Historical Districtwide Enrollment Including Charter Schools

In past years, “districtwide enrollment” typically included students who attended district-operated schools (“DISTRICT-MANAGED”), district-authorized charter schools (“CHARTER”), and certain privately run schools attended by district students for specialized programs (“NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS”). All schools—district-managed, charter, non-public—entered data in the district’s student information system (SIS) which enabled various types of districtwide reporting, including basic enrollment counts. Since 2015, data for district-authorized charter schools have increasingly been unavailable in the district SIS, and district reporting has since shifted to focus largely on district-managed schools. Figures 1 to 5 below show historical districtwide enrollment from 1985 to 2020.

Figure 1. Districtwide enrollment, including charter schools and non-public schools.

Note: Since 2015, student data for district-authorized charter schools have increasingly been unavailable in the district student information system (SIS). In this document, enrollment and race/ethnicity data for charter schools for 2015 and later were obtained in their entirety from the California Department of Education’s DataQuest website; charter enrollment and race/ethnicity data for earlier years are based on district SIS student-level records.
Figure 2. Districtwide enrollment by race/ethnicity, including charter schools and non-public schools.

K-12 Fall Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity at District-Managed, Charter, and Non-Public Schools, 1985 to 2020

Note: In 2009–10, the district changed the way it collected and reported student ethnicity and race data, following changes in federal and state guidelines. These changes are summarized in this informational brief. The changed guidelines basically introduced “Multiracial” as a new racial/ethnic category for reporting, required the district to report students as “Hispanic” if they identify with multiple racial/ethnic groups that included Hispanic, and required the district to report students as “Multiracial” if they had missing racial/ethnic information. Beginning in 2017-18, per state guidance, students who belong to multiple Asian groups including Filipino are now reported as Filipino instead of Multiracial.
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Figure 5. Districtwide enrollment by race/ethnicity, non-public schools only.

*Data labels for smaller groups are sometimes suppressed for legibility.*

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