

TRENDS ANALYSIS: STUDENT ENROLLMENT

FALL 2015



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](#) and [School District reports](#) of the 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. Enrollment can also influence the quality of students' learning experiences.

What are the trends & current conditions?

Since the 2008/09 school year, 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 seven school years. Kootenay Lake has experienced the lowest drop in enrollment at negative 3.9%, while Arrow Lakes has seen the highest at negative 23.5%.

This downward trend in student enrollment is consistent with provincial trends, where the majority of school districts across the province are experiencing a downward trend in enrollment. The percent change for all public schools in B.C. over the last five years is negative 4.5%. Of the 60 school districts in British Columbia, there are only seven school districts experiencing an increase in enrollment; six of which show increases of 2.0% to 9.5%, with Conseil Scholaire Francophone showing the largest increase in enrollment of 20.4% from 2010 to 2015.

District	Student Enrollment (# of students)							% Change 2008-2015
	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	
Southeast Kootenay (School District 5)	5,543	5,378	5,365	5,331	5,259	5,260	5,276	-4.8%
Kootenay Lake (School District 8)	5,367	5,460	5,471	5,217	5,458	5,245	5,157	-3.9%
Kootenay-Columbia (School District 20)	4,279	4,112	4,045	3,968	3,870	3,739	3,661	-14.4%
Rocky Mountain (School District 6)	3,359	3,320	3,274	3,178	3,086	3,082	3,102	-7.7%
Revelstoke (School District 19)	1,114	1,057	1,027	1,036	1,022	959	950	-14.7%
Arrow Lakes (School District 10)	601	580	562	519	504	475	460	-23.5%
Boundary (School District 51)	1,473	1,484	1,424	1,405	1,317	1,285	1,271	-13.7%

Table 1: Student enrollment by district and percent change from 2008 - 2015

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2015

Student Type

[School District reports](#) break down the number of students enrolled into various categories including number of students enrolled as Aboriginal, English Language Learner, French Immersion, and Non-Residents. Table 2 shows the average percent of students in these four selected categories based on all students for the 2010/11 to 2014/15 school years.

All seven districts show an over 12% Aboriginal student population, with 28.2% in the Boundary. An Aboriginal student is a student who has self-identified as being of Aboriginal ancestry (First Nations, status and non-status, Metis and Inuit). Five of the seven districts report having English Language Learners, but no districts with more than 1.6% enrolled. English Language Learners are students “whose English language proficiency is assessed as being sufficiently different from standard English that they are identified as requiring specialized services to develop intellectually, to develop as a citizen and to achieve the expected learning outcomes of the provincial curriculum” (Ministry of Education, 2015).

Southeast Kootenay has the highest percent of French Immersion students on average at 8.0%. Three districts (Revelstoke, Arrow Lakes, and Boundary) do not have French Immersion (a separate program where instruction is offered in the French language), although all districts have students enrolled in Core French and French Programs. All districts have a small percentage of non-resident students, with Rocky Mountain having the highest at 2.8%.

Student Type (2010/10 to 2014/15)				
District	Average % Aboriginal	Average % English Language Learner	Average % French Immersion	Average % Non-Residents
Southeast Kootenay (School District 5)	15.9	0.5	8.0	1.4
Kootenay Lake (School District 8)	17.9	0.9	5.2	1.3
Kootenay-Columbia (School District 20)	12.2	0.6	4.9	0.2
Rocky Mountain (School District 6)	19.9	1.6	5.6	2.8
Revelstoke (School District 19)	13.5	1.1	N/A	1.0
Arrow Lakes (School District 10)	16.2	N/A	N/A	0.4
Boundary (School District 51)	28.2	N/A	N/A	0.2

Table 2: Student Type 2010/11 to 2014/15 school years
Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2015

Class Size

The BC Ministry of Education also provides information about average class sizes across the province. As shown in Table 3 below, average class sizes in our region are generally smaller than the provincial average. Arrow Lakes shows the smallest class sizes across all grades, while Revelstoke also shows a relatively low average class size for grade 8 to 12. Research indicates that smaller class sizes translate into better learning conditions and higher student achievement, especially for younger children and disadvantaged students (Ballantine & Spade, 2015).

Average Class Size (2014)				
District	Average Kindergarten Class Size	Average Grade 1 to 3 Class Size	Average Grade 4 to 7 Class Size	Average Grade 8 to 12 Class Size
Southeast Kootenay (School District 5)	19.1	21.4	23.5	19.3
Kootenay Lake (School District 8)	19.6	21.2	24.5	20.3
Kootenay-Columbia (School District 20)	18.9	20.8	25.6	21.8
Rocky Mountain (School District 6)	19.7	19.8	23.8	23.6
Revelstoke (School District 19)	18.4	20.8	24.2	16.6
Arrow Lakes (School District 10)	13.9	16.3	18.0	14.5
Boundary (School District 51)	18.4	18.7	22.4	20.0
<i>Provincial Average</i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>23.2</i>

Table 3: Average Class Size (as of October 31, 2014)

Source: BC Ministry of Education, 2015

References

Ballantine, J.H and Spade, J.Z. (eds). (2015). Schools and Society: A Sociological Approach to Education. Fifth Edition. California: SAGE Publications.

BC Ministry of Education. (2015). Provincial Reports – Student Statistics. Retrieved from <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php>.

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