



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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# RESEARCH BRIEF

Research Services

Vol. 0604  
November 2006

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## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: 2007-08 PUPIL POPULATION ESTIMATING CONFERENCE

### At A Glance

*The 2007-08 projected enrollment offered by Research Services continues the decline in student enrollment evident in the district over the past five school years. The district's student enrollment is projected to be 340,149, a decline by 2.2 percent (7,823 students) from 2006-07 to 2007-08.*

Research Services calculates enrollment projections on an annual basis. These projections are presented each year at the district's Pupil Population Estimating Conference. For this year's projections, two years of trend data (2005-06 and 2006-07) were used to project student enrollment for 2007-08. Projections are provided by individual grade level and for the district's total Pre-K through grade 12 enrollment.

### METHOD

The projections provided include student enrollment in grades Pre-K to 12 covered by the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Projections include programs such as alternative education and Exceptional Student Education (ESE). However, Non-FEFP funded enrollment such as specially funded Pre-K programs (e.g. State Intervention, Title I, and Head Start), adult vocational enrollment, and students receiving McKay Scholarships are not considered in these projections.

The methodology used for projecting enrollments for 2007-08 is a **cohort survival technique**. The cohort survival method uses the proportion of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades (or between years for predicting Kindergarten and Pre-kindergarten enrollments).

For example, if 100 students enrolled in grade one in 2005-06 and 104 students enrolled in grade two in 2006-07, the proportion of survival would have been 1.04 (104%). Such ratios are calculated between each pair of grades, over several years, and averaged. The strength of the cohort survival

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technique lies in the fact that each ratio encompasses collectively many of the variables that might possibly account for an increase or decrease in the size of a grade cohort as it moves on to the next grade. To project grade enrollments for 2007-08 the ratios thus determined are applied to the present enrollment statistics. Projected total enrollment is simply the sum of projected enrollments for each grade level.

## RESULTS

**The district membership is predicted to be 340,149 students for 2007-08. This is 7,823 students or 2.2% less than the 2006-07 actual enrollment of 347,972.** This projection indicates that the decrease in student enrollment that began in 2002-03 will continue into the 2007-08 school year. As can be seen in Table 1, the district’s rate of decline has increased steadily since 2004-05, with the largest decrease occurring in 2006-07.

**Table 1  
M-DCPS Enrollment Decline**

	# of Students	% Decrease
From 2001-02 to 2002-03	-5,018	-1.4%
From 2002-03 to 2003-04	-2,216	-0.6%
From 2003-04 to 2004-05	-3,046	-0.8%
From 2004-05 to 2005-06	-4,161	-1.2%
From 2005-06 to 2006-07	-8,097	-2.3%
From 2006-07 to Projected 2007-08	-7,823	-2.2%

In Table 2, predictions by individual grade level show that enrollment is expected to increase at Kindergarten and grade 7. It is anticipated that enrollment will decline at all other grade levels.

The largest predicted grade level changes anticipated for 2007-08 are an increase in seventh grade students (+3,161 or 13.4%) and a decrease in eighth grade students (-4,438 or 16.1%) (Table 2). An “enrollment bubble” has developed from the large number of students retained in third grade as a result of not scoring at Achievement Level 2 or higher on the FCAT Reading Test. This mandate began in 2002-03 and affected approximately 6,300 students, constituting an increase of some 700% over the number of students retained in third grade the previous year. As a result, the smaller cohort of third grade students promoted in 2002-03 will yield a smaller eighth grade class in 2007-08 (the year most of the retained students will be enrolled in seventh grade).

Birth data used for the 2007-08 projections are displayed in Table 3.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the 2007-08 projected enrollment offered by Research Services continues the decline in student enrollment evident in the district over the past five school years. Predictions by individual grade level show that enrollment is projected to increase at Kindergarten and grade 7 and decline at all other grade levels.

It is interesting to note that Miami-Dade County's population has continued to increase since 1993, while resident births have remained relatively stable over this period of time. Additionally, enrollment in Miami-Dade County private schools declined for the first time in 2005-06 (the most recent year for which data are available) by 12.1 percent.

The Public Schools Education Estimating Conference conducted by the State of Florida on October 18, 2006, indicated that students entering public schools from other countries have remained fairly stable at about 30,000 students annually. The Committee also reported that growth in school-aged children has slowed statewide over the past year. This decline in growth was attributed to fewer students entering the system from other parts of the U.S. and more students leaving Florida public schools. This eventuality should be considered when decisions are made based upon available population projections.

### **CAVEATS**

The projections provided in this report represent the best estimate of the Research Services staff using the methodology herein. The projections are almost wholly driven by a very limited amount of historical data. However, there are a great many external influences, mostly defying measurement, that can have profound effects on future enrollment. A listing of the potential areas of outside influence on enrollment would include, but are not limited to, the following: the Florida Legislature actions, changes in FLDOE policies, increase in school choice options, the influence of external scholarship programs, changes in immigration policy, economic contingencies, international political climates, and potential natural disasters. All of these influences, and many more unforeseeable issues, can have large-scale consequences on district enrollment figures.

It should be noted that the final districtwide enrollment projection, agreed upon at the Fall Pupil Estimating Conference: FTE Forecast for 2007-08, conducted on November 28, 2006, was 341,500, a variance of 1,351 from the 340,149 enrollment projection provided by Research Services.

**Table 2  
Enrollment Projections 2007-08**

	2005-06	2006-07	Survival Rate 06-07 / 05-06	Projected 2007-08	Changes 2006-07	Predicted Changes 2007-08
Pre-K*	1,902	1,811		1,724	-91	-87
Kindergarten**	26,445	25,301		25,698	-1,144	397
First	26,994	26,644	1.008	25,491	-350	-1,153
Second	27,189	26,689	0.989	26,343	-500	-346
Third	29,475	28,493	1.048	27,969	-982	-524
Fourth	26,462	26,348	0.894	25,470	-114	-878
Fifth	26,976	26,366	0.996	26,252	-610	-114
Sixth	23,613	26,777	0.993	26,171	3,164	-606
Seventh	28,129	23,588	0.999	26,749	-4,541	3,161
Eighth	27,886	27,493	0.977	23,055	-393	-4,438
Ninth	32,894	30,610	1.098	30,179	-2,284	-431
Tenth	31,315	30,796	0.936	28,658	-519	-2,138
Eleventh	25,227	24,939	0.796	24,526	-288	-413
Twelfth	21,562	22,117	0.877	21,865	555	-252
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,069</b>	<b>347,972</b>		<b>340,149</b>	<b>-8,097</b>	<b>-7,823</b>

\* Does not include non-FEFP Pre-K enrollment.

\*\* Based on birth data from September 2001 to August 2002 of 32,403 and a weighted survival rate to kindergarten.

**Table 3  
Birth Data Used for 2007-08 Projections**

	Actual		Projected
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Kindergarten	26,445	25,301	25,698
Births 99-01 to 01-02	32,345	32,404	32,403
Survival	0.817592	0.780799	0.793063
FEFP Pre-K	1,902	1,811 0.952156	1,724
Non-FEFP Pre-K	5,481	5,311 0.968984	5,146
Total Pre-K	7,383	7,122	6,870