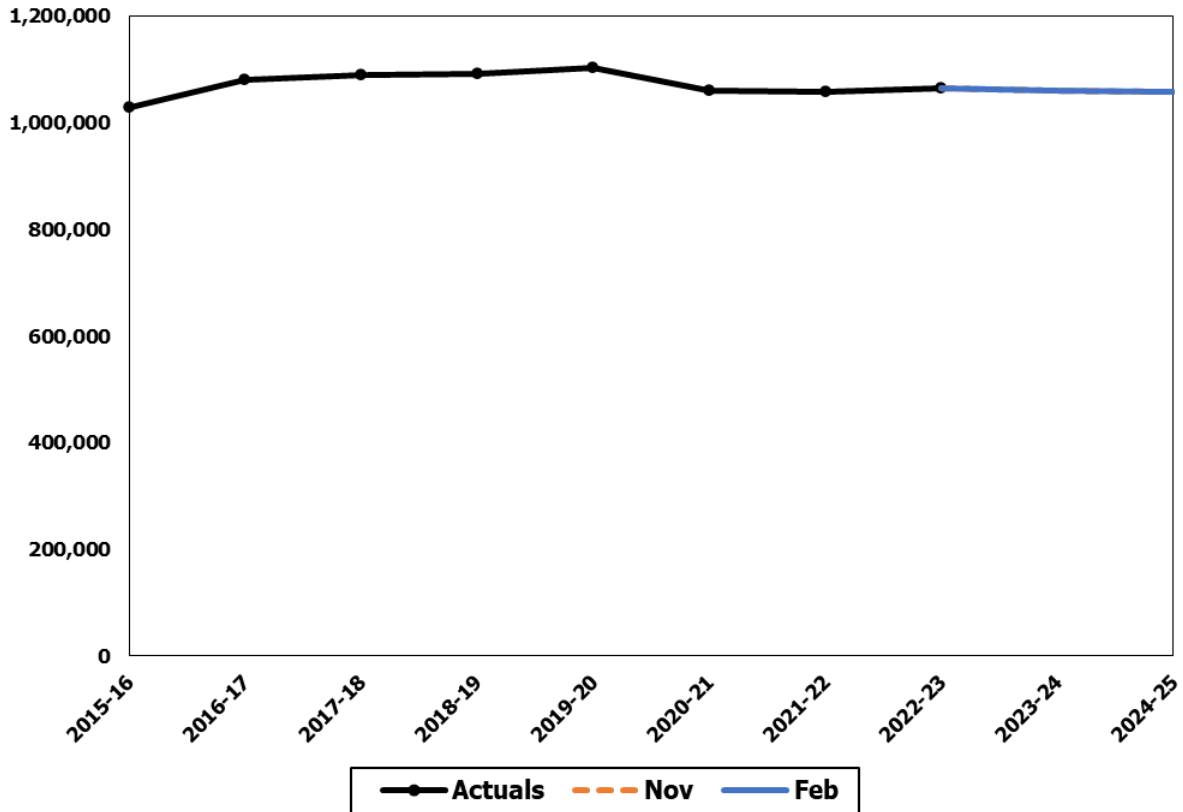


Common Schools Average Annual Enrollment (FTE)



The Common School enrollment forecast includes K-12 grade level enrollments, Running Start enrollments, the University of Washington Transition Program, the Open Doors Dropout Reengagement Program, summer school, and private and home-schooled students receiving ancillary services from public schools.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Nov-23 Forecast	Feb-24 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2023-24	1,059,409	1,060,438	1,029	0.1%
2024-25	1,058,212	1,058,776	564	0.1%

Compared to November, the February 2024 forecast is up an average of 797 students, which is on par for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Nov-23		Variance	Percent
	Forecast	Actual		Variance
Nov-23	1,057,792	1,058,492	700	0.1%
Dec-23	1,056,386	1,057,276	890	0.1%
Jan-24	1,054,148	1,055,488	1,340	0.1%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 977 students or 0.1 percent above the November forecast, which is on par.

Academic Year Caseload Change

	Academic Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2015-16	1,028,594		
	2016-17	1,079,421	50,827	4.9%
	2017-18	1,089,687	10,266	1.0%
	2018-19	1,091,958	2,271	0.2%
	2019-20	1,101,758	9,800	0.9%
	2020-21	1,060,586	-41,172	-3.7%
	2021-22	1,057,179	-3,407	-0.3%
	2022-23	1,063,391	6,212	0.6%
Forecast	2023-24	1,060,438	-2,953	-0.3%
	2024-25	1,058,776	-1,662	-0.2%

In 2020-21, Common Schools enrollment declined year-over-year by 3.7 percent due to concerns about COVID-19 and remote/hybrid schooling. Some families opted for home-based instruction, private school instruction, or delaying enrollment in kindergarten. Additional families may have relocated out-of-state. Enrollment did not recover in 2021-22. Kindergarten and 1st grade public school enrollment rates improved from those of the prior year, though not to pre-pandemic rates. Further, year-over-year declines occurred in grades 4-8 as well as grade 10, Running Start, and Open Door. In 2022-23, Running Start enrollment continued to decline.

For both 2023-24 and 2024-25, enrollment growth will be flat due to declining birth rates and smaller age cohorts progressing through the K-12 system. For example, October kindergarten headcount declined year-over-year by 4.1 percent while October Running Start headcount grew year-over-year by 15.4 percent.

Risks to the Forecast

The risks to the Common Schools enrollment forecast (K-12, Open Door, and Running Start) are high. Demand for Common School enrollment, private school, and home-based instruction are highly influenced by the state's economic conditions, demand for labor, and net in-state migration.

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