

TRENDS ANALYSIS: STUDENT ENROLLMENT

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

This indicator measures the number of all adults and school-age persons who are working towards graduation. Registered homeschooled children are not included. Data for this indicator were acquired from the [provincial reports](#) of BC Ministry of Education.

Observing trends in the numbers of students enrolled in BC public schools provides important information about changing demography and movement of people in and out of the region. It is important information for schools and school districts to incorporate into longer term planning. Trends allow for forecasting and can assist in adapting over time. Student enrollment can impact school districts' resourcing and budgets, which can have ripple effects in the community.

What are the trends & current conditions?

Since 2008, there has been a downward trend in student enrollment in all seven Basin Boundary school districts. Table 1 shows the number of students enrolled per school year and the percent change over the last six school years. Kootenay Lake has seen the lowest drop in enrollment at negative 2.3%, while Arrow Lakes has seen the highest at negative 21%.

This downward trend in student enrollment is consistent with provincial trends, where 83% of school districts across the province are seeing a downward trend in enrollment. The percent change for all public schools in B.C. over the last five years is negative 3.7%. The 10 school districts in the province showing an increase in enrollment are all in urban areas, except for the Gulf Islands which has one of the highest positive changes of a 10.3% increase in enrollment.

Student Enrollment (# of students)							
District	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	% Change 2008-2014
Southeast Kootenay (SD5)	5,543	5,378	5,365	5,331	5,259	5,260	-5.1%
Kootenay Lake (SD8)	5,367	5,460	5,471	5,217	5,458	5,245	-2.3%
Kootenay-Columbia (SD20)	4,279	4,112	4,045	3,968	3,870	3,739	-12.6%
Rocky Mountain (SD6)	3,359	3,320	3,274	3,178	3,086	3,082	-8.2%
Revelstoke (SD19)	1,114	1,057	1,027	1,036	1,022	959	-13.9%
Arrow Lakes (SD10)	601	580	562	519	504	475	-21.0%
Boundary (SD51)	1,473	1,484	1,424	1,405	1,317	1,285	-12.8%

Table 1: Student enrollment by district and percent change from 2008 - 2014

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2014

[School District reports](#) break down the number of students enrolled into several categories including number of students enrolled as Aboriginal students in Aboriginal programs, English Language Learners, French Immersion, Distributed Learning program, and others. Table 2 shows the average percent of students in these four selected programs based on numbers from the 2009/10 to the 2013/14 school year.

In six of the seven districts, on average, over 10% of students are Aboriginal students in Aboriginal programs, with over 26% in the Boundary School District. Southeast Kootenay has the highest percent of French Immersion students on average at 7.7%. Three districts (Revelstoke, Arrow Lakes, and Boundary) do not have French Immersion, although all districts have students enrolled in Core French and French Programs. Students in the Distributed Learning (DL) program are highest in Kootenay Lake with almost

18% enrolled on average. All other districts have students enrolled in DL, from 1.4% in Kootenay-Columbia to an average of 6.2% in Arrow Lakes. Five of the seven districts report having English Language Learners, but no districts with more than 1.8% enrolled.

Average Percent Students Enrolled by Program (2009/10 to 2013/14)				
District	Average % Aboriginal in Aboriginal Programs	Average % French Immersion	Average % Distributed Learning Program	Average % English Language Learning
Southeast Kootenay (SD5)	13.0	7.7	4.8	0.4
Kootenay Lake (SD8)	12.6	5.2	17.8	1.1
Kootenay-Columbia (SD20)	9.5	4.8	1.4	0.7
Rocky Mountain (SD6)	17.0	6.5	4.8	1.8
Revelstoke (SD19)	11.6	0	3.7	0.8
Arrow Lakes (SD10)	13.1	0	6.2	0
Boundary (SD51)	26.2	0	3.2	0

Table 2: Average percent students enrolled by program for 2009/10 to 2013/14 school years
Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2014



The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute, at Selkirk College, is a regional research centre with a mandate to support informed decision-making by Columbia Basin-Boundary communities through the provision of information, applied research and related outreach and extension support. Visit www.cbrdi.ca for more information.

References

BC Ministry of Education. (2014). Provincial Reports – Student Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php>.

BC Ministry of Education. (2014). District Reports. Retrieved from <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district.php>.