

District of Columbia State Data Center Monthly Brief

August 2006

Back to School: 2006 - 2007

Summertime is winding down, summer vacations are coming to an end, and it's almost time to go back to school. It's a time that many children look forward to eagerly, to catch up with old friends, make new ones and settle into a new daily routine. Parents and children alike are scanning the newspapers and Web sites looking for upcoming sales to shop for a multitude of school supplies and the latest clothing fads and essentials. This monthly brief presents data from the US Census Bureau on many interesting statistics related to the return to classrooms by our nation's students and teachers.

Key Indicators

Students

75.5 million

The number of children and adults enrolled in school throughout the country — from nursery school to college. That amounts to more than one-fourth of the US population age 3 and older.

Shopping

\$6.6 billion

The amount of money spent at family clothing stores in August 2005. Only in October, November and December — the holiday shopping season — were sales equal or higher. Similarly, bookstore sales in August 2005 totaled \$2.2 billion, an amount approached in 2005 only by sales in January and December. To do your back-to-school shopping, choices of retail establishments abound: In 2004, there were 24,050 family clothing stores, 6,520 children and infants clothing stores, 27,253 shoe stores, 9,207 office supplies and stationery stores, 22,902 sporting goods stores, 11,218 bookstores and 9,360 department stores.

Pre-K through 12

Enrollment

54%

Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school, up from 10 percent in 1964, when these data were first collected.

68%

Percentage of children enrolled in kindergarten who attend all day.

55 million

The projected number of students to be enrolled in the nation's elementary and high schools (grades K-12) this fall.

12%

Projected percentage of elementary and high school students enrolled in private schools this fall.

41%

Percentage of elementary and high school students who are minorities (i.e., people who are other than non-Hispanic white).

22%

Percentage of elementary and high school students with at least one foreign-born parent. This includes 5 percent who were foreign-born themselves.

Languages

10 million

Number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home. These children make up nearly 1-in-5 in this age group. Most of them (7.1 million) speak Spanish at home. (Source: American FactFinder)

Lunchtime

29 million

Average number of children participating each month in the national school lunch program.

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by
Joy Phillips
Robert Beasley



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9.9 billion

The nation's total apple production, in pounds, in 2005. The chances are good that the apples your children present to their teachers or enjoy for lunch were grown in Washington state, which accounted for more than half of the nation's total production.

College

17.6 million

The projected number of students enrolled in the nation's colleges and universities this fall. This is up from 12.4 million a quarter-century ago.

38%

Percentage of all college students age 25 and older. The majority of these older students (59 percent) attend school part-time.

31%

Percentage of undergraduates attending two-year institutions.

Learning and Earning

21%

Percentage of high school students who were employed as of October 2004.

50%

Percentage of full-time college students who were employed as of October 2004.

How Many Schools?

95,615

Number of public elementary and secondary schools. The corresponding number of private elementary and secondary schools is 29,273.

For additional information contact:
D.C. Office of Planning
State Data Center
801 North Capitol Street, NE
Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 442 7600
(202) 442-7638 FAX
www.planning.dc.gov



Government of the District of Columbia

4,216

Number of institutions of higher learning that grant college degrees.

1.1 million

Number of students who are home-schooled. That is 2 percent of all students ages 5 to 17.

Teachers and Other School Personnel

6.8 million

Number of teachers in the United States. The bulk of them (2.6 million) teach at the elementary and middle school level. The remainder include those teaching at the postsecondary, secondary and preschool and kindergarten levels.

\$57,300

Average annual salary of public elementary and secondary school teachers in Connecticut as of the 2003-2004 school year — among the highest of any state in the nation. Teachers in South Dakota received among the lowest pay — \$33,200. The national average was \$46,800.

\$14.18

Average hourly wage for the nation's school bus drivers. Custodians earned \$12.61 while cafeteria workers made \$10.33.

Technology

14.2 million

Number of computers available for classroom use in the nation's 114,700 elementary and secondary schools as of the 2005-2006 school year; that works out to one computer for every four students.

100%

Percentage of public schools with Internet access as of fall 2003.

83% and 43%

Percentage of children ages 3 to 17 using a computer and the Internet, respectively, at school as of fall 2003.

75%

The percentage of children ages 3 to 17 accessing the Internet in fall 2003 — whether at home, school or elsewhere — to complete school assignments. This was the most common reason for children to use the Internet.

66%

The percentage of children ages 3 to 17 using a computer at home in fall 2003 to complete school assignments. This was the

second most common home computer use for children, behind playing games.

The Rising Cost of College

\$12,605

Average tuition, room and board (for in-state students) at the nation's four-year public colleges and universities for an entire academic year; that is more than double the corresponding figure in 1990

\$34,698

Average tuition, room and board at the nation's four-year private colleges and universities for one complete academic year; that is more than double the corresponding 1990 figure.

The Rewards of Staying in School

\$74,60

Average annual earnings of workers age 18 and older with an advanced degree. This compares with \$51,206 a year for those with bachelor's degrees, \$27,915 for those with a high school diploma only and \$18,734 for those without a high school diploma.

\$62,236

Average starting salary offered to bachelor's degree candidates in petroleum engineering, among the highest of any field of study. At the other end of the spectrum were those majoring in the humanities; they were offered an average of \$31,565.

Graduation

3.2 million

Projected number of high school diplomas that will be awarded this school year.

2.9 million

Number of college degrees expected to be conferred this school year.

Government Spending on Education

\$8,287

The per-pupil expenditure on elementary and secondary education nationally in 2004. New Jersey (\$12,981) spent the most among states or state-equivalents, followed by New York (\$12,930), the District of Columbia (\$12,801), Vermont (\$11,128) and Connecticut (\$10,788). Utah (\$5,008) spent the least per student, followed by Idaho (\$6,028), Arizona (\$6,036), Oklahoma (\$6,176) and Mississippi (\$6,237).