



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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RESEARCH BRIEF

Research Services

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Enrollment Projections for Presentation & Discussion: 2008-09 Pupil Population Estimating Conference

At A Glance

The 2008-09 projected enrollment offered by Research Services continues the decline in student enrollment evident in the district over the past six school years. The district's student enrollment is projected to be 336,367, a decline of 1.8 percent (6,083 students) from 2007-08 to 2008-09.

Research Services calculates enrollment projections on an annual basis. These projections are presented each year at the district's Pupil Population Estimating Conference. For this year's projections, two years of trend data (2006-07 and 2007-08) were used to project student enrollment for 2008-09. Projections are provided by individual grade level and for the district's total Pre-K through grade 12 enrollment.

METHOD

The projections provided include student enrollment in grades pre-K to 12 covered by the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Projections include programs such as alternative education and Exceptional Student Education (ESE). Charter schools are also included in the projections. However, non-FEFP funded enrollment such as specially funded pre-K programs (e.g., State Intervention, Title I, and Head Start), adult vocational enrollment, and students receiving McKay Scholarships are not considered in these projections.

The methodology used for projecting enrollments for 2008-09 is a cohort survival technique. The cohort survival method uses the proportion of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades (or between years for predicting kindergarten and pre-kindergarten enrollments). For

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example, if 100 students enrolled in grade one in 2006-07 and 104 students enrolled in grade two in 2007-08, the proportion of survival would have been 1.04 (104 percent). Such ratios are calculated between each pair of grades, over several years, and averaged. The strength of the cohort survival technique lies in the fact that each ratio encompasses collectively many of the variables that might possibly account for an increase or decrease in the size of a grade cohort as it moves on to the next grade. To project grade enrollments for 2008-09, the ratios thus determined were applied to the present enrollment statistics. Projected total enrollment is simply the sum of projected enrollments for each grade level.

RESULTS

Although the district's enrollment continued to decrease in 2007-08, the decline was smaller than it had been the previous year (a decrease of 1.6 percent in 2007-08, compared to a decrease of 2.3 percent in 2006-07). The decrease in student enrollment that began in 2002-03 is projected to continue into the 2008-09 school year, although at a slower rate of decline (Table 1). The district's 2008-09 membership is predicted to be 336,367 students. This is 6,083 students or 1.8 percent less than the 2007-08 actual enrollment of 342,450.

Table 1. M-DCPS Enrollment Decline

Annual Comparison	# of Students	% Decrease
From 2001-02 to 2002-03	-5,018	-1.4%
From 2002-03 to 2003-04	-2,216	-0.6%
From 2003-04 to 2004-05	-3,046	-0.8%
From 2004-05 to 2005-06	-4,161	-1.2%
From 2005-06 to 2006-07	-8,097	-2.3%
From 2006-07 to 2007-08	-5,522	-1.6%
From 2007-08 to Projected 2008-09	-6,083	-1.8%

In Table 2, predictions by individual grade level show that enrollment is expected to increase at pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grade 8. It is anticipated that enrollment will decline at all other grade levels.

The largest predicted grade level changes anticipated for 2008-09 are an increase in eighth grade students (+2,885 or 12.2 percent) and a decrease in ninth grade students (-4,164 or 14.0 percent) (Table 2). An "enrollment bubble" has developed from the large number of students retained in third grade as a result of not scoring at Achievement Level 2 or higher on the FCAT Reading. This mandate began in 2002-03 and affected approximately 6,300 students, constituting an increase of some 700 percent over the number of students retained in third grade the previous year. As a result, the smaller cohort of third grade students promoted in 2002-03 will yield a smaller ninth grade class in 2008-09 (the year most of the retained students will be enrolled in eighth grade).

Birth data used for the 2008-09 projections are displayed in Table 3.

CONCLUSION

Based on historical trends, the 2008-09 projected enrollment continues the decline in student enrollment evident in the district over the past six school years; however, the decrease is not projected to be as large as the one the district experienced in the 2006-07 school year. Predictions by individual grade level show that enrollment is projected to increase at pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and grade 8 and decline at all other grade levels.

A comparison of M-DCPS student enrollment and county population trends revealed that, while M-DCPS student enrollment declined by 7.1 percent from 2001 to 2006, Miami-Dade County's population increased by 6.3 percent over this same period of time (Figure 1). Miami-Dade County's resident births from 1995-96 to 2000-01 (representing the years in which students would first be eligible to enter M-DCPS in 2001 through 2006) increased by 3.0 percent.

Additionally, private school enrollment increased by 7.9 percent over this same period of time (2001-02 to 2006-07).

CAVEATS

The projections provided in this report represent the best estimates of the Research Services staff using the methodology herein. The projections are almost wholly driven by a very limited amount of historical data. There are a great many external influences, mostly defying measurement, that can have profound effects on future enrollment. Potential areas of outside influence on enrollment include, but are not limited to, the following: Florida Legislature actions, changes in FLDOE policies, an increase in school choice options, the influence of external scholarship programs, changes in immigration policy, economic contingencies, international political climates, and potential natural disasters. All of these influences, and many more unforeseeable issues, can have large-scale consequences on district enrollment figures.

Table 3. Birth Data Used for 2008-09 Projections

Data Element	Actual		Projected
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Kindergarten	25,301	24,742	24,813
Births 2000-01 to 2002-03	32,404	32,335	32,209
Survival	0.780799	0.765177	0.770384
FEFP Pre-K	1,811	1,845 1.018774	1,880
non-FEFP Pre-K	5,311	5,324 1.002448	5,337
Total Pre-K	7,122	7,169	7,217

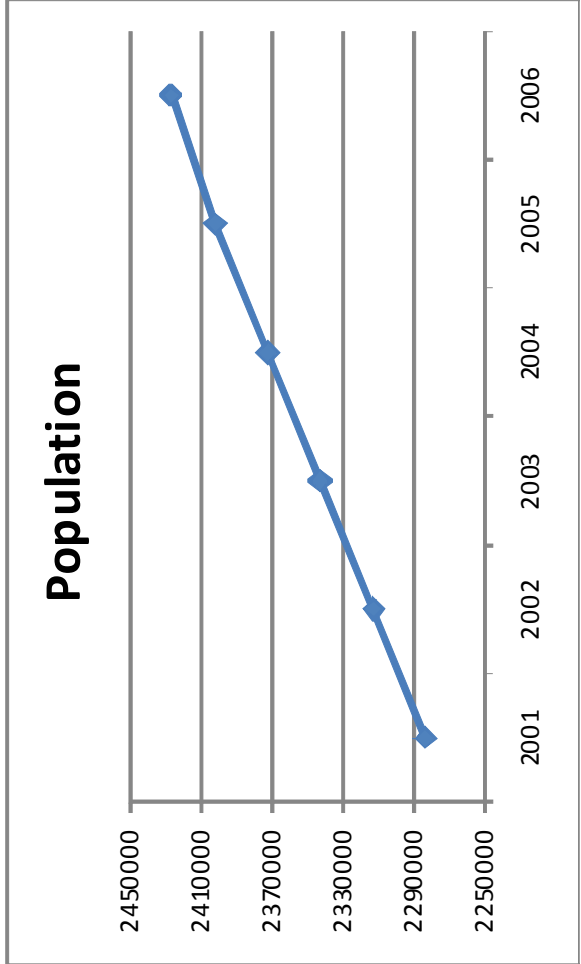
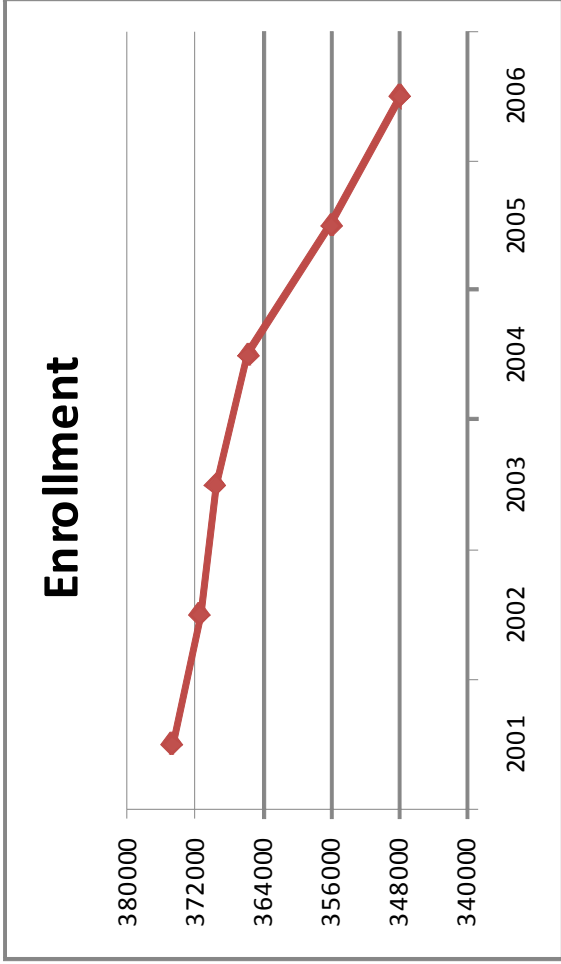
Table 2. Enrollment Projections 2008-09

	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08/ 2006-07	Projected 2008-09	Changes 2007-08	Projected changes 2008-09
Pre-K*	1811	1845		1,880	34	35
Kindergarten**	25,301	24,742		24,813	-559	71
First	26,644	25,829	1.021	25,258	-815	-571
Second	26,689	26,556	0.997	25,744	-133	-812
Third	28,493	28,230	1.058	28,089	-263	-141
Fourth	26,348	25,673	0.901	25,436	-675	-237
Fifth	26,366	26,299	0.998	25,625	-67	-674
Sixth	26,777	26,485	1.005	26,418	-292	-67
Seventh	23,588	26,465	0.988	26,176	2,877	-289
Eighth	27,493	23,653	1.003	26,538	-3,840	2,885
Ninth	30,610	29,815	1.084	25,651	-795	-4,164
Tenth	30,796	29,434	0.962	28,670	-1,362	-764
Eleventh	24,939	24,649	0.800	23,559	-290	-1090
Twelfth	22,117	22,775	0.913	22,510	658	-265
Total	347,972	342,450		336,367	-5,522	-6,083

* Does not include non-FEFP Pre-K enrollment.

** Based on birth data from September 2002 to August 2003 of 32,209 and a weighted survival rate to kindergarten.

Figure 1
Comparison of Miami-Dade County Population and M-DCPS Enrollment



From 2001 to 2006 the population of Miami-Dade County has increased from approximately 2,280,000 to 2,430,000. During the same time period, the enrollment in M-DCPS has decreased from approximately 375,000 to 348,000.