

SCHOOL SURVEY SERIES #6

EXPLORING ARKANSAS'S PRIVATE EDUCATION SECTOR

Andrew D. Catt

AUGUST 2016



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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IMPORTANT NOTE

This survey was conducted by staff of the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice prior to the organization's rebranding as EdChoice, which occurred on July 29, 2016. For accuracy and transparency, we will refer to the survey and its findings throughout this report as "Friedman Foundation," but the report itself is officially an EdChoice publication. Please send any inquiries regarding this note to the report's author Andrew D. Catt at dcatt@edchoice.org.

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION SURVEY PROJECT AND PROFILE

TITLE: *Exploring Arkansas's Private Education Sector*

SURVEY SPONSOR: The Walton Family Foundation

SURVEY DEVELOPER: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

INTERVIEW DATES: April 5 to June 7, 2016

INTERVIEW METHOD: Web; SurveyMonkey

INTERVIEW LENGTH: 18.8 minutes (median)

LANGUAGE(S): English only

SAMPLE FRAME: Non-Probability Sampling of Establishments

SAMPLE PROVIDER: Arkansas Department of Education; United States Department of Education; Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association

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

SAMPLE SIZE: Arkansas Private School Principals/Administrators = 166

MARGINS OF ERROR: N/A

RESPONSE RATES (RR) USING AAPOR RR2: $\leq 42.8\%$ (see Appendix A)

WEIGHTING? None

OVERSAMPLING? None

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exploring Arkansas's Private Education Sector is the sixth installment in the *School Survey Series*, which includes previous reports on Indiana, Ohio, Nevada, Colorado, and Nebraska. This report synthesizes information about Arkansas's private schools from two separate surveys conducted by the Friedman Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE).

If the Friedman Foundation survey data are representative of the state's private schools, then Arkansas's private schools have enough empty seats to increase current private school enrollment (19,756 students) by approximately 47 percent. Thus, total enrollment capacity could be reasonably estimated to exceed 29,200 seats, including those currently filled by students.

The data are clear. Arkansas private schools are prepared to take on more students, but how willing are they to participate in private school choice programs, such as vouchers and education savings accounts (ESAs)?

When it comes to such programs, 51 percent of respondent Arkansas private schools are familiar with vouchers, and 67 percent said they would or probably would participate in a voucher program. One quarter of respondent schools were familiar with Arkansas's first and only voucher program to date, the Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities, and 37 percent said they would or probably would participate in the program. One in four respondent private schools had heard of ESA policies, and 48 percent said they would or probably would participate in an ESA program.

Additional findings from the Friedman Foundation survey include:

- 84 percent of respondent Arkansas private schools enroll at least one student with special needs
 - Half of the respondent schools said 8 percent or more of their enrollments are students with special needs
 - Three respondent schools exclusively enroll students with special needs
- More than one-fourth of respondent schools charge combined tuition and fees rates less than \$3,500 for students in prekindergarten through middle school
- 7 percent of respondent schools charge \$10,000 or more for high school
- Half of respondent schools provide an average of \$1,550 or less in tuition assistance per student
- Half of respondent schools provide tuition assistance to up to 20 percent of their students
- 87 percent of respondent schools require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test to measure academic performance
 - 42 percent of those schools administer the Stanford 10
 - 33 percent administer the Iowa Assessments
 - 25 percent administer the ACT Aspire
- 66 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and

regulations relating to setting of curriculum and instruction

- 53 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to testing and accountability
- 51 percent of respondent schools reported high or very high concern with rules and regulations relating to paperwork and reporting

Findings from the USDOE's survey include:

- Arkansas private schools enroll an average of 181 students
- 15 percent of Arkansas's private school students belong to at least one racial minority group, whereas approximately 36 percent of all Arkansas school-aged children belong to at least one racial minority group
- 68 percent of Arkansas private school graduates continue their education at a four-year college, compared with 44 percent of all high school graduates.
- 29 percent of Arkansas private schools serve grades PK–12
- 13 percent of Arkansas private schools serve grades PK–6
- 76 percent of Arkansas private schools offer prekindergarten, compared with 27 percent of Arkansas public schools
- Arkansas private schools' average K–12 student/full-time K–12 teacher ratio is 9.4:1, compared to Arkansas's public school ratio of 13.8:1.

- Arkansas private schools operate 7.1 hours per day, on average
- Arkansas private schools operate 178 days per year, on average
- 20 percent of Arkansas's private schools are in Little Rock
- 27 percent of Arkansas's private schools are in Pulaski County
- 44 percent of Arkansas's private schools are in a town or rural area
- 80 percent of Arkansas's private schools belong to at least one association
- The largest private school associations in Arkansas are the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

OVERVIEW

School choice is breaking ground this month in the Natural State. Arkansas will provide vouchers to students with disabilities and dependents of active-duty members of the military who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to attend private school beginning in the 2016–17 school year through the Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities.

Each student’s voucher will be funded at the public school foundation funding amount for the current school year (\$6,646 in 2016–17), up to but not exceeding the amount of tuition and fees at the private school. Students must be accepted for admission to a private school and have an IEP and be either (A) enrolled in an Arkansas public school for at least one year or (B) dependents of active-duty members of the military.¹ For the 2016–17 school year, the program is limited to 100 students.² As of this writing, five private schools have been approved to participate in the program.³

Arkansas’s Department of Education (ADE) provides useful information for those interested in private schools, including a current directory and reports on enrollment and administration. However, ADE does not disseminate capacity data, so there is not a comprehensive state-level resource for data on “open” seats available to students. For more than 20 years, the USDOE has conducted its own biennial survey of private schools across the country. Additionally, the Friedman Foundation conducted its own survey of Arkansas 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 Arkansas’s private schools and should assist with program implementation, aide future policy decisions, and inform any addition to Arkansas’s private school choice environment.

Survey Methodology and Data Sources

Friedman Foundation. From April 5 to June 7, 2016, the Friedman Foundation administered a first-of-its-kind survey of Arkansas’s private K–12 schools. The purpose of that assessment was seven-fold: (1) forecast a count of currently available seats and capacities to enroll additional students, (2) measure the familiarity with and potential interest in various private school 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 ADE, there were 145 private schools serving 19,756 K–12 and ungraded students in 2015–16.⁴ The Friedman Foundation survey received responses from 64 private schools operating in Arkansas serving at least 9,261 K–12 and ungraded students.⁵ Based on the ADE’s total number of Arkansas private school students, this represents nearly half (47 percent) of the state’s private school population; based on the ADE’s total number of Arkansas K–12 private schools, this represents more than an estimated two-fifths (44 percent) of the state’s private schools. There were 166 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 Friedman Foundation survey had a 39 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 54 private schools, which equates to a 33 percent complete response rate.⁶

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

- compiled private school email list from association membership searches and ADE and added schools from PSS;
- called schools to collect missing email addresses;
- contacted all 166 schools at least three times directing them to the SurveyMonkey link containing the survey;
- obtained the endorsement of three school associations and one accrediting organization;
 - three 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.

The Friedman Foundation'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).⁷ The most recent survey—with data publicly available—was conducted in the 2013–14 school year.⁸

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 234 private schools in Arkansas serving 25,164 students overall.⁹ Of those, the USDOE received survey responses from 125 schools serving 20,567 K–12 and ungraded students.¹⁰ However, those numbers include 13 kindergarten-terminal (PK–K, or K only) schools serving 117 kindergarteners.¹¹ Excluding those schools, the USDOE received survey responses from 112 schools serving 20,275 K–12 and ungraded students. Therefore, excluding kindergarten-terminal schools, the USDOE had a 51 percent response rate. Appendix B shows what some of the data look like for kindergarten-terminal schools.

Survey Representativeness and Response Rates

| | USDOE (2013-14) | Friedman Foundation (2015-16) |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number of Private Schools Responding | 112 | 71 |
| Number of K–12 Private School Students Represented | 20,275 | 9,261 |
| School Response Rate | 51% | 39% |

Notes: USDOE response rate is based on 221 schools serving at least one grade higher than kindergarten. The number of schools responding to the Friedman Foundation survey includes those that submitted at least contact information. The Friedman Foundation response rate is based on the 166 private schools that met the criteria for inclusion on the survey list.

PART I

Friedman Foundation (2015–16)

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

Of the schools taking part in the Friedman Foundation survey, it is cautiously estimated that 4,458 open seats—across K–12—are available in the state’s private school choice sector. Note that this is an estimate provided directly by the 64 private schools in this survey. The projected estimate for Arkansas’s total private school sector is closer to 9,500 open seats for K–12 students.

Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools (2015–16)

| Private School Grade Level | Number of Open Seats |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL | 4,458 |
| Kindergarten | 452 |
| Elementary School | 1,606 |
| Middle School | 1,024 |
| High School | 1,280 |
| Ungraded | 96 |

number of schools responding = 64; item response rate = 39%

Are schools familiar with the concept of school vouchers?

Arkansas private schools were asked a question new to the *School Survey Series*: How familiar are you with school vouchers? Approximately half of the private schools (51 percent; 29 of 57 schools) indicated they were already familiar with school vouchers. Slightly more than one out of five Arkansas private schools said they were “not at all familiar” with school vouchers, meaning they may not have heard of the concept prior to the survey.

Familiarity with School Vouchers

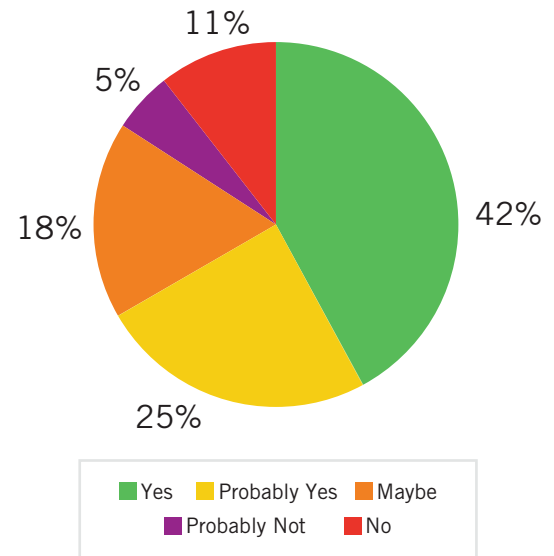
| Response | Percent of Private Schools |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Very Familiar | 11% |
| Somewhat Familiar | 40% |
| Not Too Familiar | 28% |
| Not At All Familiar | 21% |

number of schools responding = 57; item response rate = 34%

If enacted, would schools participate in a voucher program?

When provided with a definition and asked if they would participate in a voucher program, approximately two out of three respondent private schools (67 percent; 38 of 57 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes.” Another 18 percent of schools said “maybe.” In other words, they would consider participation. Three schools (5 percent) said they would probably not participate, and six schools (11 percent) said “no” when asked if they would participate.¹²

Private School Responses to Potential Voucher Program Participation



number of schools responding = 57; item response rate = 34%

Are schools familiar with Arkansas’s Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities?

Arkansas private schools were asked if they were familiar with the state’s voucher program for students with special needs. Approximately one out of four private schools (25 percent; 14 of 57 schools) indicated they were already familiar with Arkansas’s school voucher program. Nearly half of Arkansas private schools said they were “not at all familiar” with the state’s Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities, meaning they may not have heard of the program prior to the survey.

Familiarity with Arkansas’s Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities

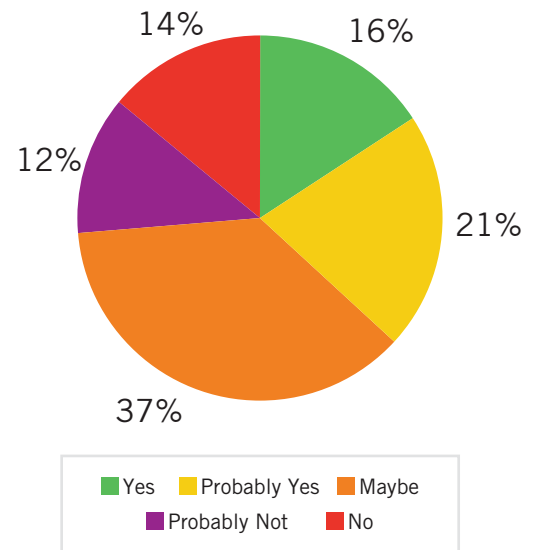
| Response | Percent of Private Schools |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Very Familiar | 5% |
| Somewhat Familiar | 19% |
| Not Too Familiar | 30% |
| Not At All Familiar | 46% |

number of schools responding = 57; item response rate = 34%

Are schools interested in participating in Arkansas’s Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities?

When provided with a description of the program, slightly less than two out of five private schools (37 percent; 21 of 57 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes” when asked if they would participate. Another 37 percent of schools said “maybe.” In other words, they would consider participation. Seven schools (12 percent) said they would probably not participate, and eight schools (14 percent) said “no” when asked if they would participate.

Private School Responses to Potential Participation in the Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities



number of schools responding = 57; item response rate = 34%

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

Arkansas 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.¹³ Approximately one out of four private schools (25 percent; 14 of 56 schools) indicated they were already familiar with ESAs. Nearly half of Arkansas private schools (45 percent; 25 of 56 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

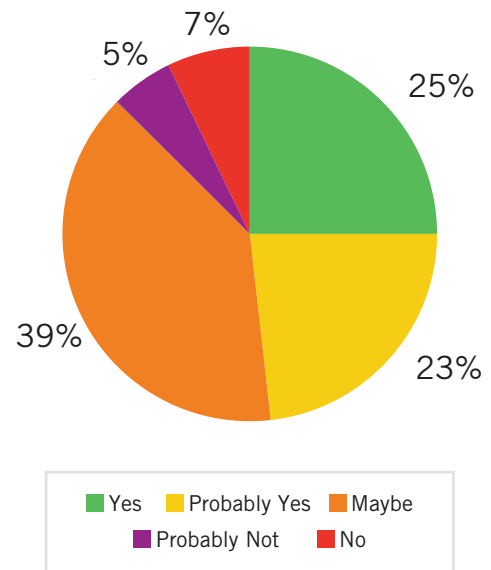
| Response | Percent of Private Schools |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Very Familiar | 4% |
| Somewhat Familiar | 21% |
| Not Too Familiar | 30% |
| Not At All Familiar | 45% |

number of schools responding = 56; item response rate = 34%

If enacted, would schools participate in an ESA program?

When provided with the definition on the previous page and asked if they would participate in an ESA program, nearly half of the respondent private schools (48 percent; 27 of 56 schools) said “yes” or “probably yes.” Another 39 percent of schools (22 of 56 schools) said “maybe.” In other words, they would consider participation. Three schools (5 percent) said they would probably not participate, and four schools (7 percent) said “no” when asked if they would participate.

Private School Responses to Potential ESA Program Participation



number of schools responding = 56; item response rate = 34%

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

Approximately three out of four schools (75 percent; 53 of 71 schools) that responded to the Friedman Foundation’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,
- paperwork and reporting,
- accommodations for students with special needs,
- testing and accountability, and
- teacher and staff certification and licensure.

About two-thirds of the schools that responded to that question (66 percent) said they would have “very high” or “somewhat high” concerns with regulations concerning the setting of curriculum and instruction.

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

| Rule/Regulation | Average Concern Level |
|---|-----------------------|
| Curriculum and Instruction | 3.8 |
| Paperwork and Reporting | 3.7 |
| Accommodations for Students with Special Needs | 3.5 |
| Testing and Accountability | 3.4 |
| Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure | 3.4 |
| School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines | 3.4 |
| School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state) | 3.3 |
| Tuition and Fees | 3.2 |
| Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit) | 3.0 |
| Financial Reporting and Disclosure | 3.0 |
| Building Safety and Security | 2.6 |

number of schools responding = 53; item response rate = 32%

Continued...

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

| Rule/Regulation | Number of Private Schools |
|---|---------------------------|
| Curriculum and Instruction | 35 |
| Testing and Accountability | 28 |
| Paperwork and Reporting | 27 |
| Accommodations for Students with Special Needs | 26 |
| Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure | 26 |
| School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines | 22 |
| Tuition and Fees | 20 |
| School Eligibility for Program (e.g. register with state) | 18 |
| Student Eligibility for Program (e.g. income limit) | 16 |
| Financial Reporting and Disclosure | 15 |
| Building Safety and Security | 13 |

number of schools responding = 53; item response rate = 32%

Which geographic areas have the most open seats in Arkansas’s private schools?

Of the private schools that responded to the Friedman Foundation survey, Pulaski County had the most open K–12 private school seats during the 2015–16 school year. Little Rock had more open K–12 private school seats than any other city in the state.

- Fort Smith had nine-tenths (90 percent) the number of open seats Little Rock had. Hot Springs had a little less than four-fifths (79 percent) the number of open seats Little Rock had.
- Saline County had a little less than nine-tenths (88 percent) the number of open seats Pulaski County had.

Top 10 Arkansas Cities With Largest Number of Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools

| City | Number of Open Seats |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Little Rock | 483 |
| Fort Smith | 433 |
| Hot Springs | 380 |
| Conway | 343 |
| Fayetteville | 300 |
| Bryant | 262 |
| Rogers | 187 |
| Searcy | 177 |
| Benton | 165 |
| West Helena | 162 |

number of schools responding = 64; item response rate = 39%

Top 10 Arkansas Counties With Largest Number of Open Seats in Respondent Private Schools

| County | Number of Open Seats |
|------------|----------------------|
| Pulaski | 560 |
| Saline | 492 |
| Sebastian | 433 |
| Garland | 380 |
| Faulkner | 343 |
| Washington | 300 |
| Benton | 279 |
| White | 182 |
| Phillips | 162 |
| Lafayette | 157 |

number of schools responding = 64; item response rate = 39%

Which geographic areas have the most respondent private schools?

More than one-third (34 percent) of the Arkansas private schools that responded to the Friedman Foundation survey are situated in Little Rock, Fort Smith, or Fayetteville (24 of 71 schools).

Nearly one-fourth (24 percent) of the state's respondent private schools are located in Pulaski County (17 of 71 schools).

Top 12 Arkansas Cities With Largest Number of Respondent Private Schools

| City | Number of Private Schools |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Little Rock | 14 |
| Fort Smith | 6 |
| Fayetteville | 4 |
| Hot Springs | 4 |
| Bentonville | 3 |
| Rogers | 3 |
| Searcy | 3 |
| Conway | 2 |
| Morrilton | 2 |
| North Little Rock | 2 |
| Texarkana | 2 |
| West Memphis | 2 |

number of schools responding = 71; item response rate = 43%

Top 11 Arkansas Counties With Largest Number of Respondent Private Schools

| County | Number of Private Schools |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Pulaski | 17 |
| Benton | 7 |
| Sebastian | 6 |
| Washington | 5 |
| Garland | 4 |
| White | 4 |
| Saline | 3 |
| Faulkner | 2 |
| Miller | 2 |
| Conway | 2 |
| Crittenden | 2 |

number of schools responding = 71; item response rate = 43%

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 \$4,170 or less for elementary and \$4,575 or less for middle school and high school grades. Comparatively, Arkansas public schools spent \$9,616 per student in 2013–14.¹⁴

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 \$13,000. Two schools did not charge for prekindergarten and one high school with two students did not charge tuition and fees for church members.

Approximately one-third of Arkansas private schools (33 percent) charge less than \$3,500 for prekindergarten, whereas a slightly smaller proportion charge the same range for kindergarten, elementary school grades, and middle school grades (30 percent, 29 percent, and 29 percent, respectively). Nearly two-fifths of Arkansas private schools (37 percent) charge the same range for high school grades.

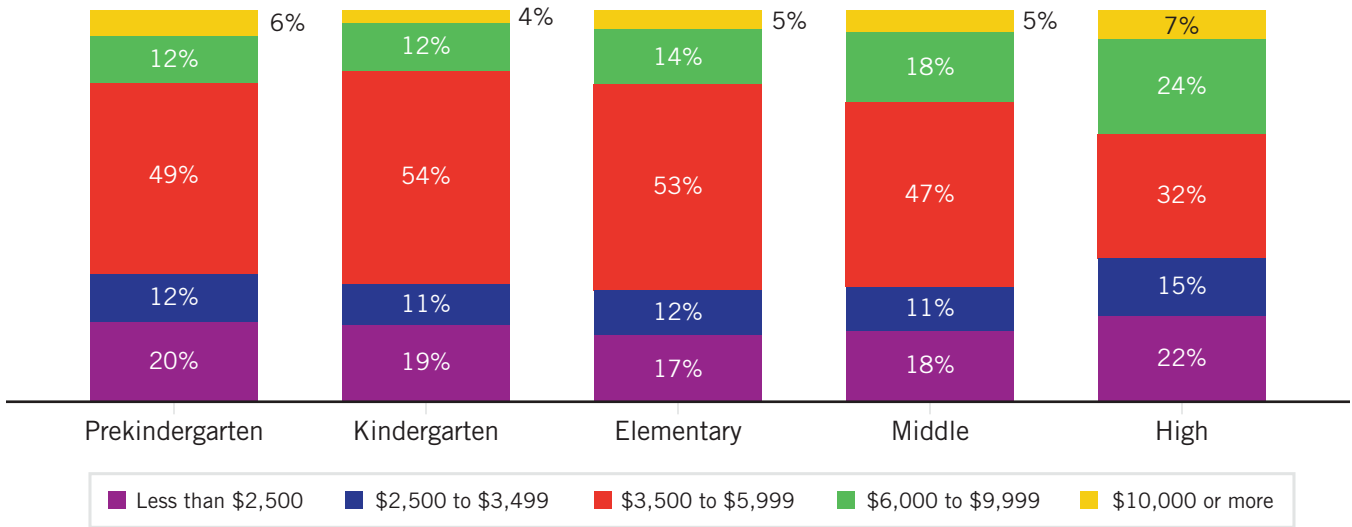
Combined Tuition and Fees Amounts for Arkansas Private Schools

| Grade(s) | Average | Median | Minimum | Maximum |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| OVERALL | \$4,456 | \$4,200 | \$0 | \$13,000 |
| Prekindergarten | \$4,292 | \$4,000 | \$0 | \$13,000 |
| Kindergarten | \$4,309 | \$4,170 | \$190 | \$13,000 |
| Elementary School | \$4,462 | \$4,170 | \$200 | \$13,000 |
| Middle School | \$4,579 | \$4,575 | \$200 | \$12,570 |
| High School | \$4,685 | \$4,575 | \$0 | \$12,570 |

number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 38%

Continued...

Arkansas Private School Combined Tuition and Fees Ranges by Grade Level



number of schools responding = 63; item response rate = 38%

What do private schools charge in fees?

Half of schools for which fee data are available charge \$180 or less, and the Arkansas private schools for which fee data are available charge \$5 to \$2,000 in total fees. Those fees are in addition to the tuition that schools charge students. The fee category in which Arkansas schools charge the most, on average, is “Transportation.” Fees under the “Other” category included those for classroom supplies, athletics, field trips, and general student activities.

Fee Amounts for Arkansas Private Schools

| Fee Category | Average Fee | Median Fee | Minimum Fee | Maximum Fee |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| TOTAL | \$218 | \$180 | \$5 | \$2,000 |
| Registration/Application | \$198 | \$150 | \$20 | \$610 |
| Textbooks | \$235 | \$213 | \$50 | \$600 |
| Technology | \$115 | \$100 | \$5 | \$380 |
| Transportation | \$728 | \$650 | \$15 | \$2,000 |
| Uniforms | \$126 | \$100 | \$15 | \$300 |
| Other | \$185 | \$150 | \$10 | \$430 |

number of schools responding = 57; item response rate = 34%

What proportion of Arkansas private schools offers some form of financial assistance, and how much do they offer?

Nearly two-thirds of the state's private schools for which tuition data are available (65 percent) provide some form of tuition assistance. Half of those schools provide financial assistance to nearly one-fourth of their students (24 percent), and half of those schools provide \$1,550 or more in financial assistance.

Tuition Assistance Provided by Arkansas Private Schools

| | Average | Median |
|---|---------|---------|
| Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Assistance (Including Discounts) | 24% | 20% |
| Tuition Assistance Per Student | \$2,106 | \$1,550 |

number of schools responding = 46; item response rate = 28%

What proportion of Arkansas private schools educates students with special needs?

For the schools that responded to this question, it is estimated approximately one out of six students attending Arkansas private schools (17 percent) had special needs in 2015–16, on average.¹⁵ Comparatively, approximately one out of seven Arkansas public school students (14 percent) had special needs in 2013–14.¹⁶

However, it is important to note that, in three of the respondent schools, students with special needs made up the entire student body, so the median proportion of students (8 percent) may be more important for comparisons. A median of that data point could not be found for Arkansas public schools.

Arkansas 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 | 17% | 8% |
| Without Special Needs | 83% | 92% |

number of schools responding = 45; item response rate = 27%

What proportion of the state's private schools enrolls students with special needs?

Of those schools that responded to the question, more than four out of five (84 percent; 46 of 55 schools) enrolled at least one student with special needs in 2015–16.

Arkansas Private Schools Enrolling Students with Special Needs

| Enrolled Student(s) with Special Needs | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Yes | 46 | 84% |
| No | 9 | 16% |

number of schools responding = 55; item response rate = 33%

Do respondent schools test their students annually?

Nearly nine out of 10 Arkansas private schools (87 percent) require their students to take a nationally norm-referenced test to measure student academic performance. Of those schools, more than two out of five (42 percent; 20 of 48 schools) reported they administered the Stanford 10. Approximately one out of three schools (33 percent; 16 of 48 schools) administered the Iowa Assessments, and one quarter of respondent schools (25 percent; 12 of 48 schools) administered the ACT Aspire.

Tests Administered in Arkansas Private Schools

| Test Administered | Number of Testing Schools | Percentage of State's Testing Schools |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TOTAL | 48 | 87% |
| Stanford 10 only | 16 | 29% |
| Iowa Assessments only | 8 | 15% |
| Iowa Assessments + ACT Aspire | 6 | 11% |
| Other(s) only | 5 | 9% |
| Terra Nova only | 5 | 9% |
| ACT Aspire only | 4 | 7% |
| ACT Aspire + Stanford 10 | 2 | 4% |
| Iowa Assessments + Stanford 10 | 2 | 4% |
| Qualls Early Learning Inventory | 0 | 0% |

number of schools responding = 48; item response rate = 29%

Continued...

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

| | Stanford 10 | Iowa Assessments | ACT Aspire | Terra Nova | Other(s) |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| TOTAL | 20 | 16 | 12 | 5 | 5 |
| Kindergarten | 5 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| First Grade | 14 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Second Grade | 14 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Third Grade | 16 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Fourth Grade | 16 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Fifth Grade | 18 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Sixth Grade | 18 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Seventh Grade | 15 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Eighth Grade | 14 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Ninth Grade | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 10th Grade | 6 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 2 |
| 11th Grade | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 12th Grade | 6 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

number of schools responding = 48; item response rate = 29%

PART II

U.S. Department of Education:
PSS datasets 1989–1990 to 2013–14

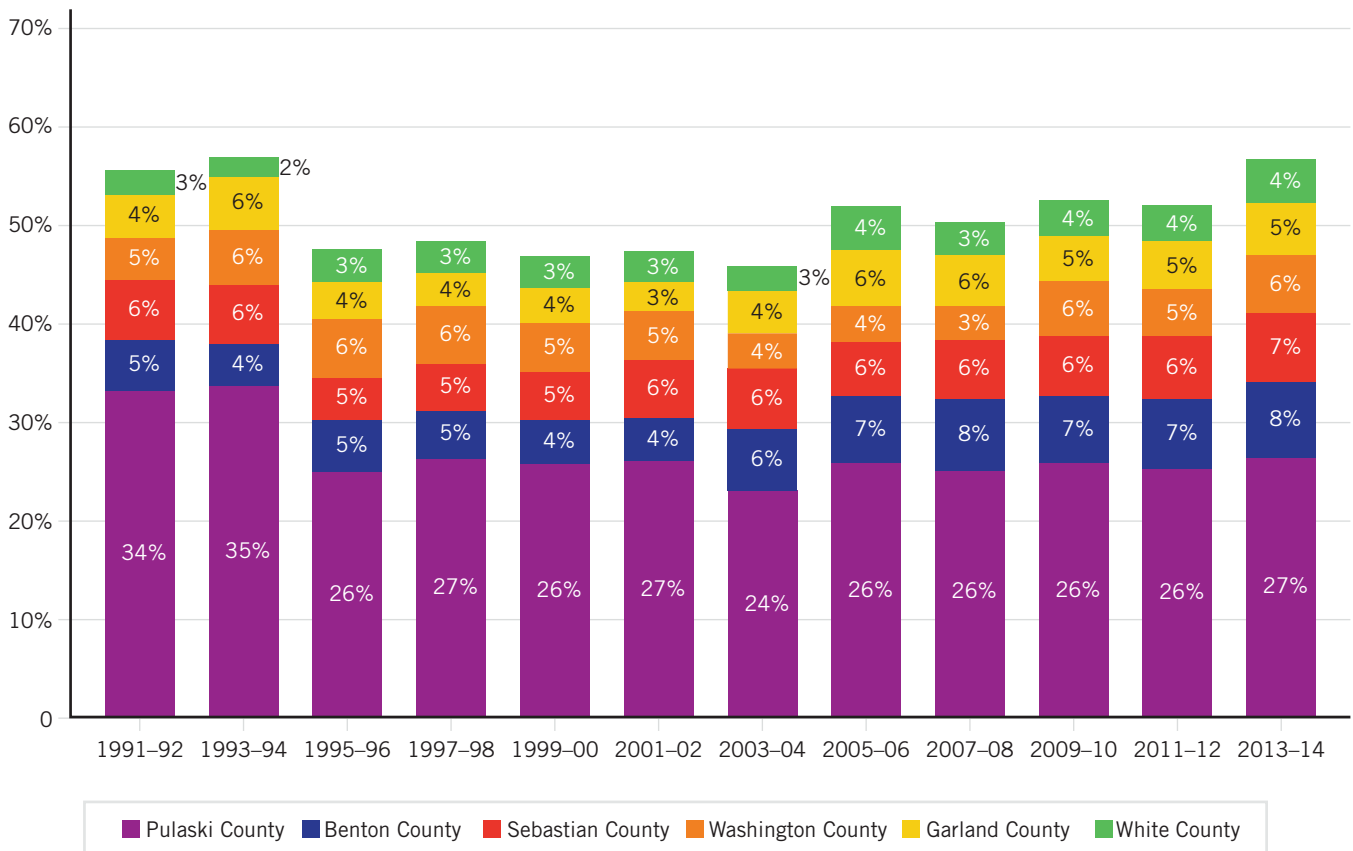
Which geographic areas have the most private schools?

Generally speaking, the following three areas represent the cradles of private schools in Arkansas: Pulaski County, which has more than one out of four of the state's private schools (27 percent; 30 of 112 schools), Benton County, which has nearly one out of 10 of the state's private schools (8 percent; 9 of 112 schools), and Sebastian County, which has approximately 7 percent (8 of 112 schools). Both Pulaski and Sebastian counties' proportion of the state's private schools has remained relatively the same since 1991–92, while the proportion of schools in Benton County has increased.¹⁷

Top Nine Arkansas Counties With Private Schools (2013–14)

| County | Number of Private Schools | Number of Private School Students |
|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pulaski | 30 | 10,026 |
| Benton | 9 | 1,570 |
| Sebastian | 8 | 1,201 |
| Washington | 7 | 1,775 |
| Garland | 6 | 221 |
| White | 5 | 730 |
| Saline | 4 | 339 |
| Craighead | 3 | 369 |
| Arkansas | 3 | 160 |

Proportion of Arkansas Private Schools by County (1991–92 to 2013–14)



What types of communities have the most private schools?

Nearly half of Arkansas's private schools (47 percent) are in a city (53 of 112 schools), whereas more than two out of five (44 percent) are in a town or rural area (49 of 112 schools). However, 61 percent of Arkansas's private school *students* attend school in a city, compared with 8 percent in suburban areas, 11 percent in towns, and 19 percent in rural areas. These community types are assigned by the National Center for Education Statistics and are based on 2000 Census geography.¹⁸

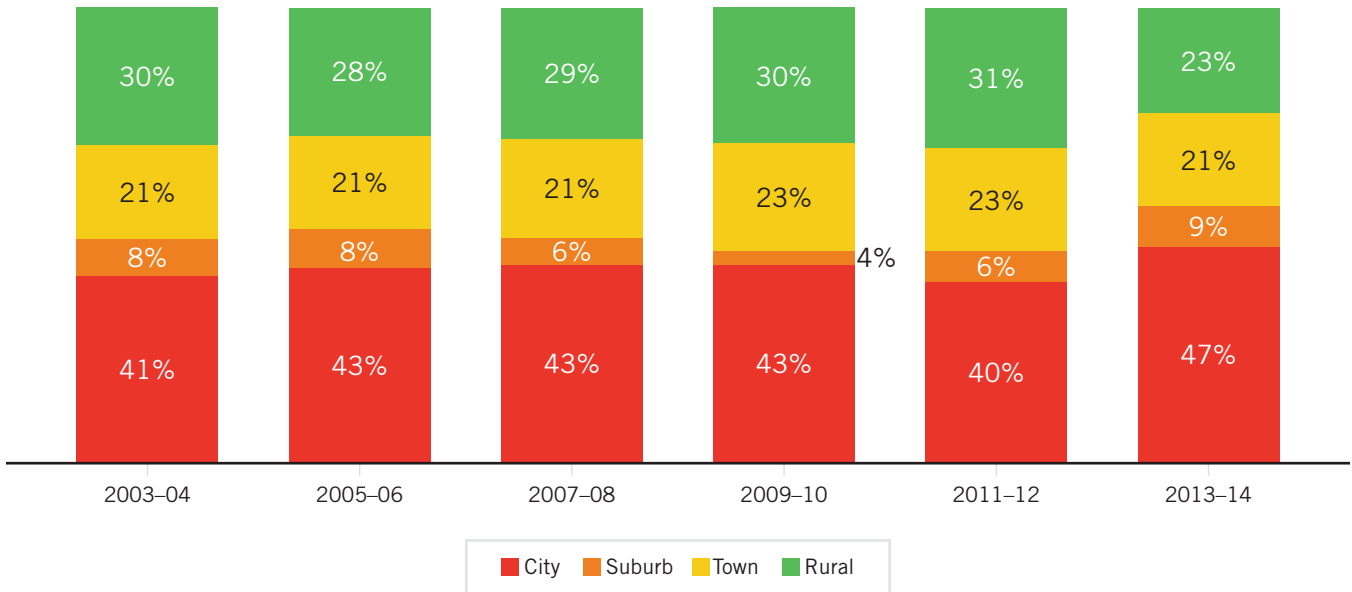
The distribution of Arkansas's private schools by community type has changed little over time. However, there has been a slight increase in the share of schools in cities and suburbs and a small drop in the share of schools in rural areas.

Arkansas Private Schools 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 | 53 | 47% | 12,460 | 61% |
| Suburb | 10 | 9% | 1,638 | 8% |
| Town | 23 | 21% | 2,297 | 11% |
| Rural | 26 | 23% | 3,880 | 19% |

Continued...

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



Which cities have the most private schools?

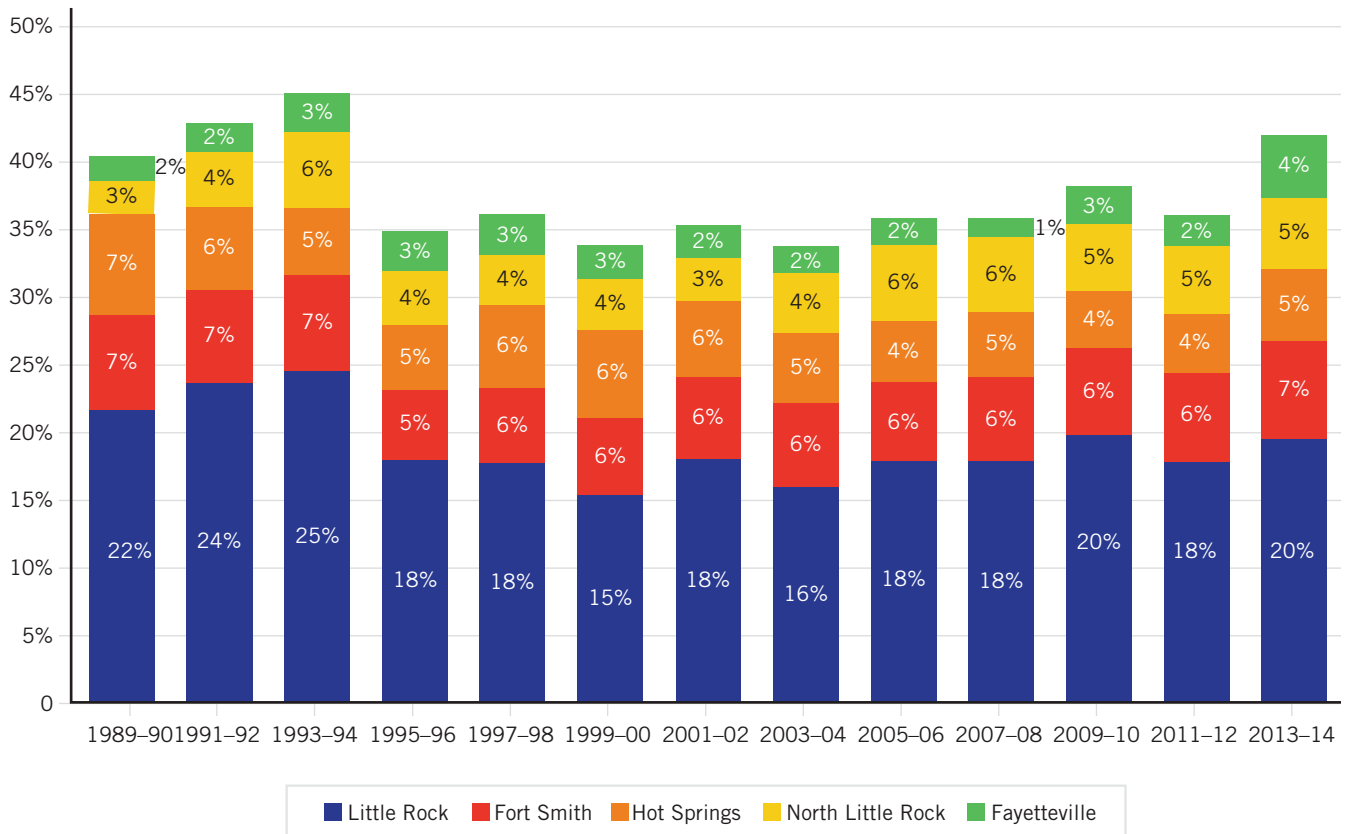
More than one quarter of the state’s private schools (27 percent) are in Little Rock or Fort Smith (30 of 112 schools).

The percentages of the state’s private schools in Little Rock, Fort Smith, and North Little Rock have fluctuated slightly over time but have remained fairly consistent overall, and the concentration of the schools in Hot Springs has decreased. Those four areas have accounted for anywhere from slightly less than one-third (31 percent in 1999–00) to more than two out of five (42 percent in 1993–94) of the state’s private schools over time.

Top Eight Arkansas Cities With Largest Number of Private Schools (2013–14)

| City | Number of Private Schools | Number of Private School Students |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Little Rock | 22 | 7,927 |
| Fort Smith | 8 | 1,201 |
| North Little Rock | 6 | 1,728 |
| Hot Springs | 6 | 221 |
| Fayetteville | 5 | 835 |
| Searcy | 3 | 693 |
| Gentry | 3 | 260 |
| Stuttgar | 3 | 160 |

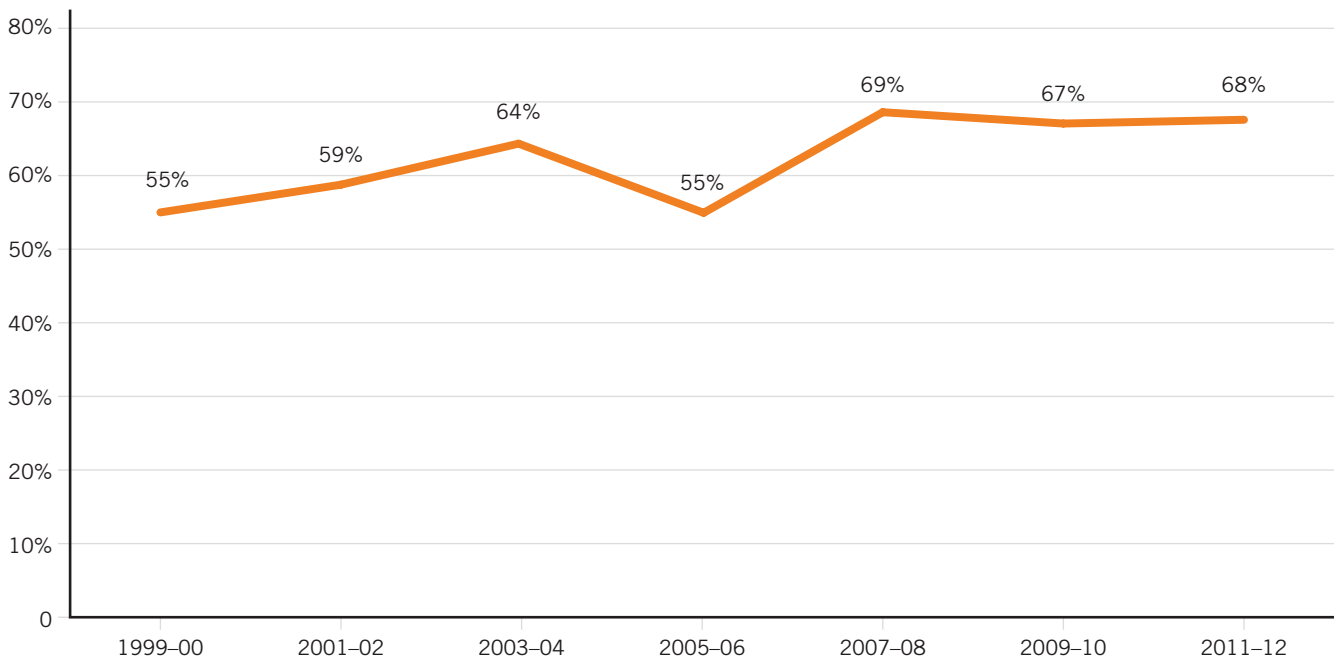
Proportion of Arkansas Private Schools by City (1989–90 to 2013–14)



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

More than two-thirds of private school students who graduates with a diploma in 2010–11 (68 percent) continued their education at a four-year college. This is slightly more than the national average for private school graduates (65 percent). Comparatively, 44 percent of all recent high school completers in the U.S. enrolled in a four-year institution in 2014.¹⁹ Although there has been some fluctuation, the percent of high school seniors graduating Arkansas private schools with a diploma and going on to a four-year college has increased overall since 1999–00.

Proportion of Arkansas Private School Graduates Enrolling in a Four-Year College (1999–00 to 2011–12)

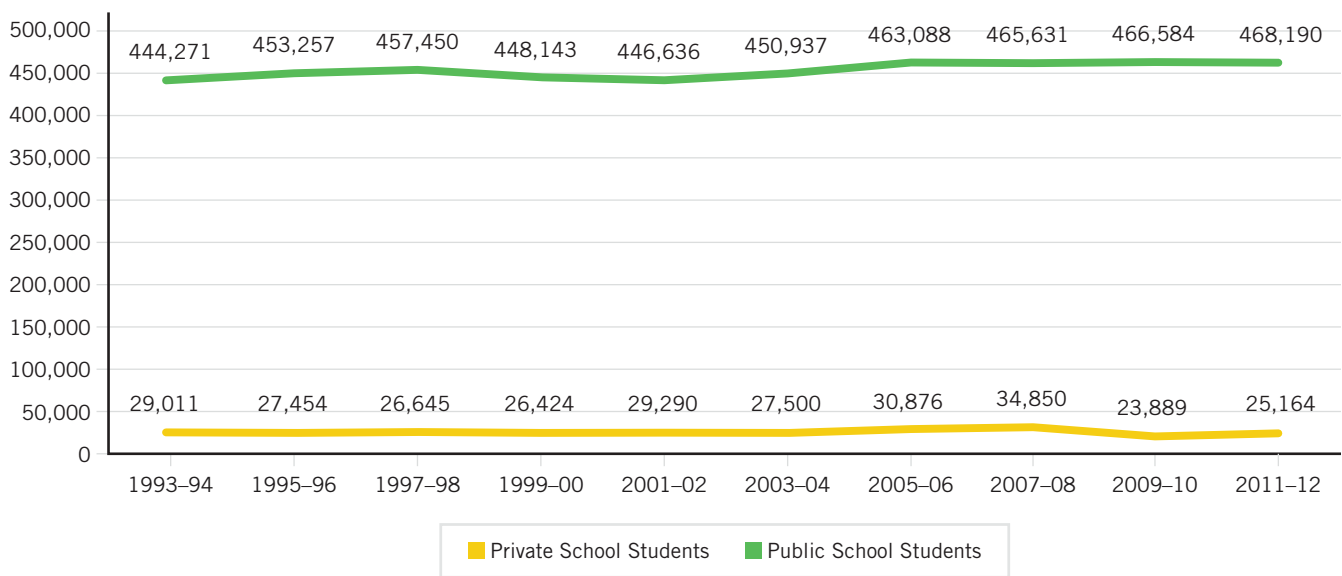


How many of Arkansas's students attend private school?

More than 25,000 students attend private school in Arkansas, according to the most recent data currently available. This is a decrease of approximately 13 percent from 1993–94. By contrast, the number of students attending public school in Arkansas has increased approximately 5 percent across the same time periods.²⁰

Approximately one out of 20 Arkansas students (5 percent) attend private school. Over the course of nearly 20 years, this proportion has remained fairly consistent, although there has been an increase of 23,919 public school students and a decrease of 3,847 private school students.²¹

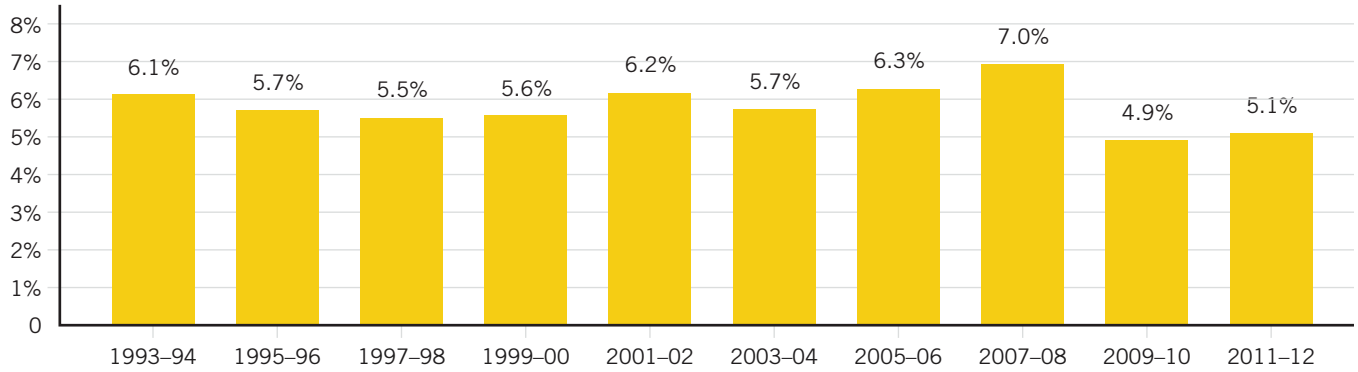
Number of K–12 Students in Arkansas (1993–94 to 2011–12)



Note: Private school students count for 2007–08 should be interpreted with caution because the coefficient of variation for the estimate is larger than 25 percent.

Continued...

Proportion of Arkansas Students Attending Private School (1993–94 to 2011–12)

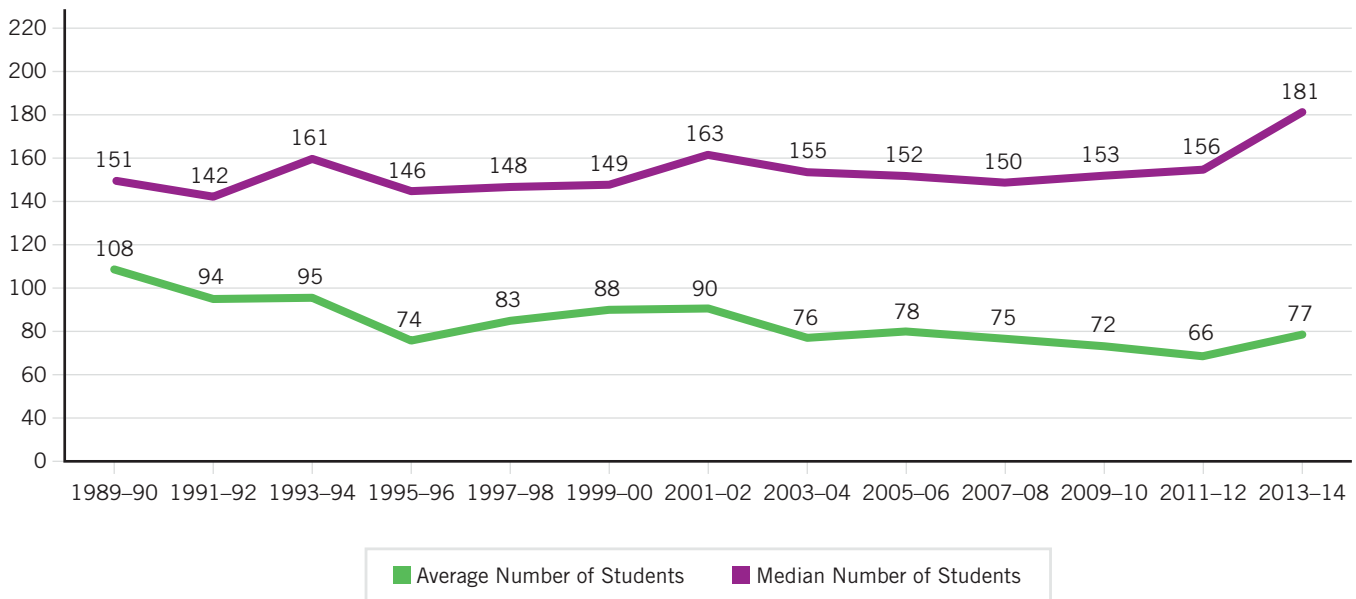


What is the state's average and median private school size (enrollment)?

The average private school size in Arkansas is 181 K-12 students, and the median private school size is 77 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 26 schools with fewer than 30 K-12 students.

After an overall decline in the state's average private school size in the 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 Arkansas Private Schools (1989-90 to 2013-14)

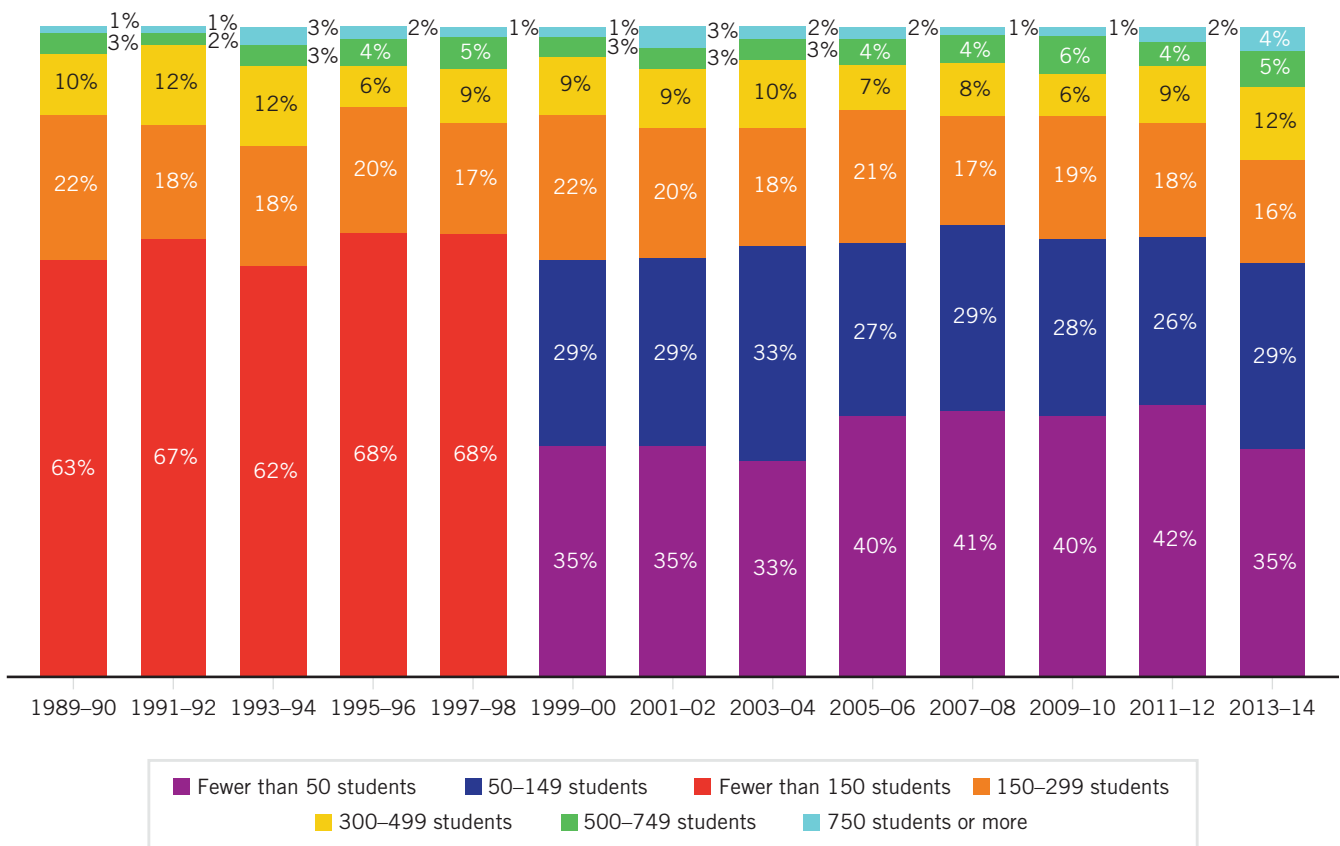


What are the enrollment sizes of the state's private schools?

More than one out of three of Arkansas's private schools (35 percent) enroll fewer than 50 students (39 of 112 schools). When including the schools enrolling 50 to 149 students, more than three out of five of Arkansas private schools (63 percent) enroll fewer than 150 students (71 of 112 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 in the largest enrollment category (750 students or more) has increased over time.

Proportion of Arkansas Private Schools by Enrollment Size (1989–90 to 2013–14)



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

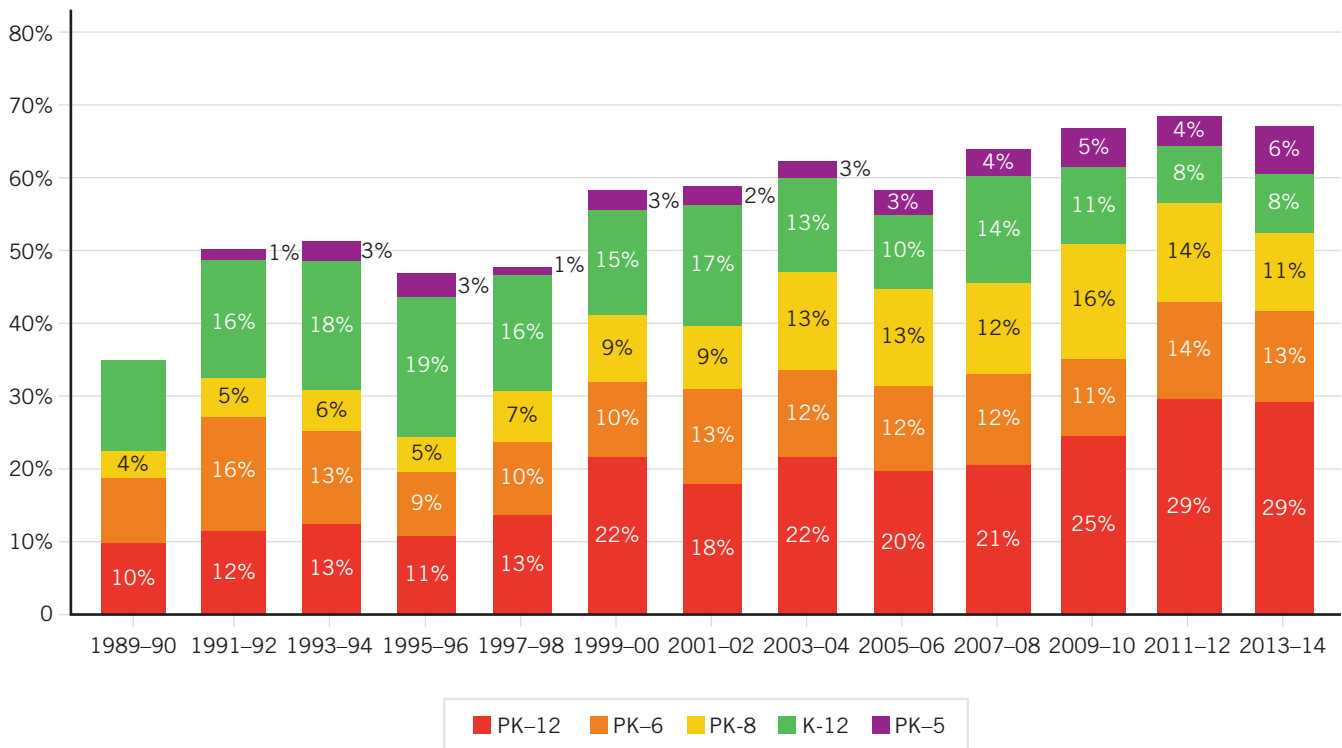
Nearly one out of three (29 percent) Arkansas private schools (33 of 112 schools) have the grade span of prekindergarten through 12th grade (PK-12). The proportion for that span is more than double the proportion of private schools in the state that span PK-6 (13 percent) or PK-8 (11 percent). Arkansas's private schools offer at least 23 different grade spans.

Although schools with the grade span of PK-12 account for nearly one out of three of the private schools in Arkansas (29 percent), they once represented one out of 10 (10 percent). This may be explained by schools serving grades K-12 adding PK, since the percent of schools with this grade span used to be 19 percent (1995-96) but decreased to 8 percent (2013-14).

10 Most Common Grade Spans of Arkansas Private Schools (2013-14)

| Grade Span | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PK-12 | 33 | 29% |
| PK-6 | 14 | 13% |
| PK-8 | 12 | 11% |
| K-12 | 9 | 8% |
| PK-5 | 7 | 6% |
| PK-9 | 5 | 4% |
| PK-7 | 4 | 4% |
| PK-11 | 4 | 4% |
| K-8 | 4 | 4% |
| 9-12 | 3 | 3% |

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



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

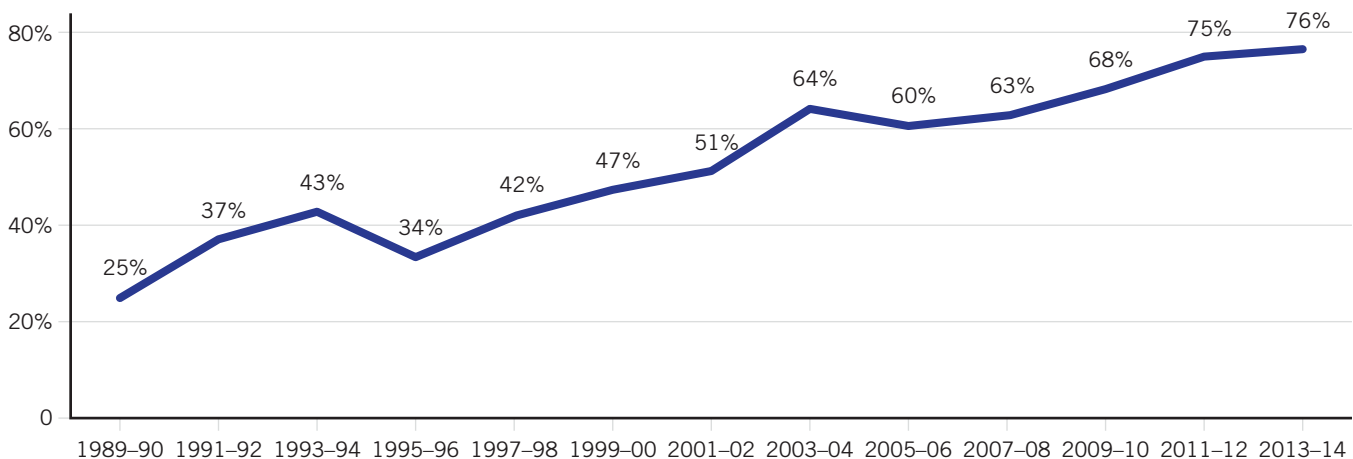
An estimated 85 private schools in Arkansas offer prekindergarten, representing more than three out of four of the state’s private schools (76 percent). By comparison, 287 public schools in Arkansas provide prekindergarten, representing more than one-fourth of the state’s public schools (27 percent).²²

The share of private schools offering PK jumped from one-fourth (25 percent) in 1989–90 to more than three-fourths (76 percent) in 2013–14. This suggests an increase in demand of PK over time, which could be influenced by a variety of factors.

Arkansas Schools Offering Prekindergarten (2013–14)

| Offer PK | Number of Public Schools | Percent of State's Public Schools | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Yes | 287 | 27% | 85 | 76% |
| No | 784 | 73% | 27 | 24% |

Proportion of Nebraska Private Schools Offering Prekindergarten (1989–90 to 2013–14)



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

Overall, there are slightly more male private school students (53 percent) in Arkansas than there are female (47 percent). By comparison, these proportions are somewhat similar for public school students in Arkansas (49 percent female; 51 percent male).²³

Arkansas 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 | 10,137 | 47% | 239,047 | 49% |
| Male | 11,487 | 53% | 250,388 | 51% |

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

More than four-fifths of Arkansas private school students (85 percent) are white, compared with 63 percent of Arkansas's public school students and 66 percent of Arkansas's five- to 19-year olds who identify as white.²⁴

From 2005–06 to 2013–14, the population size of Arkansas's white private school students fell 19 percent, compared with Arkansas's white public school students decreasing 5 percent and the overall size of Arkansas's white population increasing slightly more than 1 percent from 2006 to 2013.

Conversely, the state's number of Asian or Pacific Islander private school students rose 112 percent, compared with Arkansas's Asian or Pacific Islander public school students increasing 56 percent and the overall size of Arkansas's Asian or Pacific Islander citizenry rising 31 percent. Meanwhile, Hispanic private school students increased 25 percent, whereas the state's population of Hispanic public school students increased 71 percent and the state's Hispanic citizen population increased 47 percent.

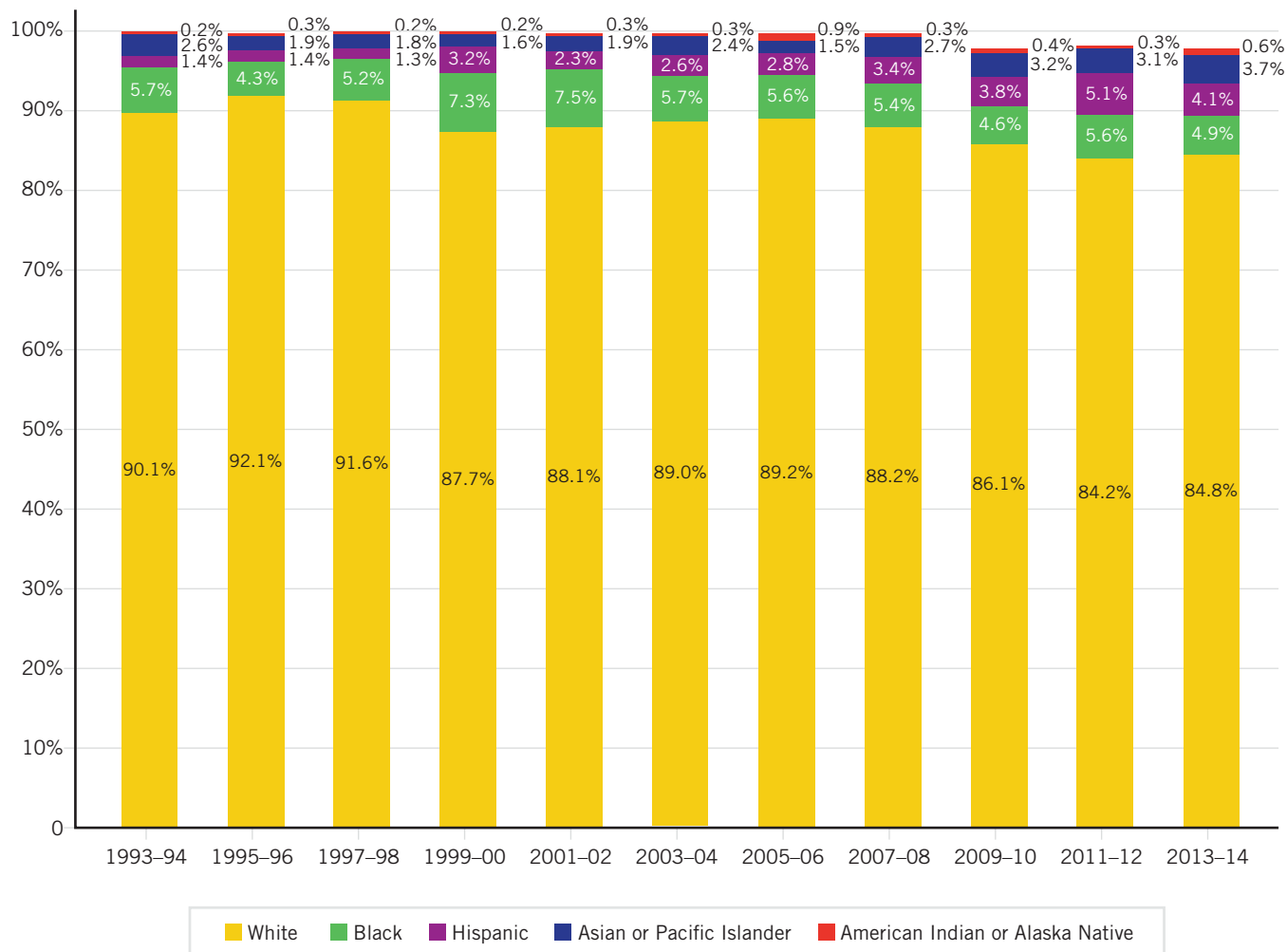
During those same timeframes, the state's population of black private school students dropped 25 percent, whereas the population of similar public school students decreased 6 percent and the population of similar Arkansas citizens increased 6 percent. The population of American Indian or Alaska Native private school students fell 44 percent; the state's population of similar public school students increased slightly more than 1 percent, and the population of similar citizens in Arkansas decreased 23 percent.²⁵

Continued...

Arkansas 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 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| White | 17,184 | 84.8% | 308,771 | 63.1% |
| Black | 989 | 4.9% | 102,718 | 21.0% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 826 | 4.1% | 54,960 | 11.2% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 750 | 3.7% | 10,204 | 2.1% |
| Two or More | 399 | 2.0% | 9,653 | 2.0% |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 127 | 0.6% | 3,129 | 0.6% |

Racial and Ethnic Composition of Arkansas Private Schools (1993–94 to 2013–14)



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

Students attend Arkansas's private schools for approximately 7.1 hours per day for 178 days of the year, on average.

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

| | Average | Median |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Number of School Days/Year | 178 | 178 |
| Number of School Hours/Day | 7.1 | 7.0 |

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

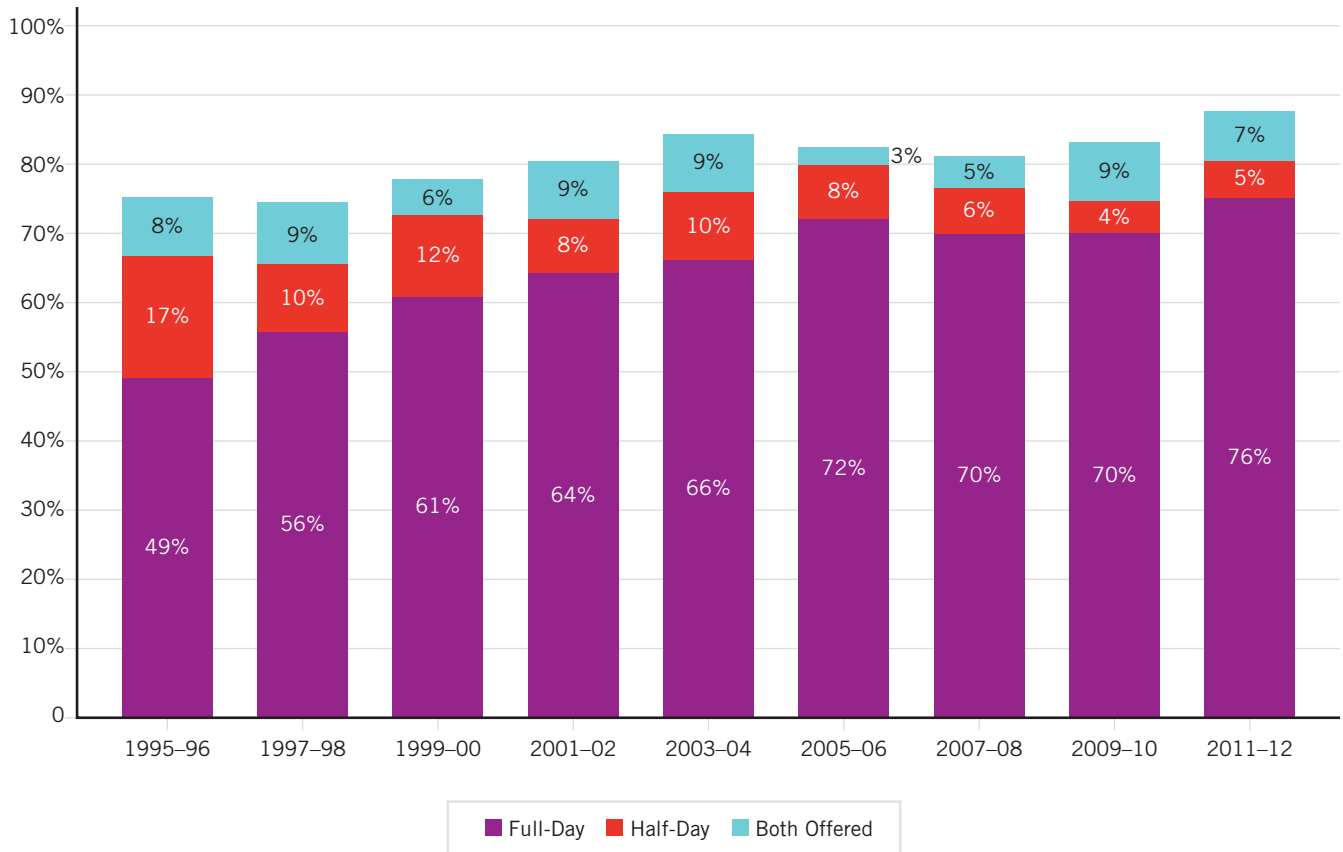
The majority (76 percent) of Arkansas private schools offer only full-day kindergarten (105 of 122 schools in 2011–12).

Although the overall proportion of Arkansas private schools that offer kindergarten has remained fairly consistent, many schools seem to have switched from offering only half-day kindergarten to offering only full-day kindergarten.

Arkansas Private Schools Offering Kindergarten (2011–12)

| | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Full-Day | 105 | 76% |
| Half-Day | 7 | 5% |
| Both | 10 | 7% |

Arkansas Private Schools Offering Kindergarten (1995–96 to 2011–12)



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

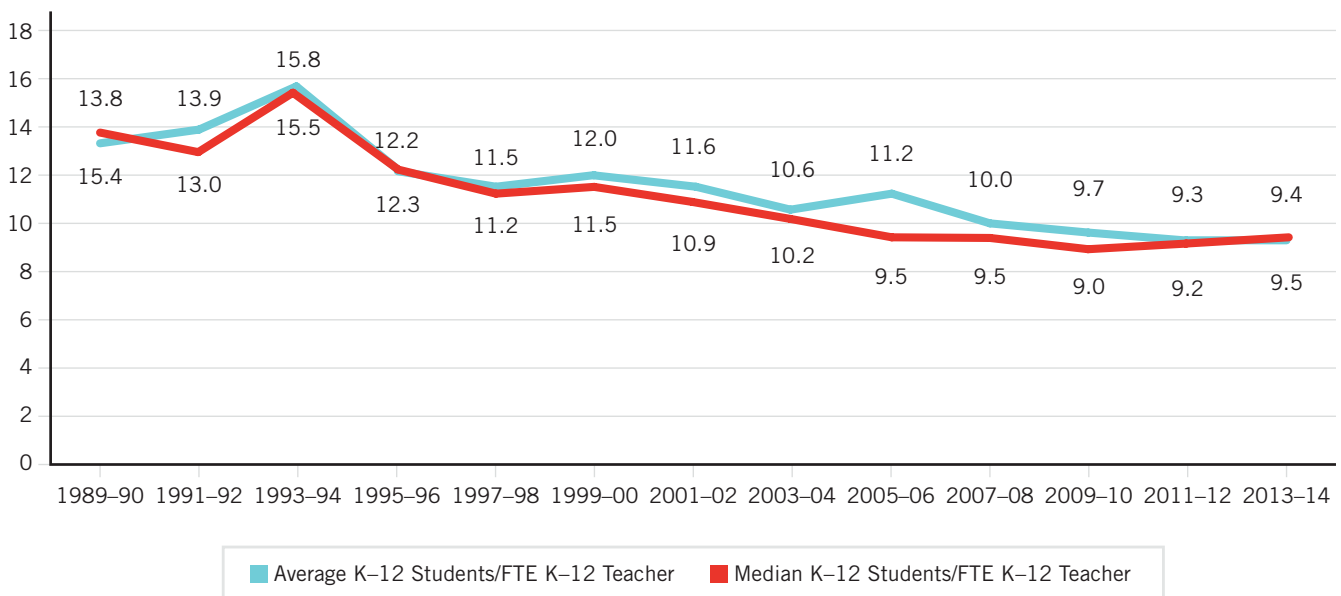
On average, there are more than nine K–12 students per full-time equivalent (FTE) K–12 teacher (9.4:1) in Arkansas’s private schools. By comparison, there are nearly 14 K–12 students per FTE K–12 teacher (13.8:1) in Arkansas’s public schools.²⁶

Private schools have gradually increased the number of FTE K–12 teachers per K–12 student since the early 1990s. Overall, the average number of K–12 students per FTE K–12 teacher has decreased over time (13.4:1 to 9.4:1).

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

| | Average | Median |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Public | 13.8 | 13.9 |
| Private | 9.4 | 9.5 |

Student-Teacher Ratios in Arkansas Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



How many schools are religious and which denominations are represented?

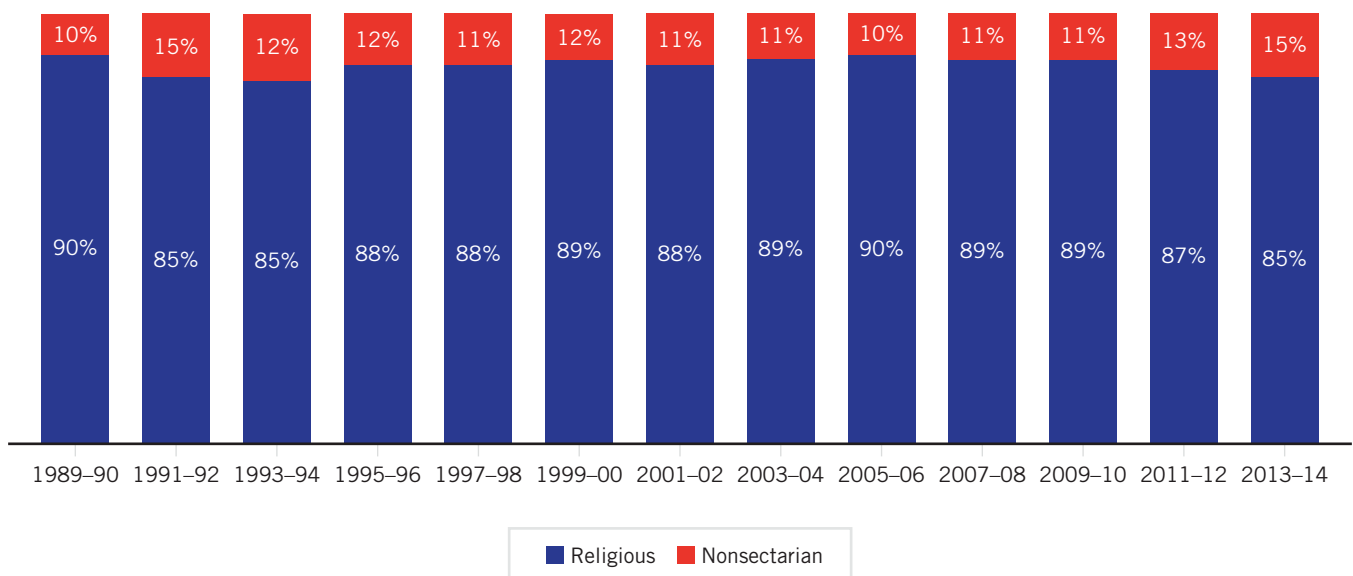
More than four out of five Arkansas private schools are religious in origin (85 percent; 95 of 112 schools). Arkansas's private schools have consistently been mostly religious in origin, although the population of nonsectarian schools has grown from 10 percent to 15 percent of the state's total private school marketplace. Of those schools that are religious, one out of four are Roman Catholic (25 percent; 24 of 95 schools).

Of the top five religious groupings, the percent of non-denominational Christian schools is the only one that seems to have significantly grown (8 of 111 schools in 1989–90; 18 of 112 in 2013–14). The percent of Arkansas's private schools that self-identify as Roman Catholic has decreased from nearly one out of three in 1989–90 (32 percent; 35 of 111 schools) to a little more than one out of five (21 percent; 24 of 112 schools). On average, over time, more than two out of three of the private schools in Arkansas (70 percent) have belonged to one of those five denominations: Roman Catholic, Baptist, Christian (no specific denomination), Seventh-Day Adventist, and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Religiosity of Arkansas Private Schools (2013–14)

| | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Religious | 95 | 85% |
| Nonsectarian | 17 | 15% |

Religiosity of Arkansas Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

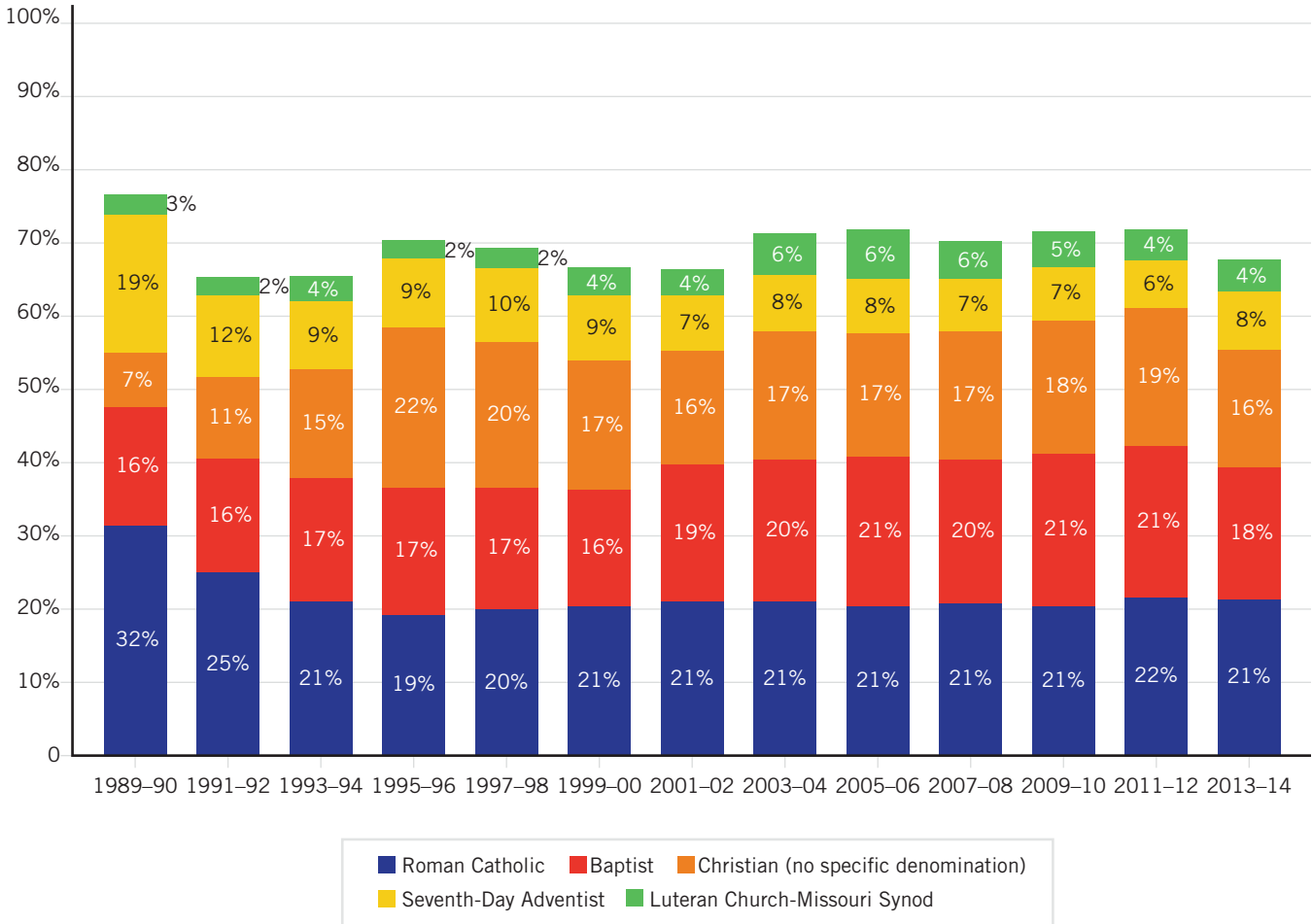


Continued...

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

| Denomination | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Roman Catholic | 24 | 21% |
| Baptist | 20 | 18% |
| Christian (no specific denomination) | 18 | 16% |
| Seventh-Day Adventist | 9 | 8% |
| Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod | 5 | 4% |

Most Common Denominations of Arkansas Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)



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

Approximately four out of five Arkansas private schools belong to at least one association (80 percent; 90 of 112 schools). Of those schools, nearly one-fourth belong to the National Catholic Educational Association (24 percent; 22 of 90 schools).²⁷

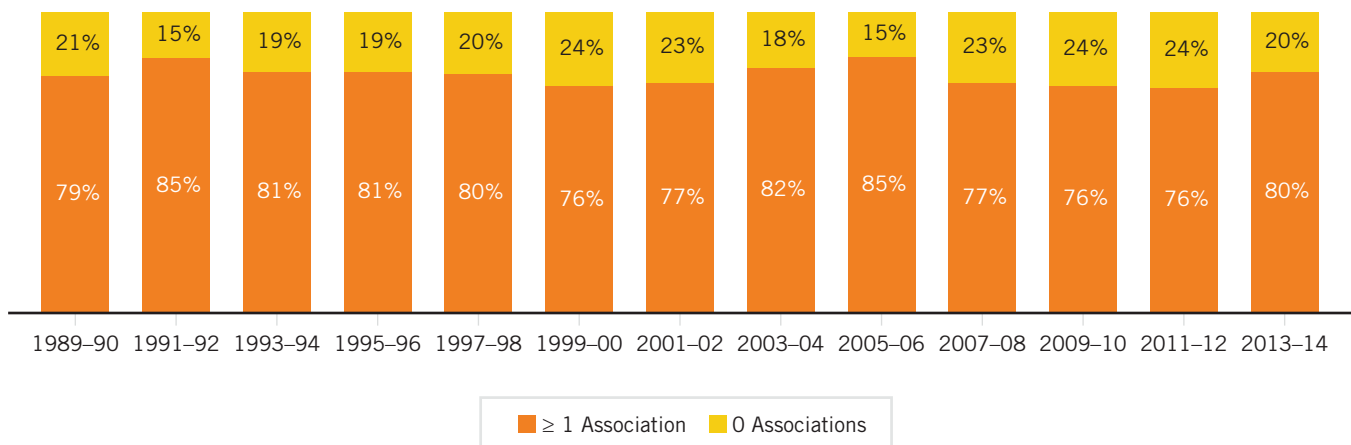
Of Arkansas private schools' top three individual association memberships in 2013–14, only the proportion of schools belonging to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has grown over time, from 12 percent in 1989–90 (13 of 111 schools) to 13 percent (15 of 112 schools). The percentage of schools belonging to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has decreased the most over time, from more than one out of four schools in 1989–90 (26 percent; 29 of 111 schools) to approximately one out of five schools (20 percent; 22 of 112 schools). NCEA, ACSI, and the General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC) have represented approximately two-fifths of the private schools in Arkansas 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 2014–15, NCEA had 27 members, and ACSI had 19 members in 2015–16.²⁸

Association Affiliation of Arkansas Private Schools (2013–14)

| Affiliation | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Belong to ≥ 1 Association | 90 | 80% |
| Belong to 0 Associations | 22 | 20% |

Association Affiliations of Arkansas Private Schools (1989–90 to 2013–14)

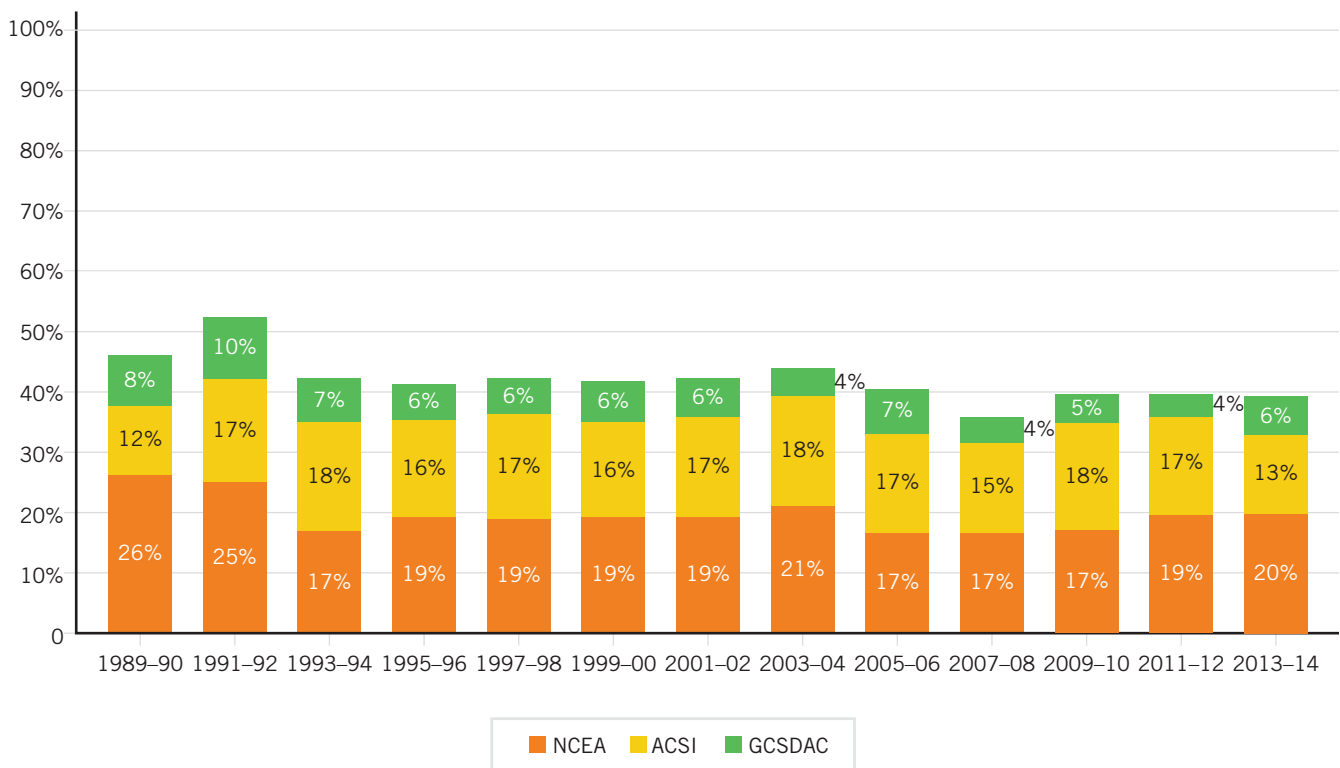


Continued...

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

| Association | Number of Private Schools | Percent of State's Private Schools |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) | 22 | 20% |
| Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) | 15 | 13% |
| State or Regional Independent School Association | 8 | 7% |
| General Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (GCSDAC) | 7 | 6% |
| Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) or (School of Tomorrow) | 6 | 5% |
| American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) | 6 | 5% |
| National Christian School Association (NCSA) | 6 | 5% |
| National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) | 4 | 4% |

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



APPENDIX A: Response Rates Using AAPOR RR2

| Question/Item | Number of Respondents | Response Rate |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Contact Information* | 71 | 42.8% |
| Enrollment and Capacity* | 64 | 38.6% |
| Prekindergarten | 50 | 30.1% |
| Kindergarten | 56 | 33.7% |
| Elementary School | 57 | 34.3% |
| Middle School | 53 | 31.9% |
| High School | 35 | 21.1% |
| Ungraded | 8 | 4.8% |
| School Combined Tuition and Fees* | 63 | 38.0% |
| Prekindergarten | 49 | 29.5% |
| Kindergarten | 57 | 34.3% |
| Elementary School | 59 | 35.5% |
| Middle School | 55 | 33.1% |
| High School | 41 | 24.7% |
| School Fees | 57 | 34.3% |
| Registration/Application | 53 | 31.9% |
| Textbooks | 32 | 19.3% |
| Technology | 13 | 7.8% |
| Transportation | 6 | 3.6% |
| Uniforms | 6 | 3.6% |
| Other | 22 | 13.3% |
| Financial Aid | 46 | 27.7% |
| School Vouchers | 57 | 34.3% |
| Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities | 57 | 34.3% |
| Education Savings Accounts | 56 | 33.7% |
| Rules and Regulations | 53 | 31.9% |
| Accommodations for Students with Special Needs | 51 | 30.7% |
| Building Safety and Security | 50 | 30.1% |
| Curriculum and Instruction | 52 | 31.3% |
| Financial Reporting and Disclosure | 51 | 30.7% |
| Paperwork and Reporting | 52 | 31.3% |
| School Admissions and Enrollment Guidelines | 49 | 29.5% |
| School Eligibility for Program | 49 | 29.5% |
| Student Eligibility for Program | 51 | 30.7% |
| Teacher/Staff Certification and Licensure | 52 | 31.3% |
| Testing and Accountability | 52 | 31.3% |
| Tuition and Fees | 50 | 30.1% |
| Other | 4 | 2.4% |
| Standardized Assessments/Testing* | 55 | 33.1% |
| Tests Administering* | 48 | 28.9% |
| Grade Levels Tested | 48 | 28.9% |
| Special Education* | 55 | 33.1% |
| Percentage | 45 | 27.1% |
| COMPLETED SURVEY | 54 | 32.5% |

*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 Arkansas private schools that responded to the most recent PSS survey, kindergarten-terminal (PK-K or K only) schools account for 10 percent of the total. Those 13 schools:

- mostly serve both prekindergarteners and kindergarteners (85 percent; 11 of 13 schools),
- serve more prekindergarteners than kindergarteners,
 - 67 percent of students served are prekindergarteners
 - 13 percent of students served are kindergarteners
 - 20 percent of students are ungraded
- are mostly in Little Rock (38 percent; 5 of 13 schools),
- are mostly in a city (77 percent; 10 of 13 schools),
- have an average enrollment of 67 students and a median enrollment of 65 students,
- serve mostly white students (76 percent),
- serve students for an average of 6.1 hours per day for an average of 185 days per year,
- have an average of 7.0 students per teacher and a median of 5.0 students per teacher,
- are predominately religious (62 percent; 8 of 13 schools), and
 - two schools are Christian (no specific denomination)
 - two schools are Methodist
 - one school is Baptist
 - one school is Seventh-Day Adventist, and
 - one school belongs to the Church of Christ
- nearly two-fifths belong to at least one association (38 percent; 5 of 13 schools).
 - 15 percent (2 of 13 schools) belong to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
 - 15 percent (2 of 13 schools) belong to the American Montessori Society (AMS)

NOTES

1. The 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. 21, <http://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-ABCs-WEB-1.pdf>.
2. Ark. Dept. of Education, *Rules Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program* (Little Rock: Ark. Dept. of Education, 2016), <https://arksped.k12.ar.us/documents/policyAndRegulations/SucceedScholarship/SucceedScholarshipProgramRules.pdf>.
3. “Succeed Scholarship,” Ark. Dept. of Education, accessed Aug. 15 2016, <https://arksped.k12.ar.us/PolicyAndRegulations/SucceedScholarship.html>.
4. Does not include two PK-only or eight K-terminal schools. Author’s calculations; “Private Schools by School,” ADE Data Center, accessed July 12, 2016, <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/statewide/Schools/PrivateSchools.aspx>.
5. This is only the number of respondents that entered at least enrollment and capacity data. There were 54 respondents that completed the entire survey. Three schools submitted multiple responses and three duplicates were removed from the dataset.
6. The Friedman Foundation 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.
7. “Private School Universe Survey (PSS),” National Center for Education Statistics, accessed July 12, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/index.asp>.
8. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013–14 school year, accessed July 12, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch>.
9. 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), table 15, p. 20, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013316.pdf>.
10. US Dept. of Education, PSS Private School Universe Survey data for the 2013–14 school year, accessed June 27, 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.” Broughman and Swaim, *Results From the 2011-12 Private School Universe Survey*, pp. A-3-4.
11. “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.
12. Due to rounding, percentage totals for a given question may be slightly greater or less than 100 percent.
13. Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *The ABCs of School Choice*, p. 5.
14. US Census Bureau, *Public Education Finances: 2014*, G14-ASPEF (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 2016), table 8, p. 8, <http://census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/econ/g14-aspef.pdf>.
15. 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.
16. 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 July 11, 2016 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>.
17. Pulaski County accounted for 36 of 139 PSS respondents the author examined in 2011–12, 37 of 141 in 2009–10, 37 of 145 in 2007–08, 41 of 156 in 2005–06, 37 of 157 in 2003–04, 43 of 161 in 2001–02, 41 of 156 in 1999–00, 44 of 163 in 1997–98, 44 of 172 in 1995–96, 49 of 142 in 1993–94, and 50 of 147 in 1991–92. Benton County accounted for 10 of 139 PSS respondents the author examined in 2011–12, 10 of 141 in 2009–10, 11 of 145 in 2007–08, 11 of 156 in 2005–06, 10 of 157 in 2003–04, 7 of 161 in 2001–02, 7 of 156 in 1999–00, 8 of 163 in 1997–98, 9 of 172 in 1995–96, 6 of 142 in 1993–94, and 8 of 147 in 1991–92. Sebastian County accounted for 8 of 139 PSS respondents the author examined in 2011–12, 9 of 141 in 2009–10, 9 of 145 in 2007–08, 9 of 156 in 2005–06, 10 of 157 in 2003–04, 10 of 161 in 2001–02, 8 of 156 in 1999–00, 8 of 163 in 1997–98, 8 of 172 in 1995–96, 9 of 142 in 1993–94, and 9 of 147 in 1991–92. The 111 PSS respondents in 1989–90 did not have city or county data.
18. 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 July 21, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/commonfiles/localedescription.asp>.
19. “Table 302.10. Recent High School Completers and Their Enrollment in 2-Year and 4-Year Colleges, by Sex: 1960 through 2014,” US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, accessed Aug. 9, 2016, http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_302.10.asp.
20. US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), “Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey,” 2012-13 v.1a and “State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey,” 2012-13 v.1a, accessed July 11, 2016 via ELSI *tableGenerator*, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/tableGenerator.aspx>; Broughman, *Private School Universe Survey, 1993-94*, NCES 96-143 (Washington, DC: US Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1996), table 17, p. 22, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/96143.pdf>; 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 July 11, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/tables1112.asp>.

21. Author's calculations; Ibid.

22. Does not include six PK-only, seven K-terminal schools, or 17 schools without this data. "Search for Public Schools," National Center for Education Statistics, accessed July 12, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/index.asp>.

23. 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>. Male and female are the only options presented on the federal surveys.

24. Author's calculations; Ibid.; "American FactFinder," United States Census Bureau, 2014 ACS 1-year estimates, tables B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, B01001H, and B01001I, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml>.

25. 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>.

26. Does not include six PK-only, seven K-terminal schools, or 45 schools without this data. "Search for Public Schools," National Center for Education Statistics, accessed July 12, 2016, <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/index.asp>.

27. The only specific school associations that the PSS has as options are Accelerated Christian Education (ACE), the American Association of Christian Schools (AACS), 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).

28. "School and Diocesan Locator," National Catholic Educational Association, accessed July 18, 2016, <http://www.ncea.org/data-information/school-diocesan-locator>; "Find a School," Association of Christian Schools International, accessed July 18, 2016, <https://www.acsi.org/member-search/index>.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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