



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

INTRODUCTION

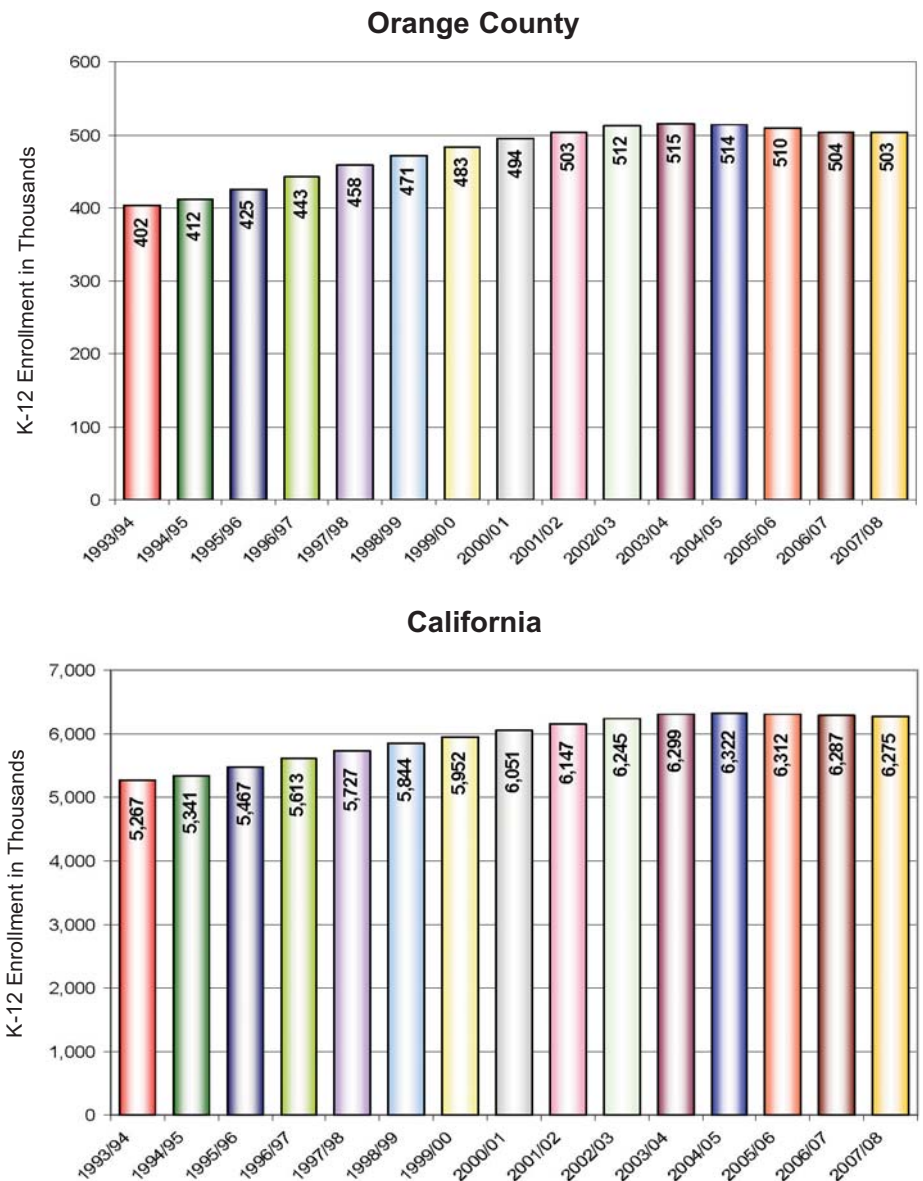
A continuing topic of interest is changes in public school enrollment. Orange County's recent downward trend in enrollment for public schools has served to heighten awareness of this topic. As shown in Figure 1, the downward enrollment trend is relatively recent in Orange County, occurring in the last five years. This issue of *Profiles* will present data on school enrollment for Orange County and its districts, focusing on changes from 2002 to 2007, as well as discussing Orange County in comparison to California and the Southern California region. Also included are data on service topics which are related to changes in enrollment levels. All of the observations reported in this issue are based upon the latest historical data and do not predict current or future enrollment.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

In the last 15 years, California's overall public school enrollment has grown from 5,267,277 to 6,275,469, an increase of 1,008,192 students, or 19.1% (Figure 1). In the past five years, enrollment growth has slowed, showing an increase of only 30,737 or 0.5%.

Orange County, on the other hand, grew by 100,911 (25.1%) in the same 15-year period and in the last five years, since the 2002/03 school

Figure 1
Orange County and California Public School Enrollment
1993/94 - 2007/08



Source: California Department of Education, Data and Statistics.

Table 1
Orange County Public School Enrollment: 2002/03 - 2007/08

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2002/03- 2007/08	
							Numerical Change	Percent Change
ELEMENTARY DISTRICTS								
ANAHEIM CITY	22,375	21,963	21,383	20,690	19,958	19,332	-3,043	-13.6%
BUENA PARK	6,384	6,372	6,266	6,237	6,008	5,766	-618	-9.7%
CENTRALIA	5,352	5,255	5,056	5,036	4,841	4,808	-544	-10.2%
CYPRESS	4,815	4,727	4,439	4,288	4,202	4,101	-714	-14.8%
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	6,320	6,250	6,250	6,188	6,114	6,123	-197	-3.1%
FULLERTON	13,554	13,812	13,874	13,890	13,613	13,597	43	0.3%
HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY	6,998	6,931	6,782	6,599	6,571	6,566	-432	-6.2%
LA HABRA CITY	6,456	6,534	6,352	6,165	5,910	5,746	-710	-11.0%
MAGNOLIA	6,989	6,971	6,771	6,666	6,482	6,341	-648	-9.3%
OCEAN VIEW	10,180	10,186	10,012	9,945	9,532	9,412	-768	-7.5%
SAVANNA	2,486	2,449	2,524	2,563	2,403	2,388	-98	-3.9%
WESTMINSTER	10,113	10,253	10,003	10,024	9,908	9,930	-183	-1.8%
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS								
ANAHEIM UNION	31,338	32,468	32,975	33,112	33,076	33,343	2,005	6.4%
FULLERTON JOINT UNION	16,195	16,398	16,742	16,299	16,499	16,321	126	0.8%
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION	14,668	14,975	15,283	15,757	15,913	16,052	1,384	9.4%
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS								
BREA-OLINDA	6,123	6,206	6,220	6,193	6,085	6,033	-90	-1.5%
CAPISTRANO	48,608	49,746	50,615	51,245	51,512	52,390	3,782	7.8%
GARDEN GROVE	50,066	50,172	50,030	49,574	48,798	48,669	-1,397	-2.8%
IRVINE	24,771	24,930	25,158	25,496	25,821	26,128	1,357	5.5%
LAGUNA BEACH	2,700	2,703	2,770	2,861	2,860	2,900	200	7.4%
LOS ALAMITOS	9,087	9,184	9,100	9,125	9,240	9,372	285	3.1%
NEWPORT-MESA	22,275	22,383	22,487	22,122	21,421	21,338	-937	-4.2%
ORANGE	31,823	32,032	31,351	30,901	30,327	30,127	-1,696	-5.3%
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA	26,464	26,774	26,725	26,757	26,460	26,243	-221	-0.8%
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	35,566	35,349	34,901	34,592	33,909	33,558	-2,008	-5.6%
SANTA ANA	63,610	62,874	61,693	59,310	57,346	57,061	-6,549	-10.3%
TUSTIN	18,518	18,950	19,736	20,195	20,515	20,909	2,391	12.9%
COUNTY OPERATED								
	8,271	8,617	8,246	8,284	8,631	8,671	400	4.8%
TOTAL COUNTY ENROLLMENT	512,105	515,464	513,744	510,114	503,955	503,225	-8,880	-1.7%

Highlighted data is discussed in the text.
Source: California Department of Education, Data and Statistics.

year, the enrollment in Orange County's 28 public schools has decreased by a total of 8,880 students (-1.7%). The neighboring counties of Los Angeles (-5.1%) and San Diego (-0.8%) have also experienced a decline in enrollment over the same five-year period, while Riverside (20.7%) and San Bernardino (5.2%) Counties experienced an increase in enrollment. These last two counties, also known as the Inland Empire, have experienced substantial housing and population growth and many families moved to these counties to purchase housing during the housing market boom that occurred during this five-year period.

ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Eighteen of the 28 Orange County school districts

have shown decreases in their enrollment over the last five years (Table 1). The elementary school districts have had the largest decreases in enrollment between the 2002/03 and 2007/08 school years. The top three declines were in Cypress (-14.8%), Anaheim City (-13.6%), and La Habra City (-11.0%).

The declining enrollment is not a characteristic of all of the districts in Orange County. There are 10 school districts that have shown moderate increases in student enrollment over the same time period. Tustin Unified (12.9%), Huntington Beach Union (9.4%), and Capistrano Unified (7.8%) have shown the largest percentage increases in student enrollment. The areas that are serviced

Table 2
English Language Learners by Orange County
School District: 2002/03-2007/08

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2002/03	2007/08	2002/03-2007/08	
			Numerical Change	% Change
ELEMENTARY				
ANAHEIM CITY	14,359	11,579	-2,780	-19.4%
BUENA PARK	2,768	2,765	-3	-0.1%
CENTRALIA	1,537	1,684	147	9.6%
CYPRESS	593	831	238	40.1%
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	460	676	216	47.0%
FULLERTON	4,279	4,454	175	4.1%
HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY	527	468	-59	-11.2%
LA HABRA CITY	3,012	2,433	-579	-19.2%
MAGNOLIA	3,478	3,707	229	6.6%
OCEAN VIEW	2,179	2,151	-28	-1.3%
SAVANNA	810	1,103	293	36.2%
WESTMINSTER	4,337	4,953	616	14.2%
HIGH SCHOOL				
ANAHEIM UNION	8,847	8,028	-819	-9.3%
FULLERTON JOINT UNION	4,874	3,383	-1,491	-30.6%
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION	1,661	1,630	-31	-1.9%
UNIFIED				
BREA-OLINDA	643	618	-25	-3.9%
CAPISTRANO	6,882	5,421	-1,461	-21.2%
GARDEN GROVE	26,407	22,287	-4,120	-15.6%
IRVINE	3,201	3,489	288	9.0%
LAGUNA BEACH	76	97	21	27.6%
LOS ALAMITOS	200	245	45	22.5%
NEWPORT-MESA	6,212	5,614	-598	-9.6%
ORANGE	6,741	7,235	494	7.3%
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA	4,441	3,696	-745	-16.8%
SADDELEBACK VALLEY	2,798	4,200	1,402	50.1%
SANTA ANA	40,400	31,924	-8,476	-21.0%
TUSTIN	5,446	5,090	-356	-6.5%
COUNTY OPERATED				
	1,977	3,072	1,095	55.4%
TOTAL	159,145	142,833	-16,312	-10.2%

Highlighted data is discussed in the text.
Source: California Department of Education, Data and Statistics.

Table 3
Pupil-to-Teacher Ratio by Orange County
School District: 2002/03-2007/08

SCHOOL DISTRICT	2002/03	2007/08	2002/03-2007/08
			Difference
ELEMENTARY			
ANAHEIM CITY	21.5	20.5	-1.0
BUENA PARK	21.4	23.3	1.9
CENTRALIA	21.5	22.9	1.4
CYPRESS	19.4	19.8	0.4
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	22.2	23.1	0.9
FULLERTON	22.5	23.6	1.1
HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY	22.7	25.5	2.8
LA HABRA CITY	19.7	22.2	2.5
MAGNOLIA	19.8	19.8	0.0
OCEAN VIEW	20.8	22.8	2.0
SAVANNA	20.5	23.1	2.6
WESTMINSTER	19.8	21.4	1.6
HIGH SCHOOL			
ANAHEIM UNION	24.5	23.7	-0.8
FULLERTON JOINT UNION	29.2	27.7	-1.5
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION	25.2	25.4	0.2
UNIFIED			
BREA-OLINDA	21.4	24.3	2.9
CAPISTRANO	22.7	23.4	0.7
GARDEN GROVE	22.8	23.2	0.4
IRVINE	23.4	23.3	-0.1
LAGUNA BEACH	22.0	21.4	-0.6
LOS ALAMITOS	22.9	23.3	0.4
NEWPORT-MESA	20.4	22.2	1.8
ORANGE	21.1	22.1	1.0
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA	22.5	23.9	1.4
SADDELEBACK VALLEY	22.7	23.6	0.9
SANTA ANA	21.6	22.0	0.4
TUSTIN	22.1	23.6	1.5
COUNTY OPERATED			
	#	#	#
TOTAL	20.7	20.9	0.2

Highlighted data is discussed in the text.
Data is not available
Source: California Department of Education, Data and Statistics.

by these three districts have all had substantial housing unit growth over the last five years.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

One service-related area that has seen more dramatic shifts in enrollment is the percent of English Language Learner (ELL) students. Approximately 28.4% (142,833) of students enrolled in Orange County public schools were ELL students in 2007/08 (Table 2). This is a decrease from the 31.1% share (159,145) reported in the 2002/03 school year. The decline of 10.2% in ELL students is noticeably different from the 1.7% decrease in overall county enrollment.

Thirteen school districts in Orange County showed an increase in the percentage share of ELL students. Saddleback Valley Unified (50.1%), Fountain Valley

Elementary (47.0%), and Cypress Elementary (40.1%) have all seen increases of more than 40% in their ELL enrollment over the last five years. Cypress Elementary a notable case in that its ELL enrollment is increasing despite an overall decline in total student enrollment.

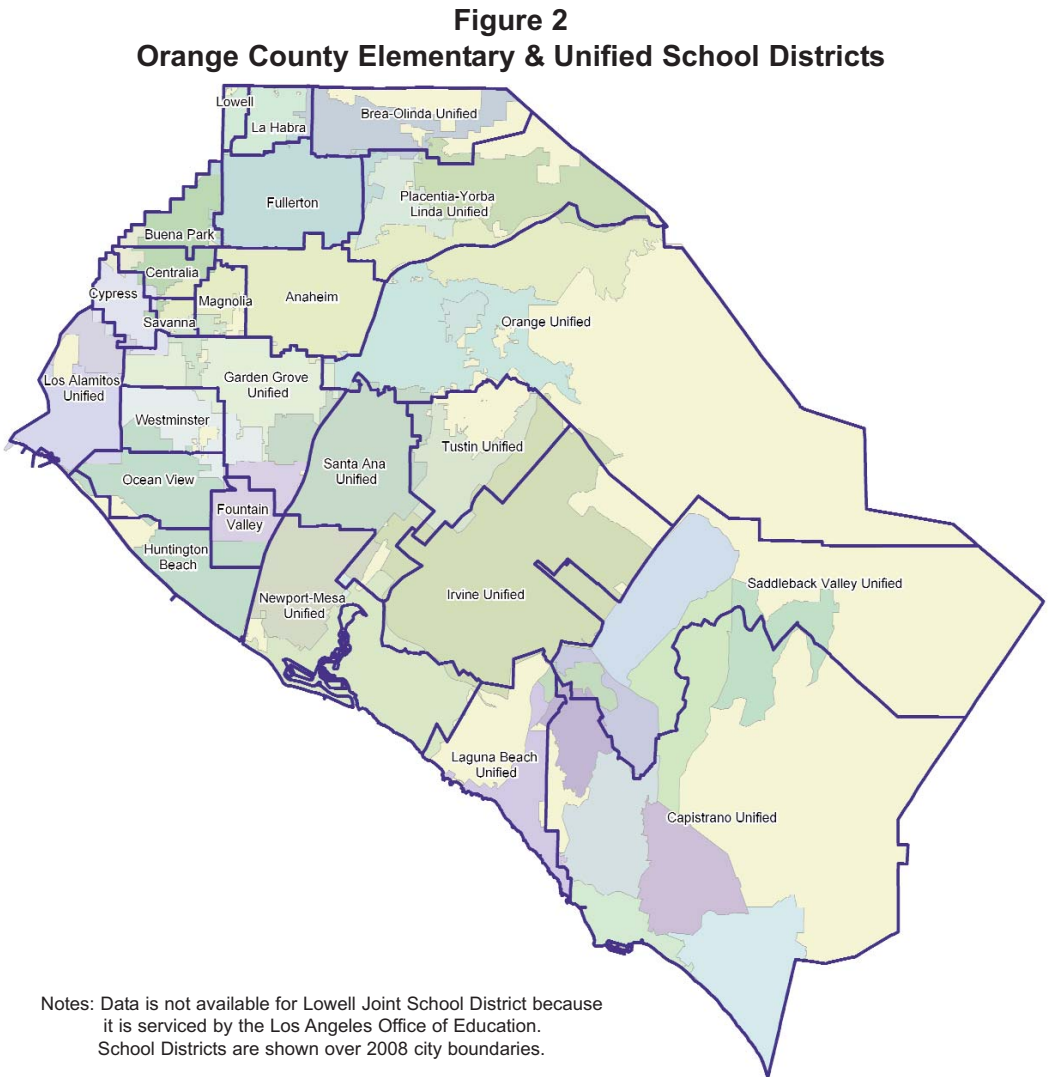
Out of the 15 Orange County school districts that have experienced declines in their ELL population, three Orange County school districts (Fullerton Joint Union, Capistrano Unified, and Santa Ana Unified) have experienced a decrease of more than 20%.

PUPIL-TO-TEACHER RATIO

Another service-related measure to look at with changes in student enrollment is the number of students enrolled compared to the number of teachers. This is often referred to as the pupil-(student) to-teacher ratio. This is

calculated by first converting the total number of teachers employed to full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers. Teaching assignments vary so the California Department of Education uses FTE's when assessing staffing levels. This number is most often different than the total number of teachers employed, especially if there are any teachers who work more or less than full-time. For example, two half-time teachers equal one FTE. As shown in Table 3, 21 Orange County school districts showed an increase in the pupil-to-teacher ratio between the 2002/03 and 2007/08 school years. This means that in those 21 districts, there were more students for each teacher. The school districts with the largest increases were Brea-Olinda Unified (2.9), Huntington Beach City Elementary School (2.8), and Savannah Elementary (2.6). In the case of Brea-Olinda, there were 2.9 more students for every full-time equivalent teacher in 2007/08 than in the 2002/03 school year.

There were six school districts in Orange County with a decline in the pupil-to-teacher ratio. The three with the largest declines were Fullerton Joint Union (-1.5), Anaheim Elementary (-1.0), and Anaheim Union (-0.8). Once again, this means on average there were 1.5 fewer students per full-time equivalent teacher in the Fullerton Joint Union school district in 2007/08 than in the



2002/03 school year. Anaheim Elementary is the only school district that had a declining enrollment over the last five years and also showed a decline in the pupil-to-teacher ratio for the same time period.

CONCLUSION

This recent downward trend is important to document because schools receive funding for each student enrolled and year-to-year funding decreases when enrollment declines. One may expect that with a drop in enrollment there will be fewer students and therefore a lowered demand for services and financing. Often

times, minimal student declines can have greater impacts on quality and fulfillment of services, yet continued declines in overall enrollment often result in long-term district budget cuts and reduction of services. There is no singular factor that explains the enrollment decline as a whole. Rather, the demographic trends and historic patterns that demonstrate the continued rise and fall in enrollment, a modest increase in private school enrollment (0.6%) over the same time period, the state of the job and housing markets, as well as individual choices and preferences on living locations may all contribute in part to the current decline.