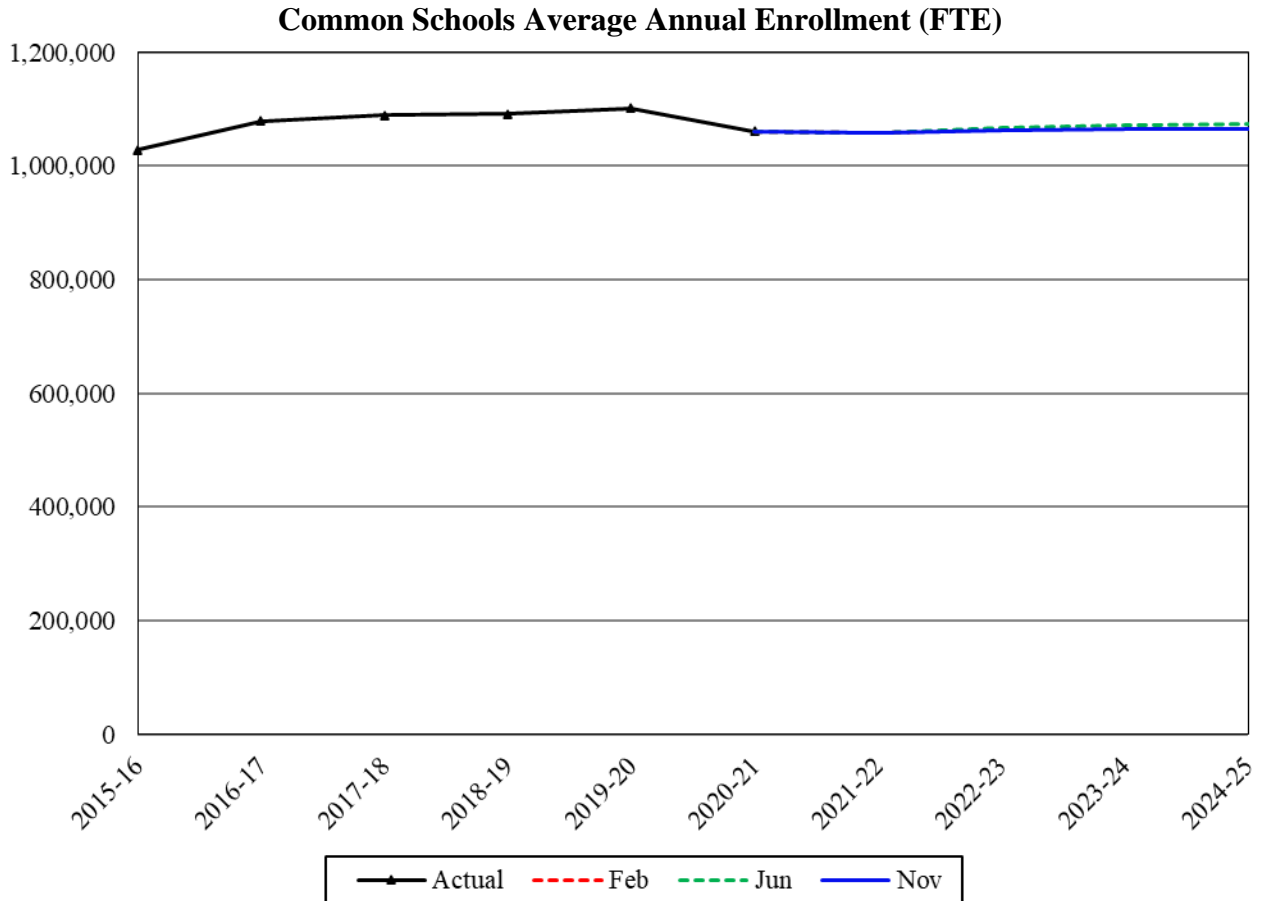


Common Schools Enrollment

Caseload Forecast Council
November 9, 2022



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-22 Forecast	Jun-22 Forecast	Nov-22 Forecast	Feb to Nov Difference	Percent Difference	Jun to Nov Difference	Percent Difference
2021-22	1,059,125	1,057,554	1,057,125	-1,999	-0.2%	-429	0.0%
2022-23	1,065,739	1,066,826	1,062,707	-3,032	-0.3%	-4,119	-0.4%
2023-24		1,071,588	1,064,470			-7,118	-0.7%
2024-25		1,073,337	1,064,355			-8,982	-0.8%

Compared to June, the November 2022 forecast is, on average, 4,199 students or 0.4 percent lower for academic year 2022-23 and 0.8 percent lower for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Forecast Contact:
Paula Moore
360-664-9376
paula.moore@cfc.wa.gov

Tracking the Current Forecast (FTEs)

	Jun-22			Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Sep-22	1,032,423	1,026,689	-5,734	-0.6%
Oct-22	1,066,868	1,061,077	-5,791	-0.5%

Actuals for Common Schools are tracking 0.5 percent below the February forecast.

Academic Year Caseload Change (FTEs)

	Academic		Change from	Percent
	Year	Caseload	Prior Year	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%
Forecast	2021-22	1,057,125	-3,460	-0.3%
	2022-23	1,062,707	5,582	0.5%
	2023-24	1,064,470	1,763	0.2%
	2024-25	1,064,355	-115	0.0%

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.

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.