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[A lesson on U.S. schools](#)

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As students head back to school nationwide, here's a statistical snapshot of how American education is changing.

Racial and ethnic makeup of public schools:

1972: 78 percent white, 15 percent black, 6 percent Hispanic, 1 percent other

2004: 57 percent white, 16 percent black, 19 percent Hispanic, 7 percent other

Public school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12:

1990 41.2 million

1995 44.8 million

2000 47.2 million

2003 48.5 million

2006 49.0 million (projected)

Private school enrollment in kindergarten through grade 12:

1990 4.8 million

1998 5.1 million

2002 5.3 million

2004 5.1 million

Percentage of 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds enrolled in school:

1964 10 percent

2004 54 percent

Number of children with disabilities receiving special education:

1977 3.7 million

2005 6.7 million

Percentage who say there is too much emphasis on standardized testing:

Parents 48 percent

Teachers 72 percent

Percentage who say parents don't spend enough time helping with homework:

Parents 27 percent

Teachers 87 percent

Percentage who say the amount of homework assigned is about right:

Parents 57 percent

Teachers 63 percent

Average salaries of teachers in public schools:

1995 \$36,675

2000 \$41,807

2003 \$45,776

2005 \$47,750

Total college enrollment in two-year and four-year schools:

1980 10.5 million

1990 12 million

2000 13.1 million

2006 15.1 million (projected)

Percentage of full-time college students who have received federal loans:

1993 31 percent

2004 48 percent

Average salaries for all ranks of college professors, 2005:

Public schools \$66,900

Private schools \$79,300

Sources of public spending on schools, 2003:

Federal 8.5 percent

States 48.7 percent

Local 42.8 percent

Total spending \$450 billion

Spending per student, 2004

> National average: \$8,287

> New Jersey (highest): \$12,981

> Utah (lowest): \$5,008

Sources: AP-AOL Learning Services Poll, Census Bureau, Education Department budget, National Center for Education Statistics, National Education Association. Compiled by Associated Press.

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