

## Trends in Enrollments

- There is a very stable the ratio of educators to students as the size of the district changes—the ratio being about 13 students per educator over all the districts in the State of Oklahoma.
- There is considerable diversity among districts in the State of Oklahoma in changing its workforce size given changes in its enrollments.
- Over the last five years total enrollments have increased by a steady 1% rate per year, adding to a 4% increase, or an increase of 25,220 students. Grades groups showed mixed results in terms of increases and declines.
- Pre-kindergarten grades have shown very erratic growth over the period.
- The size of kindergarten enrollments increased 12% from 1993 to 1997.
- From 1993-97, grades 1-5 decreased 2% or by 5,936 students.
- Over the same period grades 6-8 increased 6% or by 8,704 students.
- High school students showed the greatest increase in number: 17,089 students or an 11% increase.
- Ungraded students increased in number by 62, or 4 percent
- Live births, which influences the number of kindergarten students 5 years hence, have declined from 1991 to 1995 by 1363 births, or about 3 percent.
- Live births increased in 1996 by 734 to 46129, or a 1.6% increase.
- Plotting kindergarten enrollments and live births it can be seen that *enrolled kindergarten students actually exceed the number of total live births recorded 5 years earlier*. This increase can be due to net in-migration—or to increasing range of ages included in kindergarten grades (thereby, in effect, combining birth cohorts). However, the SDE enrollment data shows that the inclusion of earlier ages is not the case.
- The district clusters, generally, show a steady increase in total enrollments from 1993 to 1997. Only Cluster 2 (an urban district) shows a decline from 1996 to 1997 for total enrollments.
- Cluster 2 also shows sustained losses in kindergarten, grades 1-5, and ungraded students.
- Steady decreases, or no gains, in grades 1 to 5 also show up for virtually all the district clusters over the last 5 years.
- All district clusters, except Cluster 1, show declines for grades 6-8 from 1996 to 1997.
- Alternately, all of the districts have shown gains in high school students for all the years from 1993 to 1997.
- In the future, the system, as a whole, will experience the declining number of elementary and middle school students moving into the high school grades. The start of this can be seen in a decline in grades 6-8 among all the districts from 1996 to 1997. These declines will ripple through the high school grades, reducing demand for high school educators, unless offset by an unforeseen in-migration of population to make those, and all other grades, increase in size.
- The long-term influence of kindergarten entries is more uncertain. Live births, as shown above, have declined, and the influence of the declines in live births from 1993 to 1996 has not yet been observed in the kindergarten enrollment data. However, the number of kindergarten students in recent years is observed to be greater than the correlated live births from 5 years earlier, suggesting in-migration--- as discussed above.
- There are substantial increases in kindergarten enrollments for Clusters 6 through 10 (rural districts).