

Council for American Private Education

CAPE outlook

Voice of America's private schools

Private School Enrollment Growth Outpaces National Average

Enrollment growth in private elementary and secondary schools outpaced overall national trends between 1990 and 2003 and is projected to continue to do so between 2003 and 2015, according to a government report released last month.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported that private school enrollment “increased 23 percent between 1990 and 2003, and is projected to increase an additional 7 percent between 2003 and 2015.” This compares to

a 17.8 percent increase and a 5.5 percent projected increase during the same periods for public schools.

The new report, entitled *Projections of Education Statistics to 2015*, notes that total elementary and secondary school enrollment in public and private schools “reached a record 55 million” in 2003, up 18.4 percent since 1990. NCES predicts that national enrollment records will continue to be set each year to 2015, projecting a total increase of 5.7 percent between 2003 and 2015, about one-third the growth rate from 1990 to 2003.

The report’s regional projections for public schools call for increases in the South and West, and decreases in the Northeast and Midwest. Regional data were not available for private schools.

In 1990 private schools enrolled 5.2 million students in grades PK-12, accounting for 11.3 percent of total school enrollment. By 2003 the count rose to 6.4 million and an 11.7 percent enrollment share, and by 2015 it is expected to climb to 6.9 million and 11.9 percent.

Elementary and Secondary

Last month’s report shows that enrollment trends are playing out differently at the PK-8 and 9-12 grade levels. Overall enrollment rose 15.6 percent between 1990 and 2003 in grades PK-8. In the same grades in private schools, enrollment jumped 24 percent from 4.08 to 5.07 million students. From 2003 to 2015, total PK-8 enrollment is expected to increase 6.7 percent, while private school enrollment should climb 7.6 percent from 5.07 to 5.45 million. In 1990 private schools served 12 percent of PK-8 students nationally; in 2003 they served 12.9 percent, and in 2015 they are expected to serve 13 percent.

Meanwhile in grades 9-12, although total national enrollment jumped a whop-

Path to High-Ranking Colleges

The Wall Street Journal published an article last month on private school enrollment trends that included findings from its own survey of college admission officers at 19 Ivy League and “other high-ranking” colleges and universities. The survey looked at the share of enrolled freshmen who came from private schools and the share who came from public schools. Below are the findings for the Class of 2010

COLLEGE	CLASS OF 2010	
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
Amherst College	58%	41%
Bowdoin College	51	49
Brown University	58	39
Columbia University	57	43
Cornell University	69	23
Dartmouth College	66	34
Duke University	68	32
Georgetown University	49	51
Middlebury College	53	47
MIT	69	21
Northwestern University	78	22
Pomona College	64	35
Princeton University	61	39
Stanford University	67	33
Swarthmore College	63	29
University of California, Berkeley	87	13
University of Chicago	63	29
University of Pennsylvania	52	48
Yale University	54	46

The average of the column of private school percentages is 35 percent. But here’s a bit of context the WSJ neglected to provide: Private schools nationally enroll only 9 percent of all secondary school students. It is no small matter when 9 percent of the student pool produces 35 percent of elite-college entrants.

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CAPE member organizations:

- Agudath Israel of America
- American Montessori Society
- Association Montessori International—USA
- Association of Christian Schools International
- Association of Waldorf Schools of N.A.
- Christian Schools International
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Friends Council on Education
- Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- National Association of Episcopal Schools
- National Association of Independent Schools
- National Catholic Educational Association
- National Christian School Association
- Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship
- Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- 28 Affiliated State Organizations

a coalition of national associations serving private schools K-12
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Congress Approves “FEMA Fix” Legislation

The House and Senate voted September 29 to amend the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (Stafford Act) to provide direct federal aid for the repair, restoration, and replacement of private nonprofit educational facilities that are destroyed or damaged by a major disaster. The amendment was included in the fiscal 2007 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Unlike public schools, private schools devastated by earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, or hurricanes were not able to get a direct grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for permanent work on damaged facilities. They first had to apply for a loan from the Small Business Administration and then could only apply for a FEMA grant for the amount not covered by the loan. The amendment approved by Congress defines education as a “critical service,” thereby allowing private educational institutions at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels that may be affected by any FEMA-declared disaster to be reimbursed

directly by FEMA.

CAPE and other organizations representing private schools and colleges have been advocating for the so-called “FEMA fix” in the aftermath of last year’s Gulf Coast hurricanes, which provided a tragic illustration of the inequity of FEMA assistance to private schools. Advocates argued that private schools, which are every bit as important as public schools to the recovery and revitalization of a community destroyed by a disaster, should be treated the same as their public counterparts when it comes to funds for the repair, restoration, and replacement of facilities.

Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL) introduced bipartisan legislation in the House last December to provide equitable FEMA assistance to private schools and to apply that assistance with respect to any major disaster declared from Hurricane Katrina onward. Soon thereafter, Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Unlike the Landrieu/Meek proposal, the legislation approved by Congress does not apply retroactively.

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ping 25.9 percent between 1990 and 2003, the rate is predicted to slow down to 3.2 percent between 2003 and 2015. Comparable rates in

from school authorities, by the granting of a diploma, for completing a prescribed course of study.” According to the report, “The number of private high school graduates increased 14 percent between 1990-01 and 2002-03, and is projected to increase an additional 8 percent between 2002-03 and 2015-16.” By contrast, the number of public high school graduates is expected to go up 5 percent between 2002-03 and 2015-16, even though it increased 22 percent between 1990-91 and 2002-03. In 2002-03 private schools accounted for 9.8 percent of the nation’s high school graduates; in 2015-16 the private school share of graduates should see an uptick to 10 percent.

Actual and Projected Percentage Increases in PK-12 Enrollment		
Years	Public Schools	Private Schools
1990-2003	17.8	23.2
2003-2015	5.5	6.8

Source: NCES, *Projections of Education Statistics to 2015*

grades 9-12 for private schools are 20.3 percent between 1990 and 2003 and 4.1 percent between 2003 and 2015. In 1990 private schools enrolled 1.15 million students in grades 9-12, or 9.2 percent of 9-12 students in schools. In 2003 the enrollment figure climbed to 1.38 million, but the share dropped to 8.8 percent. By 2015 the private school student count is expected to be 1.44 million, and enrollment share should snap up slightly to 8.9 percent.

High School Graduates

The report devotes a section to data on high school graduates, defined in the singular as “an individual who has received formal recognition

Estimated and Projected Figures for PK-12 Enrollment in Private Schools		
Years	Enrollment (in millions)	Share of U.S. Enrollment
1990	5.23	11.3
2003	6.45	11.7
2015	6.89	11.9

Source: NCES, *Projections of Education Statistics to 2015*

Projections of Education Statistics to 2015 is available online at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006084>.

Spellings Announces NCLB Blue Ribbon Schools for 2006

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings last month announced the names of 250 schools identified by the U.S. Department of Education as the No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools for 2006. Schools were selected either because they dramatically improved student performance on standardized tests in reading and math or because their test scores placed them in the top ten percent of schools in the nation or state. Fifty private schools were among the awardees this year.

A state's chief state school officer nominates public schools, and CAPE nominates a maximum of 50 private schools. One hundred percent of the schools nominated by CAPE received the award.

"These Blue Ribbon Schools are an example of what teachers and students can achieve," Spellings said in announcing the awards.

According to a Department of Education news release, the secretary "plans to announce a second group of public schools in October, when more data about their achievements are available."

"These schools show what wonderful accomplishments can be made when we focus on the bottom line in education—student achievement," Spellings said.

The private schools selected for the award include 49 elementary schools and one secondary school. Ten of the private schools come from Texas, seven from Indiana, and five from Florida.

Each fall the newly named No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools are honored at a two-day celebration in Washington, D.C. This year's awards ceremony will take place November 9-10.

CAPE, the proud coordinator of the private school component of the NCLB-BRS program, joins U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and the nation's education community in congratulating all winning schools, including the 50 private schools listed below.

Private School Awardees

Arizona - St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Phoenix, AZ • **California** - Carlthorp School, Santa Monica, CA • Sacred Heart School, Palm Desert, CA • Saint Bonaventure School, Huntington Beach, CA • St. Cecilia School, Tustin, CA • **Colorado** - St. Thomas More Parish School, Centennial, CO • **Con-**

nnecticut - St. Joseph School, Rockville, CT • **Florida** - Holy Family Catholic School, Orlando, FL • Our Lady of Lourdes School, Daytona Beach, FL • St. Joseph Catholic School, Palm Bay, FL • St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, Winter Park, FL • St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School, Altamonte Springs, FL • **Illinois** - Saint Anne Catholic School, Barrington, IL • St. Lawrence O'Toole School, Matteson, IL • St. Theresa School, Palatine, IL • St. Thomas of Villanova,

Palatine, IL • **Indiana** - Christ the King Catholic School, Indianapolis, IN • Saint Jude Catholic School, Fort Wayne, IN • Saint Lawrence Catholic School, Indianapolis, IN • Saint Monica School, Indianapolis, IN • Shawe Memorial Junior/Senior High

School, Madison, IN • St. Bartholomew Catholic School, Columbus, IN • St. Lawrence School, Lawrenceburg, IN • **Kentucky** - Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Burlington, KY • Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School, Lexington, KY • St. Joseph School, Crescent Springs, KY • St. Thomas School, Fort Thomas, KY • **Michigan** - St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI • **Minnesota** - Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran School, Eagan, MN • **New Jersey** - Hebrew Academy of Morris County, Randolph, NJ • **North Carolina** - Charlotte Christian School, Charlotte, NC • Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte, NC • **Ohio** - Old Trail School, Bath, OH • St. Mary School, Cincinnati, OH • St. Rita School, Solon, OH • **Pennsylvania** - Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Doylestown, PA • Saint Genevieve School, Flourtown, PA • **Texas** - All Saints Catholic School, Dallas, TX • Holy Family Catholic School, Austin, TX • Our Lady of Sorrows School, McAllen, TX • Prince of Peace Catholic School, Plano, TX • St. Anne Catholic School, Houston, TX • St. Gregory Catholic School, Tyler, TX • St. Michael School, Weimar, TX • St. Patrick School, Corpus Christi, TX • St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth, TX • Trinity Lutheran School, Spring, TX • **Virginia** - Sacred Heart Catholic School, Danville, VA • Saint Leo the Great Catholic School, Fairfax, VA • St. Thomas More Cathedral School, Arlington, VA.

Schools interested in applying for the 2007 NCLB – Blue Ribbon Schools program should find out about the rules and download the application on CAPE's Web site at <www.capenet.org/brs.html>.

Helping Students in Need

About four in 10 private schools across the country had students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in 2003-04; nearly two in 10 had students receiving Title I services; 13 percent enrolled students with limited-English proficiency, and almost 25 percent participated in the national school lunch program, according to a report prepared by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

The 2003-04 Schools and Staffing Survey estimates that 12,108 private schools, 42.7 percent, enrolled one or more students with IEPs. The schools tended to demonstrate inclusion. A majority of private school IEP students (56.6 percent) spent all day in regular classrooms, while 37.6 percent spent most of the day and 4.1 percent spent some of the day in regular classrooms.

The survey also found that 18.9 percent of private schools enrolled students receiving services under Title I, a federal program designed to help low-achieving students in high-poverty areas. The 5,375 private schools with Title I students included 2,397 central-city schools, 2,083 urban-fringe/large-town schools, and 894 rural/small-town schools. The vast majority (84 percent) of private Title I schools were elementary schools, and 91 percent were schools with a religious affiliation.

A total of 6,680 private schools, or 23.5 percent of all private schools, took advantage of the national school lunch program, and 20.8 percent of students in participating schools were approved for free or reduced-price lunches under the program.

Finally, 3,706 private schools, 13.1 percent, reported that they were serving students with limited-English proficiency. Seventy-five percent of schools with LEP students were religious schools, and 47.6 percent were located in central cities.

Return service requested

CAPE notes

★ **Fast Fact About Private Schools:** During the two-year period from 1999 to 2001, just under 10 percent of teachers in private schools moved to teach in another school. Slightly more than half of the movers (53.8 percent) switched to a public school, while 46.2 percent switched to another private school.

A September 2006 **issue brief** on private school teachers by the National Center for Education Statistics notes that “teacher salaries are typically higher in the public sector.” So why did only 5 percent of private school teachers switch to public schools between 1999 and 2001? One explanation advanced in the issue brief is this: “Private school teachers may prefer to stay within the private sector because of other job conditions on which teachers typically rate private schools higher than public schools. For example, private school teachers more often report satisfaction with parental support than do public school teachers.”

That explanation makes sense. Other NCES reports have found that private school teachers are more satisfied with their jobs than their colleagues in public schools. For example, *Progress Through the Teacher Pipeline*, released in December 1999, found that on all six aspects of job satisfaction examined in the study (i.e., student motivation to learn, school learning environment, student discipline and behavior, class size, support from parents, and esteem of society for the teaching profession) substantially higher percentages of private school teachers than public school

teachers reported they were “very satisfied.” Further, 42 percent of private school teachers, compared to only 23 percent of public school teachers, said they were “quite satisfied overall” during their most recent semester of teaching.

Another report from NCES, entitled *Private Schools: A Brief Portrait*, used 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey data to show that private school teachers were more content about class size and more likely than public school teachers to say they received lots of support from parents.

★ A new report by The Heritage Foundation shows that school choice is growing by leaps and bounds. According to the report, “In 2006, eight states—Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and Wisconsin—enacted new school choice programs or expanded existing programs. By 2007, as many as 150,000 students will be participating in publicly funded tuition scholarship programs.”

What kinds of school choice programs are states adopting? The report notes the following: “As of August 2006, seven states—Arizona, Florida, Maine, Ohio, Vermont, Utah, and Wisconsin—and the District of Columbia have taxpayer-funded scholarships to help students attend private elementary or secondary schools of choice; seven states—Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island—have tax credits or deductions for education expenses, including private

school tuition, or incentives for contributions to scholarship programs.”

Tax credits to encourage corporations to contribute to scholarship programs proved an especially popular measure in 2006. Arizona and Rhode Island established new corporate programs, while Pennsylvania and Florida expanded existing programs.

The Heritage report is available online at: www.heritage.org/Research/Education/bg1970.cfm.

★ “Classrooms are the No. 1 germiest workplace, and sick students are to blame.” That’s how The Associated Press summarized a recent study and survey sponsored by The Clorox Company.

The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Arizona, examined germs in the workplace and found, for instance, that teachers are exposed to much higher levels of bacteria than lawyers, who have the least germey workplace of the professions studied.

The June 2006 survey of more than 2,000 parents of school-age children found that nearly 40 percent of parents sent sick children to school in the past year. More telling, 14 percent of parents even admitted sending a child to school with a fever above 100 degrees.

Clorox has launched a campaign to provide “tips and tools for teachers to help them expel germs from their classroom.” Teachers can sign up to receive a free “Clean up the Classroom Kit” at www.cloroxclassrooms.com.