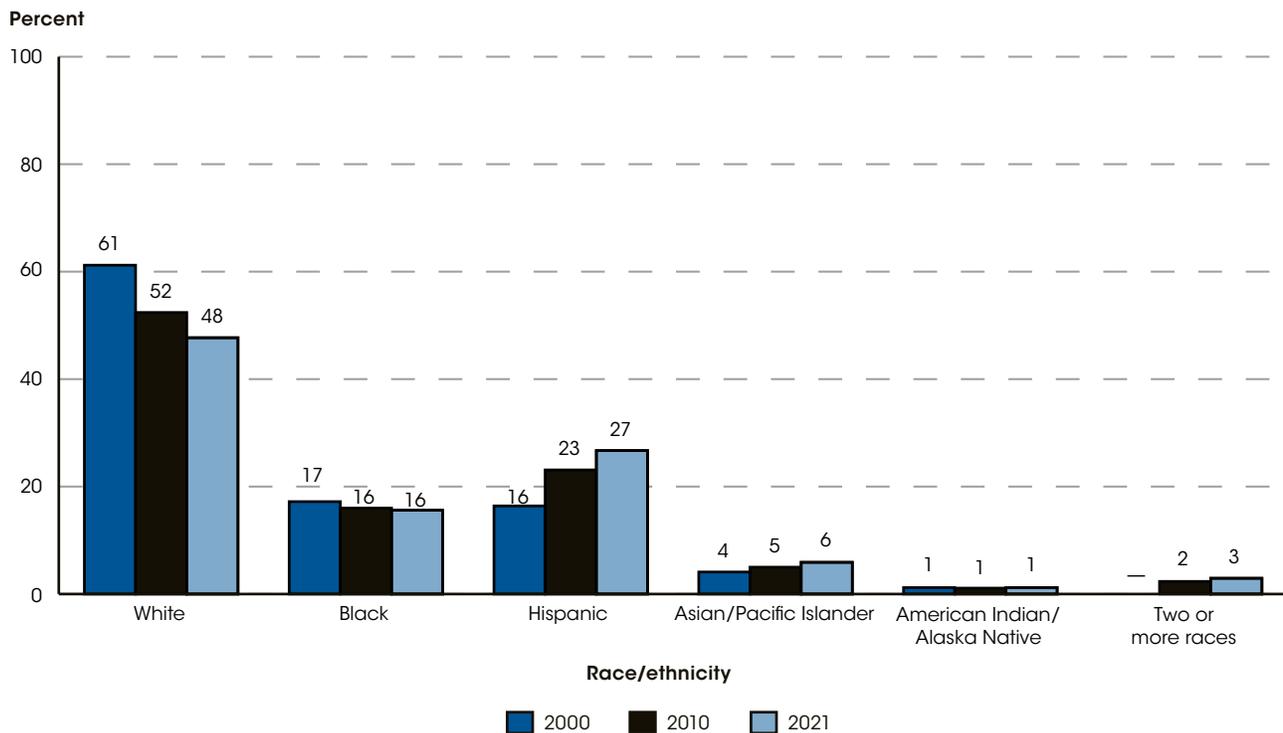


## Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools

From fall 2000 through fall 2010, the number of White students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12th grade in U.S. public schools decreased from 28.9 million to 25.9 million, and their share of enrollment decreased from 61 to 52 percent. In contrast, Hispanic public school enrollment during this period increased from 7.7 to 11.4 million students, and the percentage of public school students who were Hispanic increased from 16 to 23 percent.

Figure 1. Percentage distribution of U.S. public school students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12th grade, by race/ethnicity: Selected years, fall 2000–fall 2021



— Data not available.

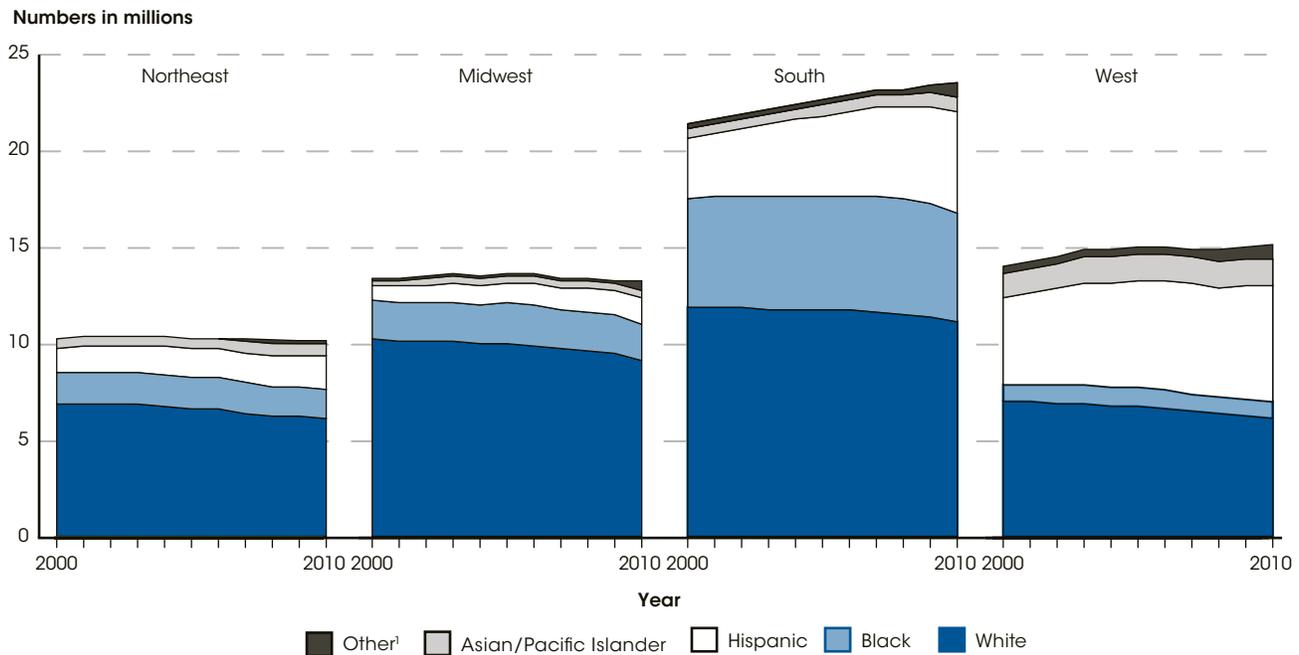
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data for 2021 are projected.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Projections of Education Statistics to 2021*; and Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary and Secondary Education," selected years, 2000–01 through 2010–11. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 44.

From fall 2000 through fall 2010, the number of White students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12th grade in U.S. public schools decreased from 28.9 million to 25.9 million, and their share of enrollment decreased from 61 to 52 percent. In contrast, Hispanic public school enrollment during this period increased from 7.7 to 11.4 million students, and the percentage of public school students who were Hispanic increased from 16

to 23 percent. While the total number of Black students fluctuated between 7.9 million and 8.4 million, their share of enrollment decreased from 17 to 16 percent. In 2002, the percentage of public school students who were Hispanic exceeded the percentage of those who were Black and has remained higher than the Black share of enrollment in each subsequent year through 2010.

**Figure 2. Number of U.S. public school students enrolled in prekindergarten through 12th grade, by region and race/ethnicity: Fall 2000–fall 2010**



<sup>1</sup> Other includes all students who identified themselves as American Indian/Alaska Native or two or more races.  
NOTE: Prior to 2008, data on students of two or more races were not collected. In 2008 and 2009, data on students of two or more races were reported by only a small number of states.  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary and Secondary Education," 2000–01 through 2010–11. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 44.

The change in racial/ethnic distribution of public school enrollment differed by region. From fall 2000 through fall 2010, the number and percentage enrollment of White students decreased in all regions, with the largest percentage decrease in the West (9 percentage points). The number of Hispanic students and their share of enrollment increased in all four regions, with the largest increase in the South (8 percentage points). From 2000 through 2010, the number of Black students fluctuated in all regions with the exception of the Northeast, where the number decreased. The enrollment percentage of Black students fluctuated in the Midwest and decreased in the Northeast, West, and South. The number and percentage enrollment of Asian/Pacific Islander students increased in all regions, with the largest increase in the Northeast (2 percentage points). There was minimal change among other racial/ethnic groups during this period.

Racial/ethnic distribution of public school enrollment differed by region in fall 2010. As a result of the regional shifts in White and Hispanic enrollment, there was less than a 1 percentage point gap in the share of enrollment between White and Hispanic groups in the West (both approximately 40 percent). However, for all other regions the percentage share of White students was at least 20 percentage points greater than that of Hispanics in 2010. Black enrollment was within 2 percentage points

of the overall U.S. percentage distribution (16 percent) in the Northeast and Midwest, while accounting for 24 percent of student enrollment in the South and 6 percent in the West. American Indian/Alaska Native students represented 2 percent or less of student enrollment in all regions of the United States. In 2010, students of two or more races made up 3 percent of enrollment each in the West and Midwest, 2 percent in the South, and 1 percent in the Northeast.

Between fall 2011 and fall 2021 (2021 is the last year for which projected data are available), the number of White students enrolled in U.S. public schools is projected to continue decreasing, from 25.9 million to 25.3 million, and their share of enrollment is expected to decline to 48 percent. The number of Hispanic public school students is projected to increase from 11.7 million in 2011 to 14.2 million in 2021, representing a 27 percent share of enrollment. The total number of Black students is expected to increase from 7.9 million in 2011 to 8.3 million in 2021, but their share of enrollment is expected to remain at approximately 16 percent. According to the projections, beginning in 2016 and continuing through 2021 the percentage of public school students who are White will be less than 50 percent. The decrease in their share is partly due to the increases in Hispanic and Asian enrollment.

**Reference table:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2012*, table 44

**Glossary:** Public school

For more information, see the Reader's Guide and the Guide to Sources.