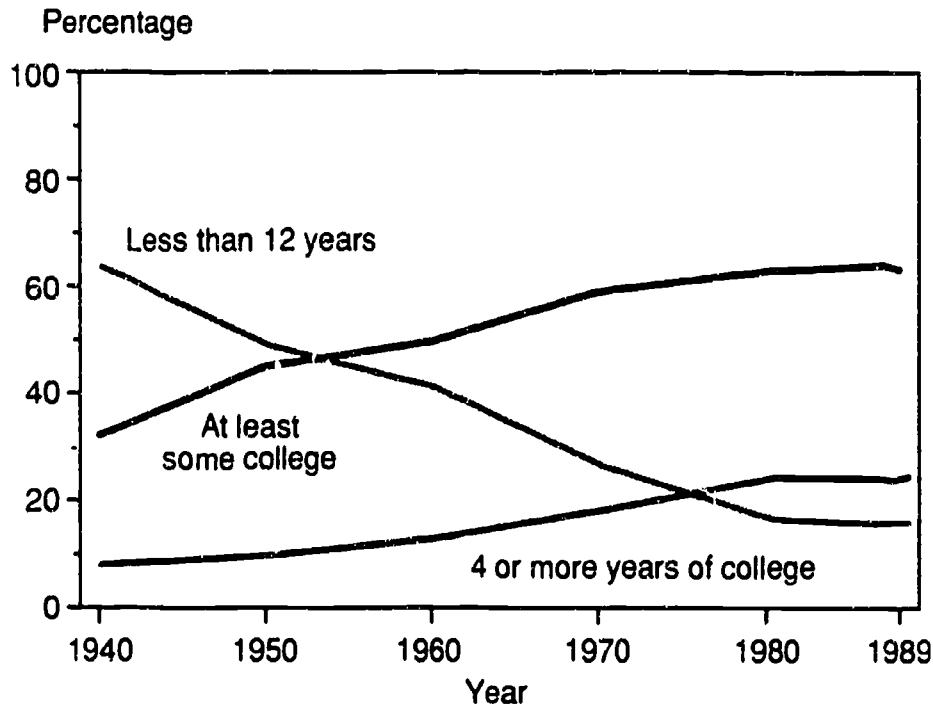
- Many people who do not complete high school by age 17 or 18 later receive high school diplomas or receive high school equivalency certificates after passing tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) test, thus boosting the high school completion rate for older Americans.

| Year | Level of school completed | | | |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | % Ages 25 to 29 | | % Ages 25 and over | |
| | H.S. or more ¹ | 4 or more years of college | H.S. or more ¹ | 4 or more years of college |
| 1940 | 38.1 | 5.9 | 24.5 | 4.6 |
| 1950 | 52.8 | 7.7 | 34.3 | 6.2 |
| 1960 | 60.7 | 11.0 | 41.1 | 7.7 |
| 1970 | 75.4 | 16.4 | 55.2 | 11.0 |
| 1980 | 85.4 | 22.5 | 68.6 | 17.0 |
| 1986 | 86.1 | 22.4 | 74.7 | 19.4 |
| 1987 | 86.0 | 22.0 | 75.6 | 19.9 |
| 1988 | 85.9 | 22.7 | 76.2 | 20.3 |
| 1989 | 85.5 | 23.4 | 76.9 | 21.1 |

¹ Includes recipients of high school equivalency certificates.

- The education level of the U.S. adult population has been increasing since 1940. However, among young adults (ages 25–29), levels have not increased significantly since 1980.

Highest level of school completed by 25- to 29-year-olds



- Between 1988 and 1989 the number of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees increased, while the number of first-professional degrees remained the same.

| Academic school year ending | | | | | First profes- |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|--------|---------------|
| | AA/AS | BA/BS | MA/MS | Ph.D. | sional |
| 1971 | 252,610 | 429,730 | 230,509 | 32,107 | 37,946 |
| 1976 | 391,454 | 425,746 | 311,771 | 34,064 | 62,649 |
| 1981 | 416,377 | 535,140 | 295,739 | 32,958 | 71,956 |
| 1986 | 440,047 | 987,823 | 288,567 | 33,653 | 73,910 |
| 1987 | 437,137 | 991,339 | 289,557 | 34,120 | 72,750 |
| 1988 | 435,085 | 994,829 | 299,317 | 34,870 | 70,735 |
| 1989 ¹ | 435,210 | 1,017,367 | 309,762 | 35,759 | 70,758 |
| 1990 ² | 445,000 | 1,043,000 | 319,000 | 38,000 | 71,000 |

¹ Preliminary.
² Estimated.

AA/AS: Associate of arts, associate of sciences degrees.
 BA/BS: Bachelor of arts, bachelor of sciences degrees.
 MA/MS: Master of arts, master of sciences degrees.
 Ph.D.: Doctor of philosophy degrees.
 First Professional: Chiropractic, dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, theology, and veterinary medicine degrees.

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) collects and analyzes education statistics and disseminates information to parents, students, teachers, administrators, policymakers, researchers, and the media.

Much of the source data for NCES books is available on **data tapes** (some on diskette). For additional information about data sets call **1-800-424-1616** or, in the Washington, D.C. area, 626-9854.

Note

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

This brochure is in the public domain and may be reprinted. The U.S. Department of Education does not endorse any private business or organization mentioned herein.

Sources

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), *Digest of Education Statistics, 1991*.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, various years; *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 429; Series P-25, various years; and unpublished data. Data from very early years are from the decennial census of the population.

National Education Association, *Status of the American Public School Teacher, 1985-86*.

American Federation of Teachers, *Survey and Analysis of Salary Trends, 1976 to 1990*.

Council of Economic Advisers, *Economic Indicators*.

March 1992



United States
Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20208-5650

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300



Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department of Education
Permit No. G-17

FIRST CLASS