

Table 36.—Historical summary of public elementary and secondary school statistics: 1869–70 to 1998–99

Item	1869–70	1879–80	1889–90	1899–1900	1909–10	1919–20	1929–30	1939–40	1949–50	1959–60	1969–70	1979–80	1989–90	1990–91	1997–98	1998–99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Population, pupils, and instructional staff																
Total population, ¹ in thousands	38,558	50,156	62,622	75,995	90,490	104,514	121,878	131,028	149,188	177,830	201,385	224,567	246,819	249,464	267,784	270,248
Population aged 5–17 years, ¹ in thousands	11,683	15,066	18,473	21,573	24,011	27,571	31,414	30,151	30,223	43,881	52,386	48,041	44,947	45,325	50,505	50,915
Percent of total population 5–17	30.3	30.0	29.5	28.4	26.5	26.4	25.8	23.0	20.3	24.7	26.0	21.4	18.2	18.2	18.9	18.8
Total enrollment in elementary and secondary schools, in thousands ²	³ 7,562	9,867	12,723	15,503	17,814	21,578	25,678	25,434	25,112	36,087	45,550	41,651	40,543	41,217	46,127	46,539
Kindergarten and grades 1–8, in thousands	³ 7,481	9,757	12,520	14,984	16,899	19,378	21,279	18,833	19,387	27,602	32,513	28,034	29,152	29,878	33,073	33,346
Grades 9–12, in thousands	³ 80	110	203	519	915	2,200	4,399	6,601	5,725	8,485	13,037	13,616	11,390	11,338	13,054	13,193
Enrollment as a percent of total population	³ 19.6	19.7	20.3	20.4	19.7	20.6	21.1	19.4	16.8	20.3	22.6	18.5	16.4	16.5	17.2	17.2
Enrollment as a percent of 5- to 17-year-olds	³ 64.7	65.5	68.9	71.9	74.2	78.3	81.7	84.4	83.1	82.2	87.0	86.7	90.2	90.9	91.3	91.4
Percent of total enrollment in high schools (grades 9–12 and postgraduate)	³ 1.1	1.1	1.6	3.3	5.1	10.2	17.1	26.0	22.8	23.5	28.6	32.7	28.1	27.5	28.3	28.3
High school graduates, in thousands	—	—	22	62	111	231	592	1,143	1,063	1,627	2,589	2,748	2,320	2,235	2,439	2,489
Average daily attendance, in thousands	4,077	6,144	8,154	10,633	12,827	16,150	21,265	22,042	22,284	32,477	41,934	38,289	37,799	38,427	42,766	43,187
Total number of days attended by pupils enrolled, in millions	539	801	1,098	1,535	2,011	2,615	3,673	3,858	3,964	5,782	7,501	⁴ 6,835	—	—	—	—
Percent of enrolled pupils attending daily ...	59.3	62.3	64.1	68.6	72.1	74.8	82.8	86.7	88.7	90.0	90.4	⁴ 90.1	—	—	—	—
Average length of school term, in days	132.2	130.3	134.7	144.3	157.5	161.9	172.7	175.0	177.9	178.0	178.9	⁴ 178.5	—	179.8	—	—
Average number of days attended per pupil	78.4	81.1	86.3	99.0	113	121.2	143	151.7	157.9	160.2	161.7	⁴ 160.8	—	—	—	—
Total instructional staff, in thousands	—	—	—	—	—	678	880	912	963	1,457	2,286	2,406	2,986	3,051	3,573	3,694
Supervisors, in thousands	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Principals, in thousands	—	—	—	—	—	14	31	32	43	64	91	106	126	127	126	129
Teachers, librarians, and other nonsupervisory instructional staff, ⁵ in thousands	201	287	364	423	523	657	843	875	920	1,393	2,195	2,300	2,860	2,924	3,447	3,564
Men, in thousands	78	123	126	127	110	93	140	195	196	⁴ 404	⁴ 711	—	—	—	—	—
Women, in thousands	123	164	238	296	413	585	703	681	724	⁴ 989	⁴ 1,484	⁴ 1,518	—	—	—	—
Percent men	38.7	42.8	34.5	29.9	21.1	14.1	16.6	22.2	21.3	⁴ 29.0	⁴ 32.4	⁴ 34.0	—	—	—	—
Amounts in millions of current dollars																
Revenues and expenditures																
Total revenue receipts	—	—	\$143	\$220	\$433	\$970	\$2,089	\$2,261	\$5,437	\$14,747	\$40,267	\$96,881	\$208,548	\$223,341	\$325,926	\$347,330
Federal government	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	40	156	652	3,220	9,504	12,701	13,776	22,202	24,522
State governments	—	—	—	—	—	160	354	684	2,166	5,768	16,063	45,349	98,239	105,325	157,645	169,298
Local sources, including intermediate ...	—	—	—	—	—	808	1,728	1,536	3,116	8,327	20,985	42,029	97,608	104,240	146,078	153,510
Percent distribution of revenue receipts																
Federal government	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	1.8	2.9	4.4	8.0	9.8	6.1	6.2	6.8	7.1
State governments	—	—	—	—	—	16.5	16.9	30.3	39.8	39.1	39.9	46.8	47.1	47.2	48.4	48.7
Local sources, including intermediate ...	—	—	—	—	—	83.2	82.7	68.0	57.3	56.5	52.1	43.4	46.8	46.7	44.8	44.2
Total expenditures for public schools	\$63	\$78	\$141	\$215	\$426	\$1,036	\$2,317	\$2,344	\$5,838	\$15,613	\$40,683	\$95,962	\$212,770	\$229,430	\$334,315	\$355,859
Current expenditures ⁶	—	—	114	180	356	861	1,844	1,942	4,687	⁷ 12,329	⁷ 34,218	⁷ 86,984	⁷ 188,229	⁷ 202,038	⁷ 285,485	⁷ 302,874
Capital outlay ⁸	—	—	26	35	70	154	371	258	1,014	2,662	4,659	6,506	17,781	19,771	36,168	39,527
Interest on school debt	—	—	—	—	—	18	93	131	101	490	1,171	1,874	4,325	4,325	7,777	8,196
Other current expenditures ⁹	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	13	36	133	636	¹⁰ 598	2,983	3,296	4,884	5,263
Percent distribution of total expenditures																
Current expenditures ⁶	—	—	81.3	83.5	83.6	83.1	79.6	82.8	80.3	⁷ 79.0	⁷ 84.1	⁷ 90.6	⁷ 88.5	⁷ 88.1	⁷ 85.4	⁷ 85.1
Capital outlay ⁸	—	—	18.7	16.5	16.4	14.8	16.0	11.0	17.4	17.0	11.5	6.8	8.4	8.6	10.8	11.1
Interest on school debt	—	—	—	—	—	1.8	4.0	5.6	1.7	3.1	2.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.3
Other current expenditures ⁹	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.6	¹⁰ 0.6	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5

Table 36.—Historical summary of public elementary and secondary school statistics: 1869–70 to 1998–99—Continued

Item	1869–70	1879–80	1889–90	1899–1900	1909–10	1919–20	1929–30	1939–40	1949–50	1959–60	1969–70	1979–80	1989–90	1990–91	1997–98	1998–99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Amounts in current dollars																
Annual salary of instructional staff ¹¹	\$189	\$195	\$252	\$325	\$485	\$871	\$1,420	\$1,441	\$3,010	\$5,174	\$9,047	¹² \$16,715	¹² \$32,638	¹² \$34,401	¹² \$41,243	¹² \$42,488
Personal income per member of labor force ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,734	1,324	3,397	5,763	9,671	19,831	37,134	38,964	50,896	53,939
Total school expenditures per capita of total population	1.59	1.56	2.23	2.83	4.71	9.91	19.01	17.89	39	88	202	427	862	920	1,248	1,317
National income ¹ per capita	—	—	—	—	—	—	712	556	1,453	2,314	3,986	9,243	17,795	18,608	24,715	26,055
Current expenditure ^{6,13} per pupil in A.D.A. ¹⁴	—	—	13.99	16.67	27.85	53.32	86.70	88.09	210	375	816	2,272	4,980	5,258	6,676	7,013
Total expenditure ¹⁵ per pupil in A.D.A.	15.55	12.71	17.23	20.21	33.23	64.16	108.49	105.74	260	471	955	2,491	5,550	5,885	7,703	8,118
National income per pupil in A.D.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,082	3,307	9,724	12,671	19,142	54,209	116,195	120,805	154,759	163,044
Current expenditure per day ¹⁶ per pupil in A.D.A. ⁶	—	—	0.10	0.12	0.18	0.33	0.50	0.50	1.17	2.11	4.56	12.73	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure per day per pupil in A.D.A.	0.12	0.10	0.13	0.14	0.21	0.40	0.63	0.60	1.46	2.65	5.34	13.95	—	—	—	—
Amounts in constant 1998–99 dollars																
Annual salary of instructional staff ¹¹	—	—	—	—	—	\$7,520	\$13,650	\$16,966	\$20,913	\$28,974	\$39,407	¹² \$35,427	¹² \$42,294	¹² \$42,268	¹² \$41,957	¹² \$42,488
Personal income per member of labor force ¹	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,673	15,584	23,603	32,271	42,127	42,031	48,121	47,874	51,777	53,939
Total school expenditures per capita of total population	—	—	—	—	—	86	183	211	272	492	880	906	1,117	1,130	1,270	1,317
National income ¹ per capita	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,846	6,551	10,092	12,958	17,362	19,590	23,060	22,864	25,143	26,055
Current expenditure ^{6,13} per pupil in A.D.A. ¹⁴	—	—	—	—	—	460	833	1,037	1,459	2,101	3,554	4,815	6,453	6,460	6,791	7,013
Total expenditure ¹⁵ per pupil in A.D.A.	—	—	—	—	—	554	1,043	1,245	1,809	2,638	4,160	5,280	7,192	7,231	7,836	8,118
National income per pupil in A.D.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	39,238	38,940	67,563	70,954	83,379	114,895	150,573	148,431	157,438	163,044
Current expenditure per day ¹⁶ per pupil in A.D.A. ⁶	—	—	—	—	—	2.85	4.8	5.9	8.1	11.8	19.9	27.0	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure per day per pupil in A.D.A.	—	—	—	—	—	3.45	6.1	7.1	10.1	14.8	23.3	29.6	—	—	—	—

—Not available.
¹ Data on population and labor force are from the Bureau of the Census, and data on personal income and national income are from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. Population data through 1900 are based on total population from the decennial census. From 1909–10 to 1959–60, population data are total population, including armed forces overseas, as of July 1. Data for later years are for resident population that excludes armed forces overseas.
² Data for 1869–70 through 1959–60 are school year enrollment. Data for later years are fall enrollment.
³ Data for 1870–71.
⁴ Estimated by the National Center for Education Statistics.
⁵ Prior to 1919–20, data are for the number of different persons employed rather than number of positions.
⁶ Prior to 1919–20, includes interest on school debt.
⁷ Because of the modification of the scope of "current expenditures for elementary and secondary schools," data for 1959–60 and later years are not entirely comparable with prior years.
⁸ Beginning in 1969–70, includes capital outlay by state and local school building authorities.
⁹ Includes summer schools, community colleges, and adult education. Beginning in 1959–60, also includes community services, formerly classified with "current expenditures for elementary and secondary schools."
¹⁰ Excludes community colleges and adult education.

¹¹ Average includes supervisors, principals, teachers, and other nonsupervisory instructional staff.
¹² Estimated by the National Education Association.
¹³ Excludes current expenditures not allocable to pupil costs.
¹⁴ "ADA" means average daily attendance in elementary and secondary schools.
¹⁵ Expenditure figure is the sum of current expenditures allocable to pupil costs, capital outlay, and interest on school debt.
¹⁶ Per-day rates derived by dividing annual rates by average length of term.

NOTE: Kindergarten enrollment includes a relatively small number of nursery school pupils. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Beginning in 1959–60, data include Alaska and Hawaii. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Statistics of State School Systems; Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Systems; Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education, FY 1980*; Common Core of Data surveys; and Council of Economic Advisers, *Economic Report of the President*. (This table was prepared November 2001.)