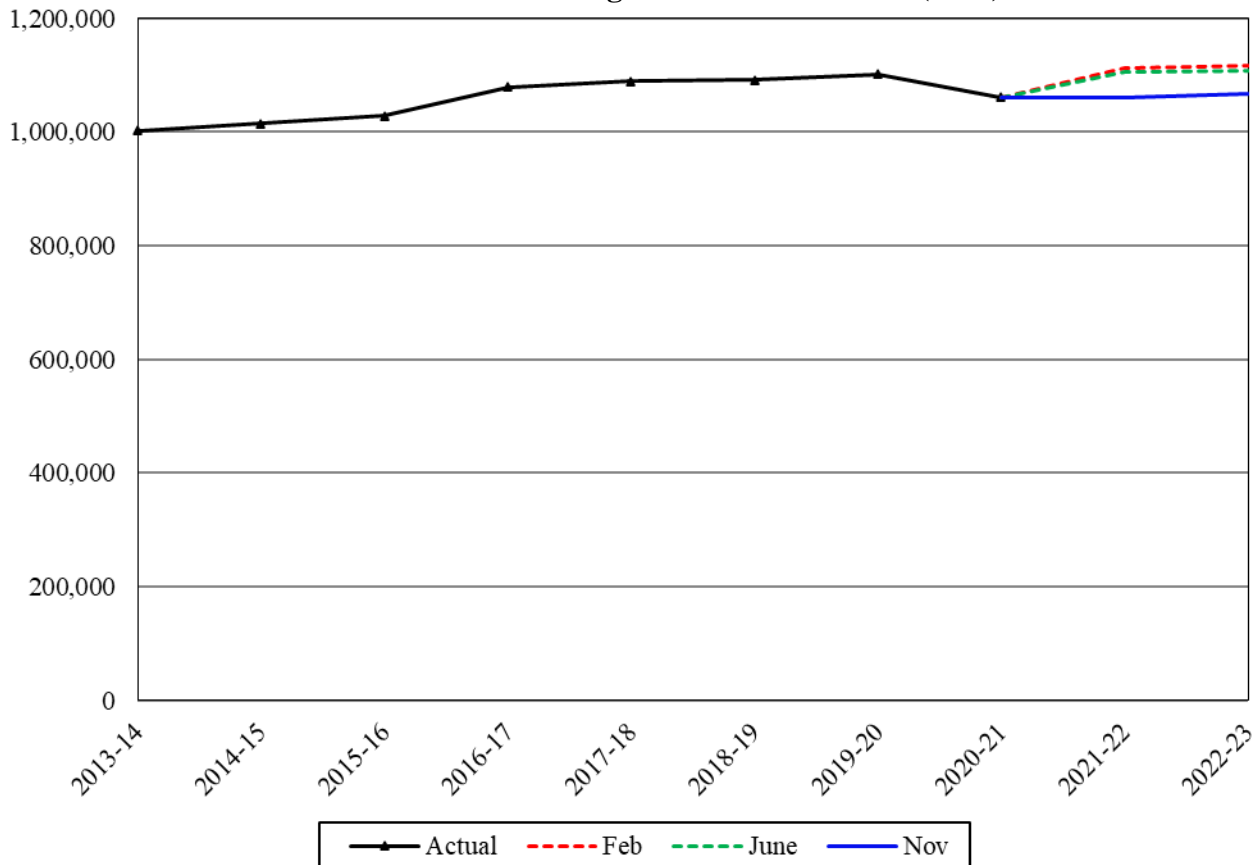


# Common Schools Enrollment

Caseload Forecast Council  
November 09, 2021

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 FTEs)

Academic Year	Feb-21 Forecast	Jun-21 Forecast	Nov-21 Forecast	Feb to Nov Difference	Percent Difference	Jun to Nov Difference	Percent Difference
2021-22	1,112,690	1,104,488	1,060,406	-52,284	-4.7%	-44,083	-4.0%
2022-23	1,116,190	1,107,794	1,067,806	-48,384	-4.3%	-39,988	-3.6%

The November 2021 forecast is, on average, 50,334 students or 4.5 percent lower than the February forecast, and 42,036 students or 3.8 percent lower than the June forecast for the 2021-23 Biennium.

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### **Tracking the Current Forecast (FTEs)**

	Jun-21 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Sep-21	1,068,444	1,022,099	-46,345	-4.3%
Oct-21	1,103,267	1,059,279	-43,987	-4.0%

Actuals for Common Schools are tracking 4.2 percent below the June forecast.

### **Academic Year Caseload Change (FTEs)**

	Academic Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2013-14	1,002,769		
	2014-15	1,015,076	12,306	1.2%
	2015-16	1,028,594	13,519	1.3%
	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	1,060,635	-41,123	-3.7%
<i>Forecast</i>	2021-22	1,060,406	-230	0.0%
	2022-23	1,067,806	7,400	0.7%

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

In 2021-22, total enrollment remained flat in contrast to the bounce-back assumed in the February and June forecasts. Specifically, Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade participation 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. Compared to the February and June forecasts bounce-back assumption, the November forecast assumes a shift in the enrollment trajectory and slower growth trends than occurred pre-pandemic. Note, around 2009, with the great recession, birth rates declined resulting in smaller age cohorts. Those babies of 2009 are now in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The overall future growth trends will be lower as these smaller age cohorts progress through the K-12 system.

#### *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. Additional factors adding uncertainty: (1) remote-work providing opportunities for families to relocate out-of-state and (2) immigration, both US policy and backlog of VISA applications.

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