



Florida Information Note

Education Information & Accountability Services

Students New to Florida Public Schools, Fall 2006

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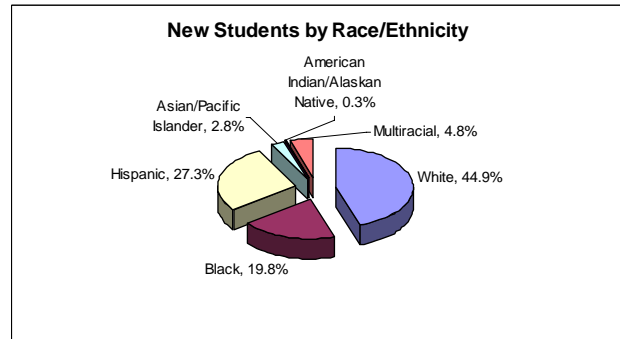
Introduction

Data on students new to Florida’s public schools provide important information on potential demographic trends in the state’s student population. These data can also be analyzed to determine whether new students are more likely than the existing student population to have special needs (e.g., disabilities, limited English proficiency), necessitating additional funding or adjustments to the allocation of other educational resources.

In the 2001-02 school year, the department implemented additional entry codes to more easily determine how many students were new to Florida’s public schools. In 2003-04 these entry codes were refined to more accurately determine the new students’ locations before entering Florida’s public school system. For fall 2006, there were 287,477 students new to Florida’s public schools, representing 10.8 percent of the state’s total fall student membership (2,662,701). Among Florida’s 67 school districts, Miami-Dade County had the most new students (36,676), accounting for 12.8 percent of all new students, and Bradford County had the fewest new students (104).

Growth in Hispanic Representation

The pie chart at the right shows the racial/ethnic classification of students new to Florida’s public schools in fall 2006. While white students constituted the majority of Florida’s new students (44.9%), a comparison of new students with the total student population by race indicates that the greatest proportional growth from new students is occurring in the Hispanic student population. The table to the right further illustrates this growth.



Comparison of New Students with Total Membership by Race, Fall 2006

	Total PK-12 Students	Percent PK-12	Total New PK-12 Students	Percent New PK-12	Percent Difference in Representation
White	1,243,810	46.7%	129,106	44.9%	1.8%
Black	616,453	23.2%	56,982	19.8%	3.4%
Hispanic	645,537	24.2%	78,521	27.3%	-3.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	61,421	2.3%	8,080	2.8%	-0.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	7,883	0.3%	937	0.3%	0.0%
Multiracial	87,597	3.3%	13,851	4.8%	-1.5%

Economic, English Proficiency, and Disability Status of New Students

The following table compares the percentage of new students to the percentage of all students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, exhibiting limited English proficiency (students eligible for ESOL programs), and having disabilities. Eligibility for free/reduced-price lunch can be used as an indicator of students' economic status. There is little difference between the percentage of new students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (41.1%) and the percentage of all students eligible for that program (45.4%). However, there is greater disparity in English proficiency and disability status. The percentage of new students with limited English proficiency (17.4%) is double the percentage of all students with limited English proficiency (8.7%), while the percentage of new students with disabilities (6.7%) is less than half of the state total (14.7%).

Category	Percentage of New Students	Percentage of State Total
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch	41.1%	45.4%
Students With Limited English Proficiency	17.4%	8.7%
Students with Disabilities (Gifted Excluded)	6.7%	14.7%

New Students by Grade Level

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten had the largest proportion of new students in fall 2006, accounting for 58.9 percent of all new students in grades PK-12. After these entry-level grades, ninth grade exhibited the largest percentage of new students, with 5.7 percent of all new students. Several factors could have contributed to the larger percentage of new ninth grade students, such as transfers from private schools, schools outside the district, and home education programs. Ninth grade is also significant in that it represents the traditional entry point for high school.

Grade	Percent of Total
PK	10.3%
KG	48.6%
1ST	4.2%
2ND	3.7%
3RD	3.4%
4TH	3.4%
5TH	3.2%
6TH	3.5%
7TH	3.4%
8TH	3.2%
9TH	5.7%
10TH	3.3%
11TH	2.7%
12TH	1.5%

Native Languages

Florida's new students represent many diverse populations and nationalities. The most commonly reported non-English native languages of new students are Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and French. Other common languages include Arabic, Chinese, Tagalog, Russian, and German. In all, 201 native languages are represented in the new student population.

**Total Students New to Florida Public Schools by Race
Fall 2006**

DISTRICT NAME	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	ASIAN/PAC. ISLANDER	AM. IND./ ALASKAN NAT.	MULTIRACIAL	TOTAL
ALACHUA	1,715	842	235	197	9	185	3,183
BAKER	492	33	7	3	0	9	544
BAY	1,992	346	183	56	11	149	2,737
BRADFORD	73	15	7	1	0	8	104
BREVARD	4,094	1,007	702	184	33	373	6,393
BROWARD	7,658	8,779	7,386	979	68	910	25,780
CALHOUN	172	28	6	1	0	10	217
CHARLOTTE	1,534	167	179	43	8	124	2,055
CITRUS	1,197	78	87	32	5	86	1,485
CLAY	3,250	600	392	141	16	131	4,530
COLLIER	2,037	523	2,070	74	17	173	4,894
COLUMBIA	916	294	61	14	7	80	1,372
DADE	3,899	8,677	22,940	553	40	567	36,676
DESOTO	252	53	187	2	0	13	507
DIXIE	171	5	6	4	0	6	192
DUVAL	2,476	3,137	593	224	23	347	6,800
ESCAMBIA	2,932	1,413	270	144	26	250	5,035
FLAGLER	1,003	197	191	36	10	60	1,497
FRANKLIN	140	20	6	0	0	3	169
GADSDEN	45	551	138	2	1	14	751
GILCHRIST	259	10	8	1	0	4	282
GLADES	86	17	54	0	0	1	158
GULF	181	19	4	7	0	5	216
HAMILTON	139	84	30	2	2	5	262
HARDEE	184	26	332	15	0	9	566
HENDRY	208	84	348	0	8	35	683
HERNANDO	1,885	168	377	52	6	141	2,629
HIGHLANDS	710	212	453	36	4	67	1,482
HILLSBOROUGH	9,335	4,088	6,621	750	76	1,400	22,270
HOLMES	318	6	3	5	1	3	336
INDIAN RIVER	721	151	251	17	1	35	1,176
JACKSON	419	206	26	7	6	27	691
JEFFERSON	67	66	6	0	0	2	141
LAFAYETTE	94	10	32	0	0	5	141
LAKE	2,749	649	885	139	17	150	4,589
LEE	4,880	1,109	2,892	168	31	453	9,533
LEON	1,843	1,442	158	182	9	158	3,792
LEVY	501	93	66	0	0	14	674
LIBERTY	88	15	21	0	0	3	127
MADISON	143	116	14	0	2	5	280
MANATEE	2,779	576	1,336	112	6	277	5,086
MARION	2,687	758	849	96	30	249	4,669
MARTIN	1,281	107	373	31	7	104	1,903
MONROE	588	89	265	17	4	45	1,008
NASSAU	1,016	85	34	15	2	39	1,191
OKALOOSA	3,244	439	346	115	22	321	4,487
OKEECHOBEE	394	41	211	5	28	16	695
ORANGE	7,413	5,982	8,173	1,022	101	753	23,444
OSCEOLA	1,992	686	4,076	195	15	457	7,421
PALM BEACH	7,612	4,287	4,516	530	82	2,182	19,209
PASCO	4,897	357	1,015	178	30	350	6,827
PINELLAS	7,856	2,068	1,365	574	41	794	12,698
POLK	5,077	1,903	2,753	189	33	500	10,455
PUTNAM	728	259	149	5	2	60	1,203
ST. JOHNS	2,166	182	130	88	8	84	2,658
ST. LUCIE	1,625	913	997	99	7	232	3,873
SANTA ROSA	2,614	204	154	76	21	141	3,210
SARASOTA	3,276	389	609	99	8	232	4,613
SEMINOLE	3,717	882	1,425	321	17	504	6,866
SUMTER	556	100	137	13	5	13	824
SUWANNEE	471	80	88	32	0	16	687
TAYLOR	273	94	5	9	0	21	402
UNION	162	24	8	1	0	4	199
VOLUSIA	4,274	903	1,121	159	19	356	6,832
WAKULLA	412	43	8	6	0	15	484
WALTON	695	44	62	10	9	30	850
WASHINGTON	253	36	16	1	2	17	325
DEAF/BLIND	12	2	4	0	0	0	18
FAU LAB SCH	37	15	13	0	0	3	68
FSU LAB SCH	97	54	41	8	1	10	211
FAMU LAB SCH	0	27	0	0	0	0	27
UF LAB SCH	44	17	15	3	0	6	85
STATE TOTAL	129,106	56,982	78,521	8,080	937	13,851	287,477

As a service to Florida school districts, each *Florida Information Note* (FIN) presents information on education topics of current interest. Each FIN is prepared by Education Information and Accountability Services, 852 Turlington Bldg., 325 W. Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400. For further information, call (850) 245-0400 or SunCom 205-0400 or visit our website at <http://www/firn.edu/doe/eias/>.