

Table 58.—Enrollment in foreign language courses compared with enrollment in grades 9 to 12 in public secondary schools: Fall 1948 to fall 1994

[In thousands]

Language	Fall 1948	Fall 1960	Fall 1965	Fall 1968	Fall 1970	Fall 1974	Fall 1976	Fall 1978	Fall 1982	Fall 1985	Fall 1990	Fall 1994	Percent change in enrollment	
													1976 to 1990	1990 to 1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total enrollment, grades 9 to 12	15,602	8,589	11,610	12,718	13,336	14,103	14,314	14,088	12,405	12,388	11,338	12,213	-20.8	7.7
All foreign languages ²														
Number enrolled	1,170	2,522	3,659	3,890	3,779	3,295	3,174	3,200	2,910	4,029	4,257	5,002	34.1	17.5
Percent of all students	20.9	29.4	31.5	30.6	28.3	23.3	22.2	22.7	23.3	32.2	37.5	41.0	—	—
Modern foreign languages														
Number enrolled	741	1,867	3,068	3,518	3,514	3,127	3,023	3,048	2,740	3,852	4,093	4,813	35.4	17.6
Percent of all students	13.2	21.7	26.4	27.7	26.4	22.1	21.1	21.6	21.9	31.1	36.1	39.4	—	—
Spanish														
Number enrolled	443	933	1,427	1,698	1,811	1,678	1,717	1,631	1,563	2,334	2,611	3,220	52.1	23.3
Percent of all students	7.9	10.9	12.3	13.4	13.6	11.9	12.0	11.6	12.5	18.8	23.0	26.4	—	—
French														
Number enrolled	254	744	1,251	1,328	1,231	978	888	856	858	1,134	1,089	1,106	22.6	1.5
Percent of all students	4.5	8.7	10.8	10.4	9.2	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.9	9.2	9.6	9.1	—	—
German														
Number enrolled	43	151	328	423	411	393	353	331	267	312	295	326	-16.2	10.3
Percent of all students	0.8	1.8	2.8	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.7	—	—
Russian														
Number enrolled	—	10	27	24	20	15	11	9	6	6	16	16	46.6	-0.4
Percent of all students	—	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	(³)	(³)	0.1	0.1	—	—
Italian														
Number enrolled	—	20	25	27	27	40	46	46	44	47	40	44	-11.4	8.5
Percent of all students	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	—	—
Japanese ⁴														
Number enrolled	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	42	—	68.3
Percent of all students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.3	—	—
Other modern foreign languages ⁵														
Number enrolled	1	9	9	18	15	23	9	176	3	18	15	59	73.0	296.1
Percent of all students	(³)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.2	(³)	0.1	0.1	0.5	—	—
Latin														
Number enrolled	429	655	591	372	265	167	150	152	170	177	164	189	8.9	15.2
Percent of all students	7.7	7.6	5.1	2.9	2.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	—	—

¹ Estimated.

² Includes enrollment in ancient Greek (not shown separately). Fewer than 1,000 students were enrolled in this language in each of the years shown.

³ Less than 0.05 percent.

⁴ Until 1990, student enrollment in Japanese courses was included in the Other modern foreign languages category.

⁵ Includes students enrolled in unspecified modern foreign languages. In 1978, a relatively large number of students were not identified by field of study. Since 1990, enrollment in Japanese courses is reported as a separate category.

—Data not reported, not available, or not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data survey; and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, *Foreign Language Enrollments in Public Secondary Schools, Fall 1989, Fall 1990, and Fall 1994*. (This table was prepared February 1999.)