



Texas public school enrollment climbs

AUSTIN – Enrollment in Texas public schools continues to surge, growing by 820,019 students or more than 19 percent over the past decade, a new report released today by the Texas Education Agency found. The 2012-2013 school year marked the first time that statewide enrollment officially topped 5 million.

The growth is even more pronounced over a 25-year period. Between the 1987-1988 school year and the 2012-2013 school year, enrollment grew 57.4 percent or about 1.85 million students. A new report called *Enrollment in Texas Public Schools 2012-2013* documents the ethnically and culturally diverse populations that are increasingly attending the state's public schools. With an enrollment of 5,075,840 in 2012-2013, the student body was:

- 51.3 percent Hispanic;
- 30.0 percent white;
- 12.7 percent African American;
- 3.6 percent Asian; and
- 1.8 percent multiracial.

Enrollment increased for all student groups between 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 except for whites, who experienced a numeric and percentage decrease statewide.

Nineteen of the 20 education service center regions saw a percentage decline in white enrollment. The remaining area – the Region 1 Education Service Center in Edinburg – saw white enrollment hold steady at 1.7 percent.

Other highlights from the report include:

- The number of students in grades 9-12 participating in career and technical education programs was 35.2 percent in 2012-2013, a slight decrease from 35.5 percent the previous year.
- The number of students participating in bilingual or English as a Second Language programs increased by 268,538 or 46.9 percent between 2002-2003 and 2012-2013.
- The percentage of children living in poverty remained steady at 60.3 percent.

The complete enrollment report is available at http://www.tea.state.tx.us/acctres/enroll_index.html.

