

Ten Year Demographics Trends

Snapshot Summary.

Enrollment trends are positive for the Des Moines Public Schools. The district experienced 1.2 percent growth from 2015-16 to 2016-17 and a 3.9 percent increase in enrollment over the past ten years. One of the fastest growing populations within DMPS are English language learners, a population that has grown by over 60 percent in the past ten years.

Over the past ten years, Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) has experienced a net increase in certified grade K-12 enrollment of about 3.9 percent, or 1,230 students. From the 2007-08 to 2008-09 school year, DMPS K-12 enrollment declined by 3.0 percent, from 31,749 to 30,783 students. Starting in the 2009-10 school year, enrollment steadily increased to 32,979 students in 2016-17, for a total gain of 7.1 percent over the last nine years. Figure 1 illustrates the ten year grade K-12 enrollment trend.

To better understand the enrollment change, Figure 2 shows the enrollment trends in the regular elementary, middle school, and high school programs. The first sign of a continuous enrollment increase was seen in the 2009-10 school year on the elementary and middle school trend lines. The 2010 U.S. Census also documented an increase in the number of children from birth to four years of age in Des Moines and Polk County. For the City of Des Moines, there was an 8.5 percent increase in preschool age children between

2000 and 2010. That increase is reflected in the elementary enrollment. A recent study by Ochsner, Hare, and Hare (2013)* projected that the number of preschool children will continue to increase in the future.

They estimated that by 2018, the number of birth to four year olds will increase by 3.0 percent within the DMPS attendance area and the number of school age children within the DMPS attendance area will increase by 7.1 percent.

Figure 1. DMPS Certified Grade K-12 Enrollment

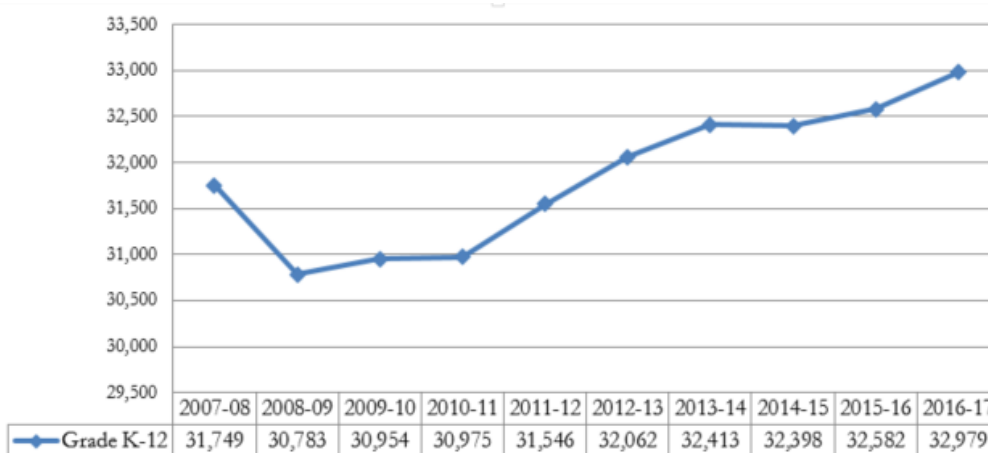
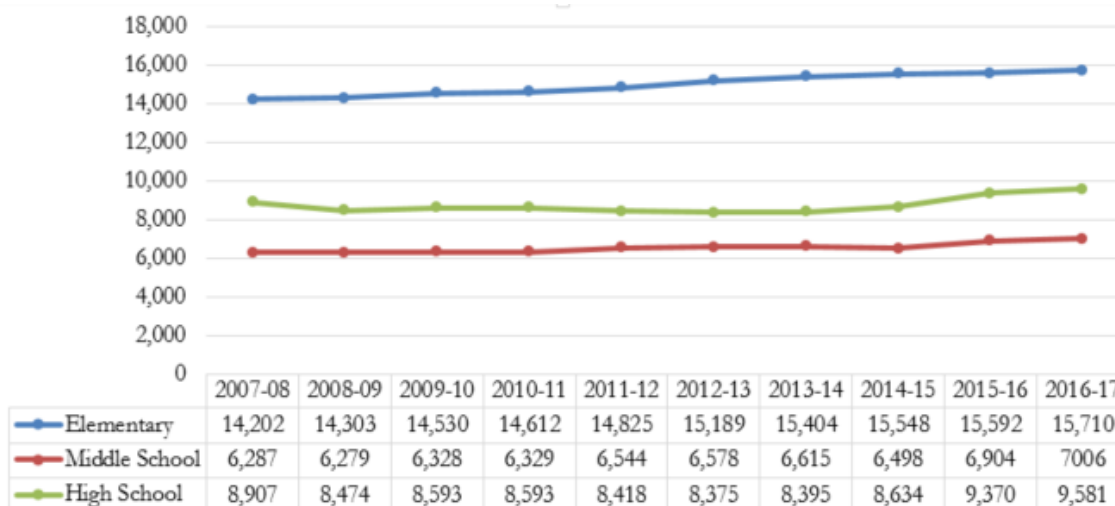


Figure 2. DMPS Enrollment by School Level

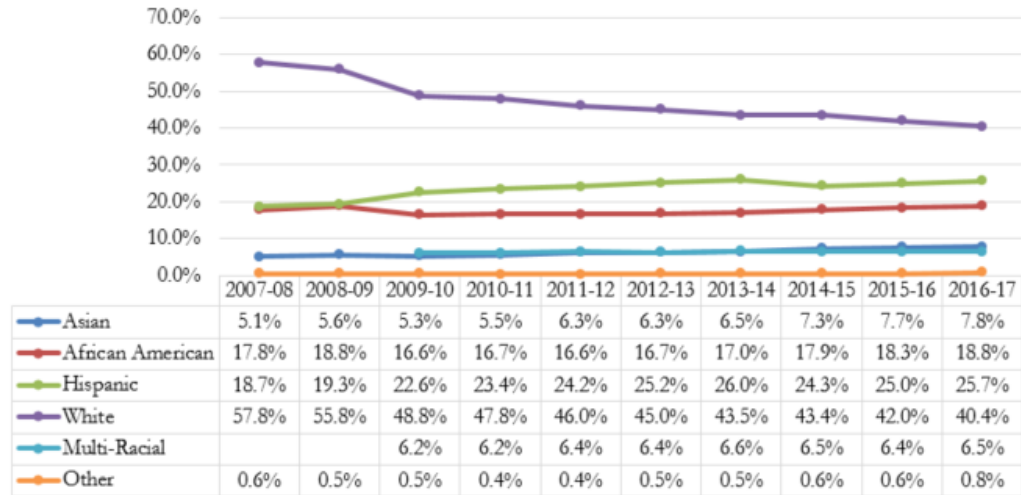


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Race/Ethnicity. As enrollment has changed, the composition of the student body has also changed. Figure 3 illustrates ethnic and racial trends from 2007-08 to 2016-17 for K-12 enrollment. In part, the change may be attributed to the way the U.S. Census defined ethnicity and race in 2009-10. In 2009-10, Hispanic was identified as an ethnicity separate from race. Also, two additional racial groups were designated: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Multi-Racial.

For illustration purposes, other includes American Indian and Multi-Racial in years prior to 2009-10. From 2009-10 and forward, other includes American Indian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

Figure 3. DMPS Grade K-12 Percent Enrolled by Race/Ethnicity



Eligibility for Services and Programs. Figure 4 highlights the changes in K-12 enrollment with regard to eligibility for free/reduced priced meals, English language learner programming, and special education services. DMPS mirrors the state's upward trend of children eligible for free/reduced priced meals through 2015-16. However, Iowa's rate of eligibility is lower than DMPS's, with 39.5 percent** of students in Iowa (excluding DMPS) eligible in 2015-16 and 70.3 percent of DMPS students eligible in 2016-17.

The number of English language learner (ELL) students has steadily increased in DMPS and Iowa. In the past ten years, the ELL population at DMPS has grown by over 60 percent. Currently, ELL students represent 21.0 percent of DMPS students. DMPS is ranked 9th in the state with regard to percentage of ELL students. DMPS educates approximately 6,800 ELL students in grades K-12. The number of ELL students at DMPS is more than the total number students enrolled at 96 percent of Iowa districts.

The percentage of students requiring special education services has decreased slightly in DMPS. In 2014-15, 12.6 percent** of students statewide required services, while 13.7 percent of DMPS students require services in 2016-17.

Figure 4. DMPS Grade K-12 Percent Enrolled Eligible for Services/Programming

