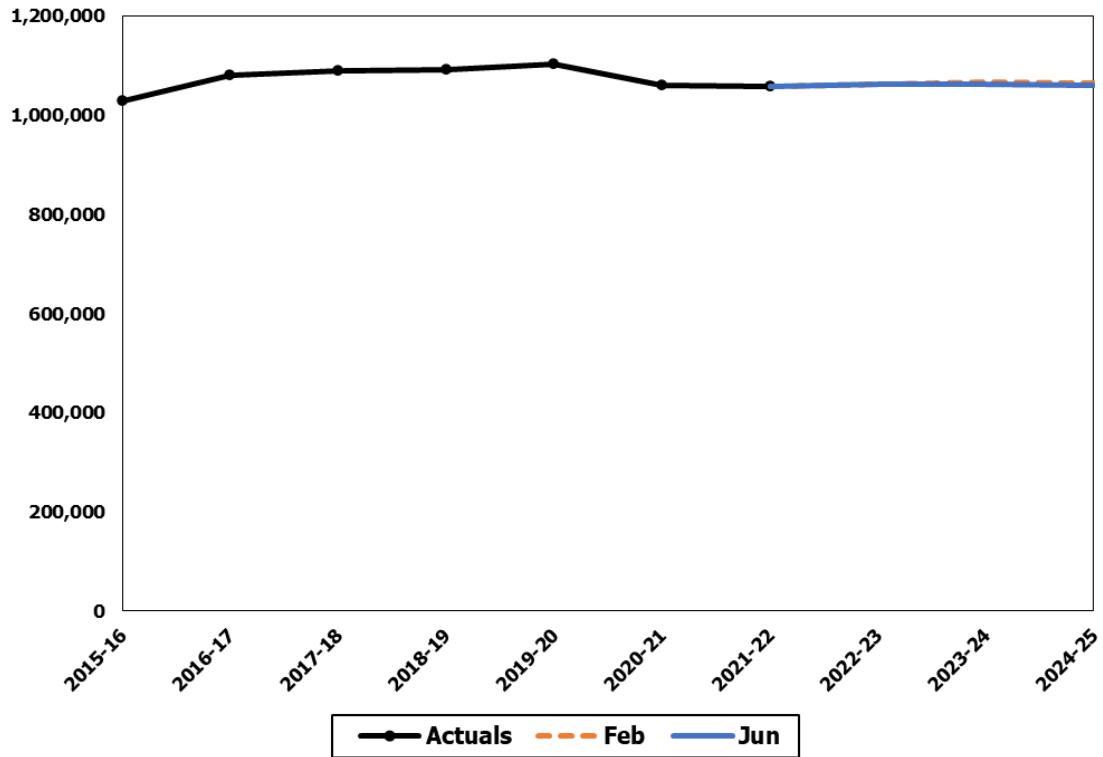


Common Schools Enrollment

Caseload Forecast Council
June 14, 2023

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, Open Door Dropout Reengagement Program, summer school, and private and home-schooled students receiving ancillary services from public schools.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Feb-23 Forecast	Jun-23 Forecast	Feb to Jun Difference	Percent Difference
2023	1,063,179	1,063,031	-148	0.0%
2024	1,066,362	1,062,009	-4,353	-0.4%
2025	1,065,001	1,060,721	-4,280	-0.4%

Compared to February, the June 2023 forecast is, on par for academic year 2022-23 and 4,317 students or 0.4 percent lower for the 2023-25 Biennium.

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Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Feb-23		Variance	Percent
	Forecast	Actual		Variance
Feb-23	1,058,703	1,059,237	534	0.1%
Mar-23	1,057,333	1,058,594	1,262	0.1%
Apr-23	1,054,920	1,051,361	-3,559	-0.3%
May-23	1,054,189	1,054,408	218	0.0%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 386 cases or on par with the February forecast.

Academic Year Caseload Change

Academic Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
2015-16	1,028,594		
2016-17	1,079,421	50,827	
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	1,063,031	5,852	0.6%
2023-24	1,062,009	-1,022	-0.1%
2024-25	1,060,721	-1,289	-0.1%

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 delayed their child’s enrollment in kindergarten. Additional families may have relocated out-of-state. Finally, immigrants moving into Washington State significantly dropped. 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.

During the 2023-25 biennium, enrollment growth will be flat due to declining birth rates and smaller age cohorts progressing through the K-12 system. The legislature passed HB 1550 during the 2023 session, codifying and renaming the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program the Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) program. Under the new law, as of the 2023-24 school year, TTK students will no longer be included in kindergarten enrollment and will be reported separately. This moves nearly 5,000 children from the Common Schools forecast to the TTK forecast.

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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