

The Condition of Education 2009

Indicator 7

Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2009*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2009*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009081>) or contact ED PUBS at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

Planty, M., Hussar, W., Snyder, T., Kena, G., KewalRamani, A., Kemp, J., Bianco, K., Dinkes, R. (2009). *The Condition of Education 2009* (NCES 2009-081). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools

Between 1972 and 2007, the percentage of public school students who were White decreased from 78 to 56 percent. During this period, the percentage of students from other racial/ethnic groups increased from 32 to 44 percent; this increase largely reflects growth in the percentage of Hispanic students.

The shifting racial and ethnic distribution of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade is one aspect of change in the composition of school enrollment. Between 1972 and 2007, the percentage of public school students who were White decreased from 78 to 56 percent (see table A-7-1). Accordingly, the percentage of public school students who were part of other racial/ethnic groups increased to 44 percent in 2007, up from 22 percent in 1972 and 32 percent in 1987. This increase over time largely reflects the consistent growth in the percentage of students who were Hispanic. In 2007, Hispanic students represented 21 percent of public school enrollment, up from 6 percent in 1972 and 11 percent in 1987. Since 1987, the percentage of public school students who were Hispanic has increased more than the percentage of students who were White, Black, or members of other racial/ethnic groups. During this period, the percentage of students who were Black decreased from 17 percent in 1987 to 15 percent in 2007, with the percentage of Hispanic enrollment measurably surpassing that of Black enrollment for the first time in 2002. Students from other racial/ethnic groups—Asian (4.1 percent), Pacific Islander (0.3 percent), and American Indian/Alaska Native (0.8 percent) students, and students of more than one race (2.6 percent)—made up about 7.8 percent of public school enrollment in 2007.

The racial/ethnic composition of public schools differed by region, though the combined enrollment of Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Native Alaska students generally increased as a percentage of the total enrollment in all regions between 1987 and 2007 and during the broader period of 1972 and 2007 (see table A-7-2). In each year from 1972 to 2007, the West and South had larger enrollments of these students than the Northeast and Midwest did.

In 2007, the West had the largest enrollment of Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Native Alaska students of any region. Beginning in 2003, the percentage of these students exceeded the percentage of Whites in the total enrollment, and by 2007, enrollment for these students comprised 57 percent of the total in this region. In the West, Hispanic enrollment has been the largest, aside from White enrollment, since 1972, with the percentage of students who were Hispanic

more than doubling (from 15 to 39 percent) by 2007. Between 1972 and 2007, the percentage of Blacks enrolled generally remained stable (between 5 and 7 percent), while the percentage of Whites enrolled decreased from 73 to 43 percent.

In the South, the combined enrollment of Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Native Alaska students increased from 30 percent in 1972 to 49 percent in 2007. The majority of this growth was due to an increase in the percentage of Hispanics enrolled. Although Blacks have maintained the largest percentage of enrollment in the South, aside from Whites, the percentage of Black enrollment generally remained at around 25 percent between 1972 and 2007. During this period, the percentage of Hispanic enrollment grew from 5 to 19 percent, while White enrollment decreased from 70 to 51 percent.

Between 1972 and 2007, the combined enrollment of Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Native Alaska students in the Northeast increased from 19 to 36 percent. The percentage of Hispanic enrollment increased from 6 to 15 percent from 1972 to 2007, while the percentage of Blacks enrolled in 1972 was not measurably different than the percentage in 2007. White enrollment decreased from 81 to 64 percent during this period.

In the Midwest, the combined enrollment of Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Native Alaska students increased from 12 to 28 percent between 1972 and 2007. Black students have remained the largest group—aside from White students—in the region, but Hispanic enrollment increased more than Black enrollment during this period. Between 1972 and 2007, the percentage of Black students enrolled increased from 11 to 13 percent, while Hispanic enrollment increased from 2 to 9 percent. Although White enrollment decreased from 88 percent in 1972 to 72 percent in 2007, among all regions, the Midwest has maintained the highest percentage of Whites enrolled during this period.



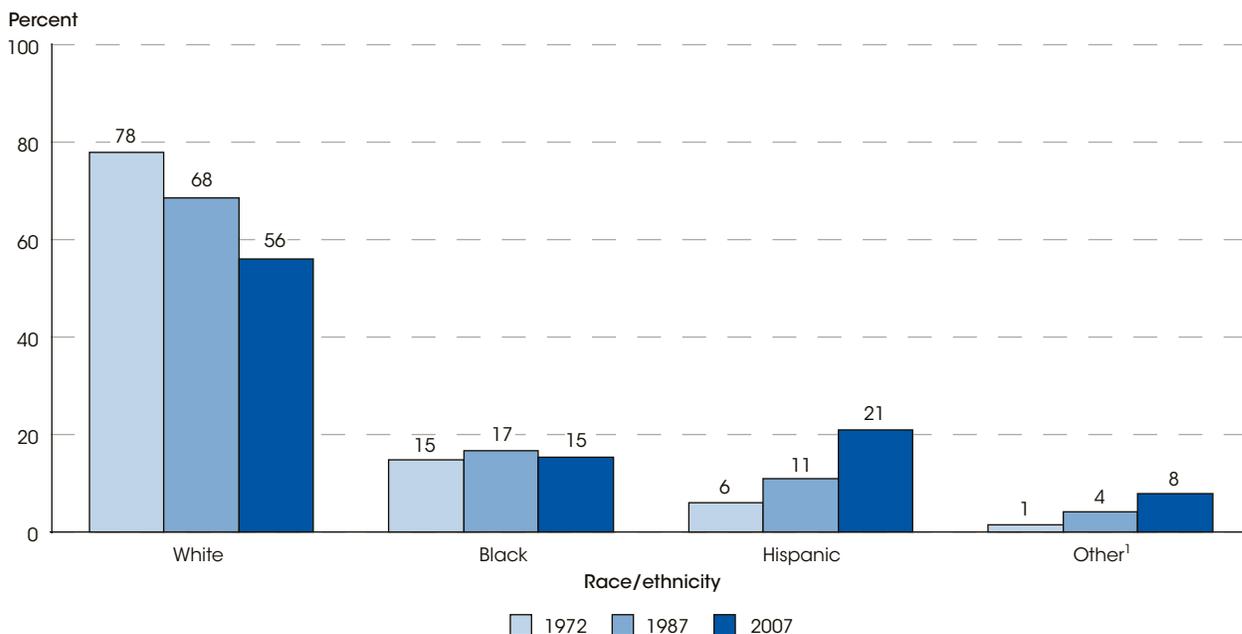
For more information: [Tables A-7-1 and A-7-2](#)
Glossary: [Public school](#)

Technical Notes

Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. For more information on

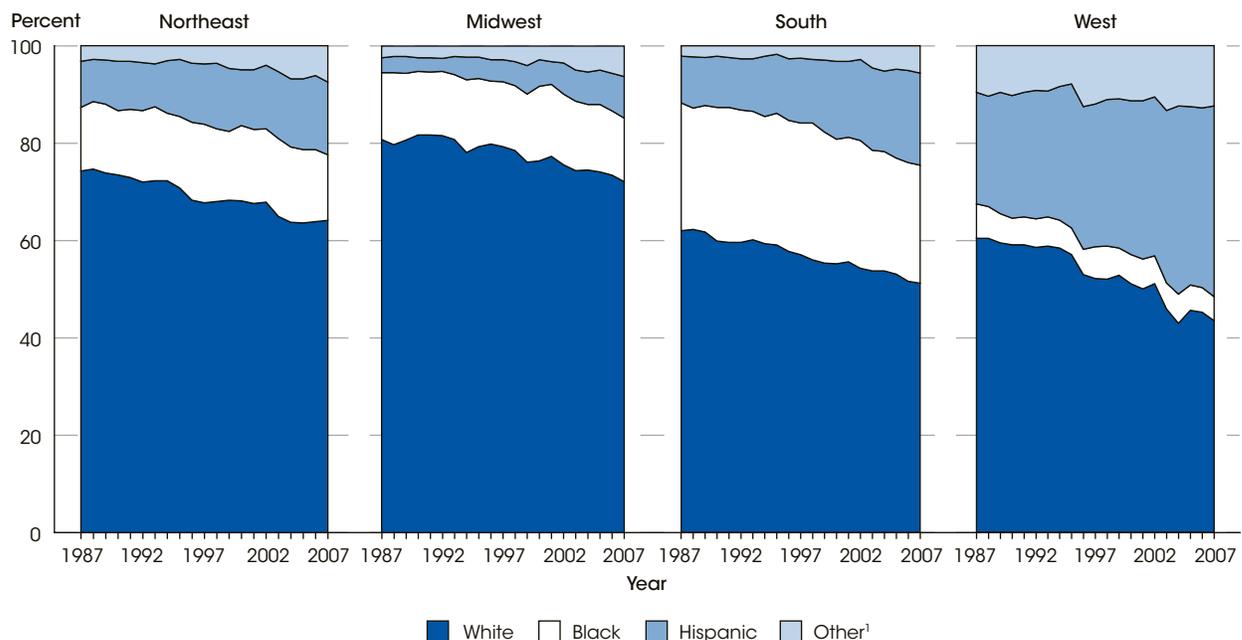
race/ethnicity and region, see *supplemental note 1*. For more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS), see *supplemental note 2*.

Figure 7-1. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: Selected years, October 1972–October 2007



¹ "Other" includes all students who identified themselves as being Asian, Hawaiian, American Indian, or two or more races.
 NOTE: Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. For more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS), see *supplemental note 2*; for more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, selected years, 1972–2007.

Figure 7-2. Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: October 1987–October 2007



¹ "Other" includes all students who identified themselves as being Asian, Hawaiian, American Indian, or two or more races.
 NOTE: Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. For more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS), see *supplemental note 2*; for more information on race/ethnicity and region, see *supplemental note 1*.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1987–2007.

Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools

Table A-7-1. Number and percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: October 1972–October 2007

October of year	Total (in thousands)	White	Other racial/ethnic groups							
			Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
1972	45,343	77.8	22.2	14.8	6.0	—	—	—	—	1.4
1973	44,945	78.1	21.9	14.7	5.7	—	—	—	—	1.4
1974	44,958	76.8	23.2	15.4	6.3	—	—	—	—	1.5
1975	44,524	76.2	23.8	15.4	6.7	—	—	—	—	1.7
1976	44,264	76.2	23.8	15.5	6.5	—	—	—	—	1.7
1977	43,154	76.1	23.9	15.8	6.2	—	—	—	—	1.9
1978	42,123	75.5	24.5	16.0	6.5	—	—	—	—	2.1
1979	41,462	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980	26,434	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981	41,022	72.4	27.6	16.0	8.7	—	—	—	—	2.9
1982	40,259	71.9	28.1	16.0	8.9	—	—	—	—	3.2
1983	39,806	71.3	28.7	16.1	9.2	—	—	—	—	3.4
1984	39,901	71.7	28.3	16.1	8.5	—	—	—	—	3.6
1985	39,890	69.6	30.4	16.8	10.1	—	—	—	—	3.5
1986	40,344	69.1	30.9	16.6	10.8	—	—	—	—	3.6
1987	40,887	68.5	31.5	16.6	10.8	—	—	—	—	4.0
1988	41,045	68.3	31.7	16.5	11.0	—	—	—	—	4.2
1989	41,259	68.0	32.0	16.6	11.4	3.0 ¹	(¹)	0.9	—	0.1
1990	41,862	67.6	32.4	16.5	11.7	3.0 ¹	(¹)	0.9	—	0.3
1991	42,366	67.1	32.9	16.8	11.8	3.2 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	0.2
1992	42,943	66.8	33.2	16.9	12.0	3.3 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	0.2
1993	43,848	67.0	33.0	16.6	12.1	3.3 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	0.2
1994	44,948	65.8	34.2	16.7	13.7	2.5 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	0.5
1995	45,308	65.5	34.5	16.9	14.1	2.3 ¹	(¹)	0.6	—	0.6
1996	45,619	63.7	36.3	16.6	14.5	4.1 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—	—
1997	47,212	63.0	37.0	16.9	14.9	3.9 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—	—
1998	46,552	62.4	37.6	17.2	15.4	4.0 ¹	(¹)	1.1	—	—
1999	47,069	61.9	38.1	16.5	16.2	4.5 ¹	(¹)	1.0	—	—
2000	46,981	61.3	38.7	16.6	16.6	4.2 ¹	(¹)	1.3	—	—
2001	47,689	61.3	38.7	16.5	16.6	4.3 ¹	(¹)	1.3	—	—
2002	47,973	60.7	39.3	16.5	17.6	4.0 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—	—
2003	48,087	58.3	41.7	16.1	18.6	3.7	0.3	0.6	2.4	—
2004	48,081	57.4	42.6	16.0	19.3	3.9	0.2	0.8	2.4	—
2005	48,356	57.6	42.4	15.6	19.7	3.7	0.2	0.7	2.5	—
2006	48,590	56.9	43.1	15.6	20.2	3.8	0.2	0.7	2.7	—
2007	48,512	55.9	44.1	15.3	20.9	4.1	0.3	0.8	2.6	—

— Not available.

¹ From 1989 through 2002, data on Asian and Pacific Islander students were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander students are included with Asian students during this period.NOTE: Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. For more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS), see *supplemental note 2*; for more information on race/ethnicity, see *supplemental note 1*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2007.

Table A-7-2. Number and percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, October 1972–October 2007

Region and October of year	Total (in thousands)	White	Other racial/ethnic groups							
			Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
Northeast										
1972	9,828	81.4	18.6	12.4	5.5	—	—	—	—	0.7
1981	8,532	76.5	23.5	13.3	8.2	—	—	—	—	2.0
1986	7,523	73.8	26.2	13.3	10.7	—	—	—	—	2.2
1993	7,984	72.2	27.8	15.2	8.8	3.4 ¹	(¹)	0.1 [!]	—	0.3 [!]
2000	8,373	68.1	31.9	15.5	11.4	4.5 ¹	(¹)	0.4	—	—
2001	8,387	67.6	32.4	15.2	12.2	4.4 ¹	(¹)	0.6	—	—
2002	8,527	67.9	32.1	15.1	13.1	3.7 ¹	(¹)	0.3	—	—
2003	8,482	64.8	35.2	16.0	13.7	3.7	‡	0.2 [!]	1.5	—
2005	8,534	63.5	36.5	15.1	14.5	5.2	‡	‡	1.5	—
2006	8,351	63.8	36.2	14.7	15.3	4.4	‡	0.2 [!]	1.5	—
2007	8,144	64.0	36.0	13.5	14.9	5.7	0.1	0.3 [!]	1.5	—
Midwest										
1972	12,827	87.5	12.5	10.6	1.5	—	—	—	—	0.3
1981	10,468	84.4	15.6	12.1	1.9	—	—	—	—	1.6
1986	9,471	81.8	18.2	13.0	3.4	—	—	—	—	1.8
1993	10,643	80.8	19.2	13.4	3.6	1.3 ¹	(¹)	0.6	—	0.4
2000	10,825	76.3	23.7	15.3	5.5	2.0 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	—
2001	11,086	77.2	22.8	14.8	4.8	2.0 ¹	(¹)	1.2	—	—
2002	10,887	75.5	24.5	14.5	6.4	2.6 ¹	(¹)	1.0	—	—
2003	10,528	74.4	25.6	14.2	6.4	2.2	0.2 [!]	0.4	2.2	—
2005	10,445	74.1	25.9	13.8	7.1	1.9	‡	0.6	2.5	—
2006	10,643	73.4	26.6	13.2	7.7	2.6	‡	0.5	2.4	—
2007	10,567	72.0	28.0	13.2	8.5	2.7	0.1	0.6	2.9	—
South										
1972	14,497	69.7	30.3	24.8	5.0	—	—	—	—	0.5
1981	13,953	64.1	35.9	25.9	8.5	—	—	—	—	1.4
1986	14,794	62.2	37.8	26.6	9.0	—	—	—	—	2.2
1993	15,236	60.1	39.9	26.4	10.7	2.0 ¹	(¹)	0.6	—	0.2 [!]
2000	16,312	55.1	44.9	25.6	16.0	2.1 ¹	(¹)	1.1	—	—
2001	16,515	55.6	44.4	25.6	15.6	2.5 ¹	(¹)	0.8	—	—
2002	16,687	54.2	45.8	26.2	16.6	1.9 ¹	(¹)	1.0	—	—
2003	17,299	53.6	46.4	24.8	16.9	2.1	‡	0.6	2.0	—
2005	17,481	52.9	47.1	23.9	18.3	1.8	‡	0.6	2.4	—
2006	17,637	51.5	48.5	24.5	18.8	1.9	‡	0.7	2.6	—
2007	17,851	51.1	48.9	24.3	18.8	2.4	0.1	0.9	2.4	—
West										
1972	8,191	72.8	27.2	6.4	15.3	—	—	—	—	5.5
1981	8,070	66.5	33.5	6.8	18.5	—	—	—	—	8.1
1986	8,556	62.5	37.5	6.1	22.0	—	—	—	—	9.4
1993	9,985	58.7	41.3	6.1	25.9	7.4 ¹	(¹)	1.7	—	0.2 [!]
2000	11,472	51.1	48.9	5.9	31.6	8.8 ¹	(¹)	2.6	—	—
2001	11,701	49.9	50.1	6.1	32.5	8.8 ¹	(¹)	2.7	—	—
2002	11,872	51.0	49.0	5.8	32.6	8.2 ¹	(¹)	2.4	—	—
2003	11,777	45.9	54.1	5.2	35.5	7.5	1.0	1.2	3.6	—
2005	11,895	45.6	54.4	5.2	36.6	7.2	0.6	1.3	3.6	—
2006	11,959	45.2	54.8	5.1	36.9	7.1	0.8	1.0	3.9	—
2007	11,950	43.4	56.6	5.0	39.1	6.9	0.8	1.2	3.6	—

— Not available.

[!] Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ From 1989 through 2002, Asian and Pacific Islander students were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander students are included with Asian students during this period.NOTE: Estimates include all public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Over time, the Current Population Survey (CPS) has had different response options for race/ethnicity. For more information on the Current Population Survey (CPS), see *supplemental note 2*; for more information on race/ethnicity and region, see *supplemental note 1*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, selected years, 1972–2007.

Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools

Table S-7-1. Standard errors for the number and percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade: October 1972–October 2007

October of year	Total (in thousands)	White	Other racial/ethnic groups							
			Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
1972	106.1	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.09
1973	104.2	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.10
1974	102.3	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.10
1975	101.5	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.10
1976	98.4	0.29	0.34	0.29	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.10
1977	100.1	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.30	†	†	†	†	0.11
1978	100.2	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.31	†	†	†	†	0.12
1979	96.9	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
1980	152.8	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
1981	95.2	0.32	0.37	0.31	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.14
1982	100.1	0.34	0.40	0.33	0.39	†	†	†	†	0.16
1983	99.6	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.40	†	†	†	†	0.16
1984	96.7	0.35	0.40	0.33	0.38	†	†	†	†	0.17
1985	101.3	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.35	†	†	†	†	0.16
1986	99.8	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.17
1987	96.1	0.35	0.41	0.33	0.36	†	†	†	†	0.17
1988	102.8	0.39	0.45	0.36	0.40	†	†	†	†	0.19
1989	96.2	0.37	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.15	†	0.09	†	0.03
1990	95.4	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.15	†	0.09	†	0.05
1991	96.4	0.36	0.42	0.34	0.38	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1992	98.2	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.38	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1993	95.1	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.37	0.16	†	0.08	†	0.04
1994	106.2	0.36	0.41	0.33	0.39	0.14	†	0.08	†	0.06
1995	103.2	0.33	0.35	0.28	0.28	0.11	†	0.06	†	0.06
1996	105.3	0.33	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
1997	100.8	0.34	0.36	0.28	0.29	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
1998	108.6	0.35	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
1999	109.1	0.34	0.37	0.28	0.30	0.16	†	0.08	†	†
2000	110.0	0.35	0.37	0.28	0.30	0.15	†	0.08	†	†
2001	101.7	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.28	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
2002	98.8	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.29	0.14	†	0.08	†	†
2003	102.3	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.29	0.13	0.04	0.06	0.10	†
2004	101.0	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.14	0.03	0.06	0.10	†
2005	100.7	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.10	†
2006	94.0	0.33	0.35	0.26	0.30	0.13	0.03	0.06	0.11	†
2007	95.1	0.33	0.35	0.25	0.31	0.14	0.04	0.06	0.11	†

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1972–2007.

Table S-7-2. Standard errors for the number and percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade, by region: Selected years, October 1972–October 2007

Region and October of year	Total (in thousands)	White	Other racial/ethnic groups							
			Total	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	American Indian/ Alaska Native	More than one race	Other
Northeast										
1972	49.4	0.53	0.61	0.52	0.55	†	†	†	†	0.13
1981	43.4	0.61	0.72	0.57	0.71	†	†	†	†	0.23
1986	43.1	0.72	0.84	0.65	0.76	†	†	†	†	0.28
1993	40.6	0.74	0.86	0.69	0.70	0.35	†	0.06	†	0.10
2000	46.4	0.72	0.77	0.60	0.56	0.34	†	0.11	†	†
2001	42.7	0.71	0.76	0.58	0.56	0.33	†	0.13	†	†
2002	41.7	0.70	0.74	0.57	0.57	0.30	†	0.09	†	†
2003	43.0	0.72	0.76	0.59	0.59	0.30	†	0.07	0.18	†
2005	42.3	0.72	0.77	0.57	0.60	0.35	†	†	0.18	†
2006	39.0	0.79	0.84	0.62	0.67	0.36	†	0.09	0.20	†
2007	39.0	0.80	0.85	0.61	0.67	0.41	0.04	0.10	0.20	†
Midwest										
1972	56.4	0.43	0.50	0.47	0.29	†	†	†	†	0.09
1981	48.1	0.52	0.61	0.55	0.35	†	†	†	†	0.21
1986	48.4	0.62	0.72	0.63	0.44	†	†	†	†	0.25
1993	46.9	0.62	0.72	0.62	0.44	0.20	†	0.14	†	0.11
2000	52.8	0.64	0.68	0.58	0.39	0.23	†	0.14	†	†
2001	49.0	0.56	0.60	0.50	0.32	0.20	†	0.15	†	†
2002	47.1	0.58	0.62	0.51	0.37	0.23	†	0.14	†	†
2003	47.9	0.60	0.64	0.51	0.38	0.21	0.07	0.10	0.20	†
2005	46.8	0.60	0.64	0.51	0.40	0.20	†	0.11	0.21	†
2006	44.0	0.64	0.68	0.52	0.44	0.25	†	0.11	0.22	†
2007	44.4	0.66	0.70	0.53	0.46	0.36	0.05	0.12	0.24	†
South										
1972	60.0	0.58	0.67	0.63	0.49	†	†	†	†	0.10
1981	55.5	0.61	0.71	0.65	0.64	†	†	†	†	0.18
1986	60.4	0.64	0.74	0.68	0.57	†	†	†	†	0.22
1993	56.1	0.66	0.76	0.69	0.63	0.22	†	0.12	†	0.06
2000	64.8	0.64	0.68	0.60	0.54	0.20	†	0.14	†	†
2001	59.9	0.59	0.62	0.55	0.49	0.20	†	0.11	†	†
2002	58.3	0.60	0.64	0.56	0.51	0.18	†	0.13	†	†
2003	61.4	0.59	0.63	0.54	0.50	0.18	†	0.09	0.17	†
2005	60.5	0.59	0.63	0.53	0.52	0.17	†	0.10	0.18	†
2006	56.6	0.57	0.60	0.52	0.50	0.16	†	0.10	0.18	†
2007	57.7	0.56	0.60	0.52	0.50	0.18	0.04	0.11	0.17	†
West										
1972	45.1	0.75	0.87	0.48	1.08	†	†	†	†	0.45
1981	42.2	0.80	0.93	0.50	1.17	†	†	†	†	0.54
1986	46.0	0.84	0.98	0.48	1.09	†	†	†	†	0.59
1993	45.4	0.82	0.95	0.46	1.10	0.51	†	0.25	†	0.08
2000	54.3	0.75	0.80	0.38	0.79	0.45	†	0.25	†	†
2001	50.4	0.72	0.77	0.37	0.77	0.43	†	0.25	†	†
2002	49.2	0.72	0.76	0.35	0.76	0.42	†	0.23	†	†
2003	50.6	0.72	0.76	0.34	0.78	0.40	0.15	0.17	0.27	†
2005	49.9	0.71	0.76	0.34	0.78	0.39	0.11	0.17	0.27	†
2006	46.6	0.67	0.71	0.31	0.74	0.37	0.13	0.14	0.26	†
2007	47.2	0.67	0.71	0.31	0.75	0.36	0.13	0.15	0.25	†

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, selected years, 1972–2007.