



Enrollment Trends in Massachusetts

by Ken Ardon

Executive Summary

Enrollment in public schools in Massachusetts has fallen by 24,000 students, or 2.5 percent, over the past five years. The total number of students in Massachusetts public schools is now just 936,000. The decline started several years ago, and is likely to accelerate over the next decade. The drop in enrollment is steepest in Western Massachusetts and Cape Cod, and urban districts are losing students faster than suburban districts. Additionally, the enrollment decline is more severe in lower-income areas than in middle or upper-income areas.

The primary cause of the decline is demographics – the population of Massachusetts is aging and the children of Baby-Boomers are rapidly moving through school. Charter school enrollment is rising even as overall public school enrollment is falling, but the increase in the number of students attending charter schools cannot explain the enrollment decline in non-charter schools.

Ultimately, there is no simple policy prescription to the problems that will result from declines in enrollment, but better enrollment data should be the basis of any solution. For example, the ongoing decline in public school enrollment is likely to increase political pressure to limit charter schools, but as the decline is being driven by demographics, charter schools should not be blamed. In fact, the growth at charter schools suggests that some cities could stem the outflow of students by increasing the number of charter schools in their districts or instituting charter-like reform in district schools.

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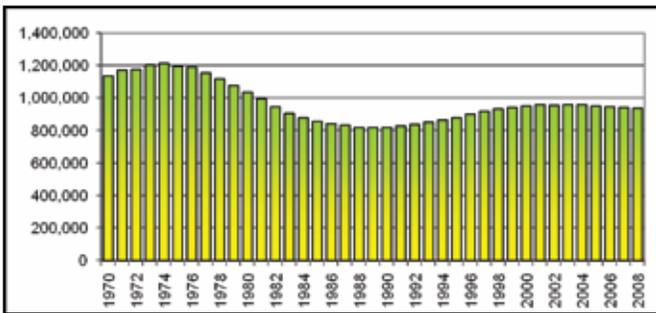
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Overall Trends in Enrollment

During the 1990s, enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools across the country grew by 15 percent. This increase was driven by the children of Baby-Boomers, the so-called echo-boom (the generation is also known as “Generation Y” or the “Millenials”). In Massachusetts the same trend was apparent as enrollment grew slightly faster than it did in the rest of the country – from 819,000 in 1990 to 952,000 in 2000, an increase of more than 16 percent.¹

Just as the Baby-Boomers’ retirement has implications for Social Security and other social services, the passage of their children through school will have repercussions as well. The end of this demographic wave is now moving through Massachusetts’ schools, and policymakers should be prepared for further reductions in student numbers.

Figure 1: K-12 Public Enrollment in Massachusetts



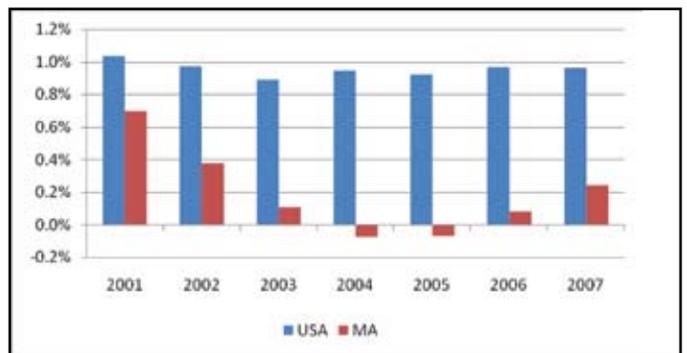
(Source: MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education)

In the rest of the country, enrollment growth slowed but continued, but in Massachusetts enrollment in public schools has started to decline. Enrollment peaked in the 2002-2003 school year, and in the five years since, enrollment has fallen by 24,000 students or 2.5 percent (see Figure 1).

The decline in public school enrollment in Massachusetts was not caused by students shifting to private schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, between 2002 and 2006 private school enrollment in Massachusetts fell by approximately 10,000 students or 7 percent.

There is reason to believe that the enrollment bust will accelerate as the current cohort of students graduates. During the past five years, high school enrollment grew by 5.1 percent, but enrollment in grades K-5 and 6-8 fell by 4.6 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively. Forecasts by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education predict that enrollment will drop by another 60,000 students, or 6.7 percent, by 2018.

Figure 2: Change in Population since 2000, USA and MA

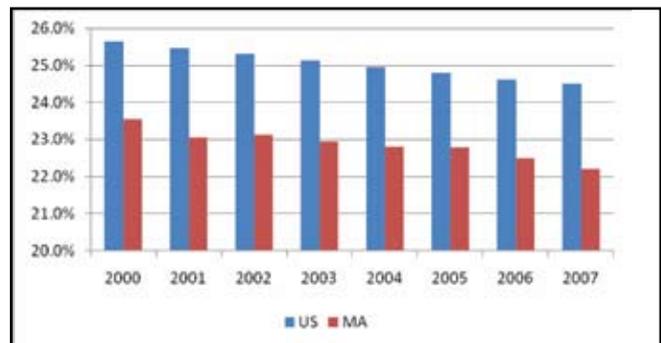


(Source: United States Census Bureau)

Why is Massachusetts different than the rest of the U.S.?

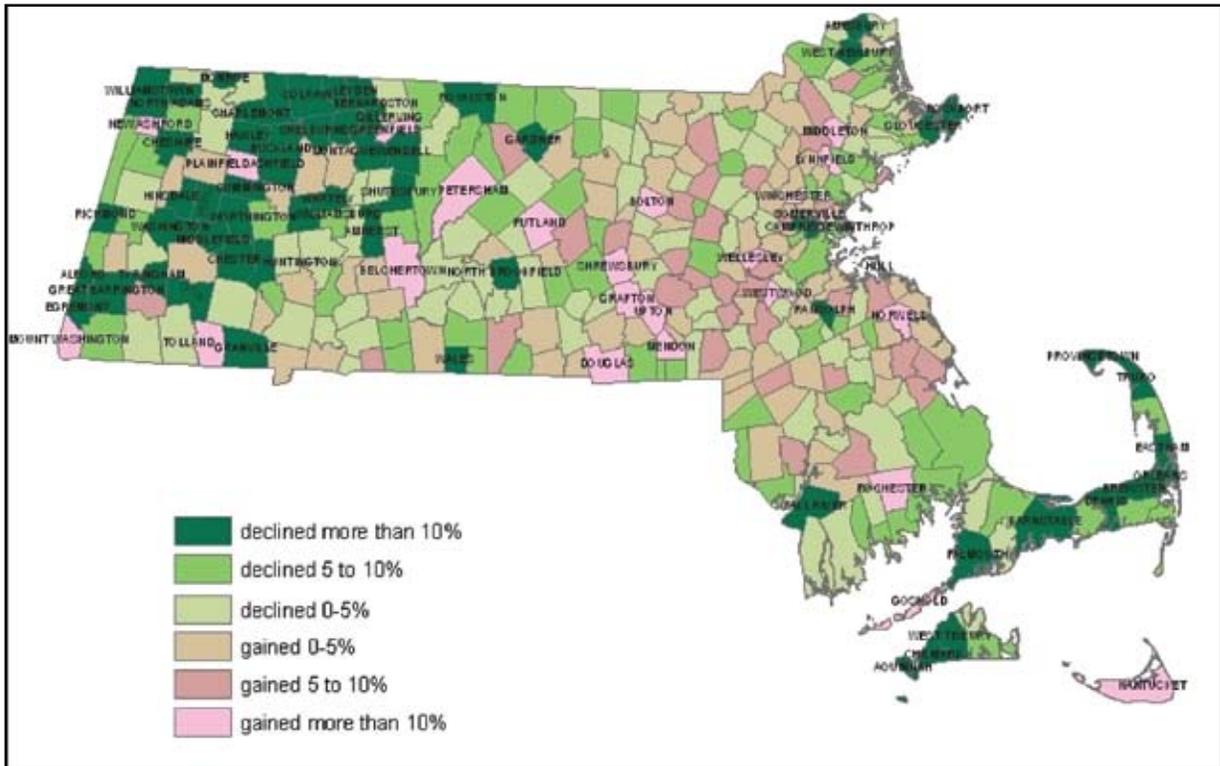
The principal cause of weaker enrollment in Massachusetts is the declining rate of population growth. In the United States as a whole, the aging of the echo-boomers has been offset by population

Figure 3: Share of Population 17 or younger, USA and MA



(Source: United States Census Bureau)

Figure 4: Percent Change in Foundation Enrollment by City/Town
2003 to 2008



(Source: MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education)

growth of 1 percent per year, but in Massachusetts the population has been growing much more slowly – less than 0.2 percent per year (see Figure 2). If the population in Massachusetts had grown at the same rate as it did in other states since 2001, there would be approximately 350,000 more people in the state and roughly 50,000 more school age children.

In addition to slow population growth, the population of Massachusetts is slightly older than the nation as a whole. As Figure 3 shows, a relatively low percentage of the population in Massachusetts is under 18. Massachusetts not only had a relatively old population during this period, but its population aged more rapidly. The share of the population under 18 in the United States fell by 1.1 percent since 2000, while in Massachusetts it fell by 1.3 percent. If the percentage in Massachusetts had fallen at the same rate as the percentage in the United States, there would be approximately 8,000 more students in the state.

Details of the Decline

While overall public school enrollment has declined by 2.5 percent over the past five years, the decline has not been distributed equally across all districts and regions. More than 125 districts experienced enrollment growth, while 60 districts saw enrollment drop by more than 10 percent.

As Figure 4 shows, the largest declines in enrollment occurred in Western Massachusetts and on Cape Cod. The rapid decline in these areas is not due to migration, as the population of these areas was essentially flat over this time. Instead, the decline is due to a reduction in the number of school age children – the population is getting older.

The greatest increases in enrollment generally occurred in the suburbs surrounding Boston along Route 495. The increases in enrollment correspond with relatively rapid population growth in Plymouth and Bristol counties.

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While the map illustrates the geographic distribution of enrollment, a detailed examination also reveals that the changes in enrollment are not distributed equally across urban and suburban areas. Enrollment in large urban areas is falling much faster than it is in smaller, more suburban districts.² As Table 1 shows, local school districts in 12 large urban areas lost an average of 9.8 percent of their students during these five years. Ten out of 12 of these urban districts had enrollment fall faster than the state average, and seven saw enrollment decline more than 10 percent.

The relative decline in enrollment in the urban districts could be caused by demographic shifts as people move to suburbs. To some extent this is true; while Massachusetts as a whole is growing more slowly than the rest of the country, the largest cities in Massachusetts are not growing at all. However, while slower population growth in the urban areas could have contributed to the drop in enrollment, it cannot explain it entirely. If the population in the 12 cities had grown at the same rate as the population in the rest of the state, the cities would contain approximately 5,000 more school age children.

Table 1: Change in Enrollment in Large Urban School Districts³

District	FY03	FY08	Change	%
Boston	60,549	53,838	-6,711	-11.1%
Brockton	16,347	15,027	-1,320	-8.1%
Cambridge	6,709	5,603	-1,106	-16.5%
Fall River	11,911	9,960	-1,951	-16.4%
Lawrence	12,211	11,917	-294	-2.4%
Lowell	15,063	13,053	-2,010	-13.3%
Lynn	14,516	13,272	-1,244	-8.6%
New Bedford	14,101	12,462	-1,639	-11.6%
Quincy	8,578	8,610	32	0.4%
Somerville	5,554	4,665	-889	-16.0%
Springfield	25,839	24,323	-1,516	-5.9%
Worcester	24,783	22,147	-2,636	-10.6%
TOTAL	216,161	194,877	-21,284	-9.8%

(Source: MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education)

Students seem to be moving geographically - away from Western Massachusetts and the Cape, and also away from cities. Enrollment is also dropping faster in lower-income cities and towns, particularly the large ones.⁴ Among the 100 largest communities in the state (those with a population greater than 18,250 in 2006), the 50 higher-income communities had a 1.8 percent increase in foundation enrollment while the 50 lower-income communities saw foundation enrollment decline by 4.8 percent.⁵

The shift in enrollment away from the larger, lower-income communities tends to be mirrored to a lesser extent in population trends. As mentioned earlier, the population in the largest urban areas has been relatively stable since 2000. The same is true in the lower-income group of the 100 largest communities, as population in these 50 cities and towns grew by 0.1 percent. In the 50 richer communities out of the 100 largest, the population grew slightly faster, by 0.7 percent.

Is the Drop in Enrollment Caused by Charter Schools?

While overall enrollment has been falling over the past five years, enrollment in charter schools has grown by more than 50 percent, or more than 9,000 students. Approximately half of the increase in charter enrollment during these years was driven by new school openings. Among charter schools open since 2002-03, enrollment grew by 4,500 students, or 28.4 percent, while schools opened since 2003 have enrolled 4,700 students.

In any one year, an average of 30 percent of the growth in charter enrollment is due to newly opened schools. Unless new charters continue to open, enrollment growth will slow as existing schools reach capacity.

The growth in charter school enrollment means that enrollment in non-charter schools is shrinking even faster than the statewide figures suggest - by 3.5 percent or approximately 33,000 students in the past five years. The growth in charter school enrollment at the same time that non-charter enrollment is

shrinking raises a question – Has the growth in charter schools contributed to declines in non-charter enrollment, and if so, by how much?⁶ This question may be particularly relevant in urban districts, where many of the charter schools are located and where enrollment fell faster than the state average.

Unfortunately, this is not an easy question to answer accurately. The difficulty arises because not all of the students who attend charters would attend non-charter public schools had the charter schools not been available. At the state level some charter students may have chosen private schools. At the local level the potential discrepancy is larger, because charter students may come not only from private schools but also from other districts. In other words, if a charter school had never opened in a city, there is no way to know how many of the students would have attended schools in the local district and how many would have gone to a private school or to a school outside the city.

Table 2: Change in Enrollment and Change in Students sent to Charter Schools

Urban Area	Change in Local Enrollment	% Change	Change in Students Sent to Charters	% of Overall Decline
Boston	-6,711	-11.1%	1,398	-21%
Brockton	-1,320	-8.1%	138	-10%
Cambridge	-1,106	-16.5%	118	-11%
Fall River	-1,951	-16.4%	79	-4%
Lawrence	-294	-2.4%	120	-41%
Lowell	-2,010	-13.3%	388	-19%
Lynn	-1,244	-8.6%	395	-32%
New Bedford	-1,639	-11.6%	377	-23%
Quincy	32	0.4%	13	NA
Somerville	-889	-16.0%	-28	NA
Springfield	-1,516	-5.9%	535	-35%
Worcester	-2,636	-10.6%	653	-25%
TOTAL	-21,284	-9.8%	4,187	-20%

(Source: MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education)

The net result of this uncertainty is that the growth in charter school enrollment probably overstates the impact on local non-charter schools, although it is impossible to know to what extent. Recognizing the ambiguity, we can still explore charter school enrollment in the urban areas that are experiencing large declines in enrollment.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides information on the number of full-time-equivalent (FTE) students each municipality sends to each charter school. Table 2 compares changes in the number of students sent to charters from the large urban areas with the overall change in enrollment in these cities’ non-charter schools from 2003 to 2008.⁷

Every city in the group except Somerville sent more students to charter schools during this time, and the total number sent increased by almost 4,200. This happened while enrollment in the local districts fell by 21,000 students. Thus, in total, charter school enrollment could account for at most 1/5th of the decline in overall enrollment (keeping in mind the cautions discussed above), although in Lawrence, Lynn, and Springfield the figure is much higher. It is likely that many of the districts would have lost almost as many students even if charter schools had not expanded.

Enrollment and School Finance

Changes in enrollment have implications for K-12 school finance. During the 1970s and to some extent in the 1990s, enrollment was rising and many local districts faced crowded facilities and the need for new schools. At the same time, many districts found it difficult to keep pace with rising costs caused by enrollment growth. Now, as enrollment declines, districts will have to deal with underused facilities and rising per-pupil costs.

Lower student populations also affect the state aid formula (“Chapter 70”), which was designed primarily to ensure that districts had adequate

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resources per student. When enrollment is rising, the formula automatically increases required spending and, if necessary, state aid.

However, enrollment declines may exacerbate the annual tension surrounding Chapter 70. In some cases the formula will require cities and towns that contribute less than the “fair” share defined in the law to continue to increase local spending despite having fewer students. In addition, the formula will not reduce state aid to districts that are losing enrollment, leaving them with more aid per pupil. This year relatively high inflation will offset the decline in enrollment so that total state aid will increase, but the uneven pattern of enrollment declines and the resulting distribution of changes in state aid and local contribution will be politically contentious.

Falling enrollment may complicate the distribution of state aid and increase the per-student costs of education, but it may also present an opportunity to increase efficiency. Districts with declining enrollment should investigate options for sharing functions. This does not necessarily mean merging districts into a regional district, although in some cases that might be the best alternative. More often, districts could explore opportunities for greater use of an educational collaborative to provide support services.

A 2005 Pioneer Institute report⁸ found that districts could save millions of dollars by making greater use of educational collaboratives to provide support services. Collaboratives can improve quality, avoid duplication of services, reduce administrative costs, save on material costs, and improve opportunity for smaller and poorer districts.

Massachusetts lags well behind other states in the use of collaboratives. The Commonwealth currently has 32 collaboratives, yet they serve only 246 (75 percent) of its 330 operating school districts. The Pioneer report proposes consolidation and expansion of the current informal system to form an inclusive network of 12 to 20 collaboratives serving all school districts including charter schools. If all Massachusetts

school districts were served by a collaborative, the Commonwealth could use collaboratives to a far greater extent in the following areas, where cost savings of 15 to 50 percent are well documented.

- Special education programs and services for students with low incidence disabilities
- Professional development
- Cooperative purchasing of large volume goods and services
- Student transportation
- Energy management
- Educational technology
- Data collection and processing, as well as technical assistance (both currently state functions).

Governor Patrick’s fiscal 2010 budget may include a focus on regional consolidation of districts (*State House News Service*, Wednesday, September 10, 2008). While regionalization may be appropriate in some instances, it is unlikely to help larger urban districts that already realize economies of scale. State lawmakers and local leaders should also consider using the potential of educational collaboratives to achieve efficiencies across a wide range of services. In some cases these actions may reduce the districts’ independence, but the potential savings are substantial.

Conclusion

If Department of Elementary and Secondary Education projections are accurate, the decline in public school enrollment is likely to accelerate. The projected drop in enrollment over the next decade is more than two and a half times as large as the drop over the past five years.

Some western Massachusetts towns, the Cape, and lower-income urban areas will likely see extremely rapid declines in enrollment. There is no simple policy prescription or solution to the problems that will result from the decline in enrollment, but better data

about enrollment trends may facilitate adjustment.

The ongoing decline in public school enrollment is likely to increase political pressure to limit charter schools and perhaps interdistrict choice as well. However, the decline is driven by demographics; it is not caused by movement to private schools nor can it be blamed on charter schools. The growth at charter schools suggests that some cities could stem the outflow of students by increasing the number of charter schools or instituting charter-like reforms in local schools. In other cases, urban districts may be able to retain students by implementing or expanding school choice.

Endnotes

¹All enrollment data for Massachusetts is from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website (www.doe.mass.edu), while data for the U.S. was taken from the National Center for Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov). There are several different measures of enrollment in Massachusetts which differ slightly – every effort has been taken to use consistent measures.

²The larger urban areas are defined as the largest 15 cities in the state, excluding Newton, Framingham, and Waltham. This leaves 12 cities: Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Quincy, Somerville, Springfield, and Worcester.

³Enrollment refers to enrollment in the local municipal school district (i.e. charter or vocational schools within the city are not included).

⁴Income is measured using the 1999 income per capita from the U.S. Census, available through the Division of Local Services of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

⁵The correlation between a community's income per capita and the percentage change in foundation enrollment from 2003 to 2008 is 0.30. The correlation is stronger if we exclude smaller cities and towns – among the 100 largest communities in the state the correlation rises to 0.55.

⁶Enrollment in vocational schools also rose by 1,500 students during these years, an increase of 6.1%.

⁷FTE measures are not directly comparable to enrollment measures, but they provide an approximation of the impact of charter schools.

⁸Massachusetts Collaboratives: Making the Most of Education Dollars, Pioneer Institute White Paper No. 23, June 2005

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Appendix A: Enrollment Change by City (Data in Report is by District)
(Source: MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education)

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
1	ABINGTON	2,376	2,406	1.3
2	ACTON	4,441	4,771	7.4
3	ACUSHNET	1,627	1,600	-1.7
4	ADAMS	1,366	1,288	-5.7
5	AGAWAM	4,258	4,358	2.3
6	ALFORD	47	37	-21.3
7	AMESBURY	2,910	2,535	-12.9
8	AMHERST	3,118	2,805	-10.0
9	ANDOVER	5,794	5,974	3.1
10	ARLINGTON	4,604	4,620	0.3
11	ASHBURNHAM	1,189	1,114	-6.3
12	ASHBY	615	589	-4.2
13	ASHFIELD	263	230	-12.5
14	ASHLAND	2,426	2,593	6.9
15	ATHOL	2,137	2,015	-5.7
16	ATTLEBORO	6,637	6,137	-7.5
17	AUBURN	2,471	2,440	-1.3
18	AVON	603	593	-1.7
19	AYER	1,063	1,054	-0.8
20	BARNSTABLE	6,897	5,927	-14.1
21	BARRE	1,096	1,038	-5.3
22	BECKET	262	264	0.8
23	BEDFORD	2,316	2,465	6.4
24	BELCHERTOWN	2,493	2,790	11.9
25	BELLINGHAM	2,776	2,646	-4.7
26	BELMONT	3,513	3,709	5.6
27	BERKLEY	1,191	1,211	1.7
28	BERLIN	379	365	-3.7
29	BERNARDSTON	360	319	-11.4
30	BEVERLY	4,694	4,489	-4.4
31	BILLERICA	6,721	6,707	-0.2
32	BLACKSTONE	1,673	1,549	-7.4
33	BLANDFORD	191	187	-2.1
34	BOLTON	889	1,031	16.0
35	BOSTON	65,469	60,951	-6.9
36	BOURNE	2,635	2,555	-3.0

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
37	BOXBOROUGH	1,140	1,121	-1.7
38	BOXFORD	1,763	1,715	-2.7
39	BOYLSTON	607	641	5.6
40	BRAINTREE	4,949	5,257	6.2
41	BREWSTER	1,575	1,305	-17.1
42	BRIDGEWATER	3,959	3,715	-6.2
43	BRIMFIELD	642	607	-5.5
44	BROCKTON	17,371	16,560	-4.7
45	BROOKFIELD	548	535	-2.4
46	BROOKLINE	5,929	6,016	1.5
47	BUCKLAND	305	238	-22.0
48	BURLINGTON	3,679	3,801	3.3
49	CAMBRIDGE	7,268	6,115	-15.9
50	CANTON	2,933	3,046	3.9
51	CARLISLE	1,159	1,099	-5.2
52	CARVER	2,179	2,033	-6.7
53	CHARLEMONT	233	204	-12.4
54	CHARLTON	2,513	2,569	2.2
55	CHATHAM	630	598	-5.1
56	CHELMSFORD	5,757	5,660	-1.7
57	CHELSEA	5,878	5,716	-2.8
58	CHESHIRE	566	483	-14.7
59	CHESTER	259	227	-12.4
60	CHESTERFIELD	197	179	-9.1
61	CHICOPEE	7,747	7,528	-2.8
62	CHILMARK	118	103	-12.7
63	CLARKSBURG	315	308	-2.2
64	CLINTON	1,985	2,051	3.3
65	COHASSET	1,359	1,392	2.4
66	COLRAIN	333	247	-25.8
67	CONCORD	2,822	2,745	-2.7
68	CONWAY	263	265	0.8
69	CUMMINGTON	121	108	-10.7
70	DALTON	1,159	1,195	3.1
71	DANVERS	3,798	3,714	-2.2
72	DARTMOUTH	4,322	4,314	-0.2

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		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
73	DEDHAM	2,880	2,797	-2.9
74	DEERFIELD	718	719	0.1
75	DENNIS	1,717	1,496	-12.9
76	DIGHTON	1,283	1,358	5.8
77	DOUGLAS	1,496	1,654	10.6
78	DOVER	1,099	1,189	8.2
79	DRACUT	4,491	4,501	0.2
80	DUDLEY	1,935	2,000	3.4
81	DUNSTABLE	637	643	0.9
82	DUXBURY	3,114	3,288	5.6
83	E. BRIDGEWATER	2,472	2,472	0.0
84	E. BROOKFIELD	378	377	-0.3
85	EASTHAM	699	560	-19.9
86	EASTHAMPTON	1,910	1,891	-1.0
87	E. LONGMEADOW	2,661	2,829	6.3
88	EASTON	3,793	3,880	2.3
89	EDGARTOWN	616	565	-8.3
90	EGREMONT	125	99	-20.8
91	ERVING	232	276	19.0
92	ESSEX	515	524	1.7
93	EVERETT	5,161	5,776	11.9
94	FAIRHAVEN	2,419	2,232	-7.7
95	FALL RIVER	13,800	12,026	-12.9
96	FALMOUTH	4,626	4,042	-12.6
97	FITCHBURG	6,410	6,037	-5.8
98	FLORIDA	131	129	-1.5
99	FOXBOROUGH	2,935	3,019	2.9
100	FRAMINGHAM	8,927	8,413	-5.8
101	FRANKLIN	6,204	6,664	7.4
102	FREETOWN	1,386	1,416	2.2
103	GARDNER	3,244	2,849	-12.2
104	AQUINNAH	56	49	-12.5
105	GEORGETOWN	1,420	1,529	7.7
106	GILL	240	198	-17.5
107	GLOUCESTER	4,220	3,766	-10.8
108	GOSHEN	137	141	2.9

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
109	GOSNOLD	6	7	16.7
110	GRAFTON	2,383	2,802	17.6
111	GRANBY	1,048	1,089	3.9
112	GRANVILLE	328	273	-16.8
113	GREAT BARRINGTON	894	749	-16.2
114	GREENFIELD	2,414	2,091	-13.4
115	GROTON	2,170	2,255	3.9
116	GROVELAND	1,223	1,199	-2.0
117	HADLEY	636	607	-4.6
118	HALIFAX	1,250	1,295	3.6
119	HAMILTON	1,461	1,342	-8.1
120	HAMPDEN	1,013	949	-6.3
121	HANCOCK	110	102	-7.3
122	HANOVER	2,637	2,699	2.4
123	HANSON	1,979	1,985	0.3
124	HARDWICK	493	470	-4.7
125	HARVARD	1,218	1,254	3.0
126	HARWICH	1,684	1,525	-9.4
127	HATFIELD	469	424	-9.6
128	HAVERHILL	8,888	8,113	-8.7
129	HAWLEY	52	36	-30.8
130	HEATH	158	98	-38.0
131	HINGHAM	3,487	3,719	6.7
132	HINSDALE	366	301	-17.8
133	HOLBROOK	1,533	1,425	-7.0
134	HOLDEN	2,859	3,033	6.1
135	HOLLAND	466	428	-8.2
136	HOLLISTON	2,886	2,780	-3.7
137	HOLYOKE	7,356	6,975	-5.2
138	HOPEDALE	1,093	1,121	2.6
139	HOPKINTON	3,097	3,357	8.4
140	HUBBARDSTON	912	908	-0.4
141	HUDSON	2,729	2,844	4.2
142	HULL	1,485	1,321	-11.0
143	HUNTINGTON	422	356	-15.6
144	IPSWICH	2,001	1,962	-1.9

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LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
145	KINGSTON	2,007	2,149	7.1
146	LAKEVILLE	1,775	1,899	7.0
147	LANCASTER	1,055	1,038	-1.6
148	LANESBOROUGH	522	485	-7.1
149	LAWRENCE	14,989	14,532	-3.0
150	LEE	791	779	-1.5
151	LEICESTER	1,980	1,863	-5.9
152	LENOX	754	682	-9.5
153	LEOMINSTER	6,174	6,384	3.4
154	LEVERETT	272	261	-4.0
155	LEXINGTON	5,996	6,185	3.2
156	LEYDEN	140	96	-31.4
157	LINCOLN	959	934	-2.6
158	LITTLETON	1,617	1,642	1.5
159	LONGMEADOW	3,116	3,026	-2.9
160	LOWELL	17,597	15,994	-9.1
161	LUDLOW	2,977	3,025	1.6
162	LUNENBURG	1,779	1,696	-4.7
163	LYNN	14,732	14,037	-4.7
164	LYNNFIELD	1,974	2,243	13.6
165	MALDEN	6,501	7,026	8.1
166	MANCHESTER	766	724	-5.5
167	MANSFIELD	4,544	4,884	7.5
168	MARBLEHEAD	2,985	3,179	6.5
169	MARION	840	768	-8.6
170	MARLBOROUGH	5,137	4,992	-2.8
171	MARSHFIELD	4,501	4,564	1.4
172	MASHPEE	2,139	2,101	-1.8
173	MATTAPOISETT	1,010	942	-6.7
174	MAYNARD	1,497	1,411	-5.7
175	MEDFIELD	2,894	2,956	2.1
176	MEDFORD	5,010	5,164	3.1
177	MEDWAY	2,824	2,768	-2.0
178	MELROSE	3,637	3,623	-0.4
179	MENDON	1,120	1,241	10.8
180	MERRIMAC	1,301	1,258	-3.3

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
181	METHUEN	7,382	7,716	4.5
182	MIDDLEBOROUGH	3,790	3,699	-2.4
183	MIDDLEFIELD	80	67	-16.3
184	MIDDLETON	1,242	1,488	19.8
185	MILFORD	4,122	4,246	3.0
186	MILLBURY	2,023	2,008	-0.7
187	MILLIS	1,287	1,366	6.1
188	MILLVILLE	685	642	-6.3
189	MILTON	3,565	3,712	4.1
190	MONROE	19	16	-15.8
191	MONSON	1,552	1,597	2.9
192	MONTAGUE	1,230	1,038	-15.6
193	MONTEREY	82	88	7.3
194	MONTGOMERY	112	101	-9.8
195	MT. WASHINGTON	12	16	33.3
196	NAHANT	423	389	-8.0
197	NANTUCKET	1,137	1,294	13.8
198	NATICK	4,645	4,822	3.8
199	NEEDHAM	4,469	4,891	9.4
200	NEW ASHFORD	34	42	23.5
201	NEW BEDFORD	15,954	14,622	-8.3
202	NEW BRAINTREE	180	181	0.6
203	NEWBURY	1,148	1,036	-9.8
204	NEWBURYPORT	2,232	2,284	2.3
205	NEW MARLBOROUGH	184	178	-3.3
206	NEW SALEM	170	154	-9.4
207	NEWTON	11,396	11,762	3.2
208	NORFOLK	1,888	1,828	-3.2
209	NORTH ADAMS	2,322	1,906	-17.9
210	NORTHAMPTON	3,079	2,962	-3.8
211	NORTH ANDOVER	4,198	4,541	8.2
212	N. ATTLEBOROUGH	4,802	4,967	3.4
213	NORTHBOROUGH	2,721	2,734	0.5
214	NORTHBRIDGE	2,546	2,621	2.9
215	N. BROOKFIELD	908	816	-10.1
216	NORTHFIELD	486	478	-1.6

Enrollment Trends in Massachusetts

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
217	NORTH READING	2,524	2,753	9.1
218	NORTON	3,220	3,222	0.1
219	NORWELL	1,967	2,235	13.6
220	NORWOOD	3,713	3,584	-3.5
221	OAK BLUFFS	669	655	-2.1
222	OAKHAM	396	386	-2.5
223	ORANGE	1,487	1,432	-3.7
224	ORLEANS	614	498	-18.9
225	OTIS	198	158	-20.2
226	OXFORD	2,284	2,178	-4.6
227	PALMER	2,217	2,112	-4.7
228	PAXTON	692	712	2.9
229	PEABODY	6,694	6,340	-5.3
230	PELHAM	221	207	-6.3
231	PEMBROKE	3,064	3,352	9.4
232	PEPPERELL	2,314	2,214	-4.3
233	PERU	177	147	-16.9
234	PETERSHAM	192	214	11.5
235	PHILLIPSTON	335	315	-6.0
236	PITTSFIELD	6,641	6,372	-4.1
237	PLAINFIELD	84	93	10.7
238	PLAINVILLE	1,402	1,429	1.9
239	PLYMOUTH	8,789	8,334	-5.2
240	PLYMPTON	499	474	-5.0
241	PRINCETON	656	591	-9.9
242	PROVINCETOWN	202	148	-26.7
243	QUINCY	8,625	8,914	3.4
244	RANDOLPH	4,213	3,625	-14.0
245	RAYNHAM	2,129	2,220	4.3
246	READING	4,190	4,306	2.8
247	REHOBOTH	1,952	1,966	0.7
248	REVERE	6,018	6,203	3.1
249	RICHMOND	262	212	-19.1
250	ROCHESTER	896	1,011	12.8
251	ROCKLAND	2,793	2,600	-6.9
252	ROCKPORT	1,095	976	-10.9

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
253	ROWE	50	49	-2.0
254	ROWLEY	1,102	998	-9.4
255	ROYALSTON	251	215	-14.3
256	RUSSELL	265	272	2.6
257	RUTLAND	1,402	1,613	15.0
258	SALEM	5,221	4,868	-6.8
259	SALISBURY	1,287	1,234	-4.1
260	SANDISFIELD	92	88	-4.3
261	SANDWICH	4,133	3,725	-9.9
262	SAUGUS	3,431	3,172	-7.5
263	SAVOY	117	114	-2.6
264	SCITUATE	3,078	3,181	3.3
265	SEEKONK	2,342	2,191	-6.4
266	SHARON	3,489	3,365	-3.6
267	SHEFFIELD	554	514	-7.2
268	SHELBURNE	303	214	-29.4
269	SHERBORN	947	1,004	6.0
270	SHIRLEY	966	928	-3.9
271	SHREWSBURY	5,128	5,852	14.1
272	SHUTESBURY	350	292	-16.6
273	SOMERSET	2,777	2,679	-3.5
274	SOMERVILLE	6,066	5,138	-15.3
275	SOUTHAMPTON	978	983	0.5
276	SOUTHBOROUGH	1,940	2,086	7.5
277	SOUTHBRIDGE	2,813	2,563	-8.9
278	SOUTH HADLEY	2,246	2,252	0.3
279	SOUTHWICK	1,637	1,673	2.2
280	SPENCER	1,943	1,874	-3.6
281	SPRINGFIELD	28,669	28,235	-1.5
282	STERLING	1,320	1,366	3.5
283	STOCKBRIDGE	180	183	1.7
284	STONEHAM	2,844	2,685	-5.6
285	STOUGHTON	4,291	4,051	-5.6
286	STOW	1,110	1,187	6.9
287	STURBRIDGE	1,488	1,586	6.6
288	SUDBURY	4,099	4,473	9.1

Enrollment Trends in Massachusetts

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
289	SUNDERLAND	406	397	-2.2
290	SUTTON	1,658	1,709	3.1
291	SWAMPSCOTT	2,152	2,178	1.2
292	SWANSEA	2,290	2,144	-6.4
293	TAUNTON	8,738	8,741	0.0
294	TEMPLETON	1,301	1,385	6.5
295	TEWKSBURY	4,870	4,795	-1.5
296	TISBURY	549	534	-2.7
297	TOLLAND	61	73	19.7
298	TOPSFIELD	1,237	1,252	1.2
299	TOWNSEND	1,931	1,788	-7.4
300	TRURO	275	201	-26.9
301	TYNGSBOROUGH	2,169	2,166	-0.1
302	TYRINGHAM	38	27	-28.9
303	UPTON	1,181	1,489	26.1
304	UXBRIDGE	2,391	2,222	-7.1
305	WAKEFIELD	3,421	3,513	2.7
306	WALES	304	272	-10.5
307	WALPOLE	3,658	3,966	8.4
308	WALTHAM	4,870	4,804	-1.4
309	WARE	1,519	1,451	-4.5
310	WAREHAM	3,681	3,385	-8.0
311	WARREN	959	933	-2.7
312	WARWICK	123	112	-8.9
313	WASHINGTON	95	73	-23.2
314	WATERTOWN	2,527	2,534	0.3
315	WAYLAND	2,857	2,762	-3.3
316	WEBSTER	1,968	2,060	4.7
317	WELLESLEY	4,095	4,796	17.1
318	WELLFLEET	334	303	-9.3
319	WENDELL	126	100	-20.6
320	WENHAM	630	626	-0.6
321	WESTBOROUGH	3,567	3,538	-0.8
322	WEST BOYLSTON	1,089	1,025	-5.9
323	W. BRIDGEWATER	1,035	1,091	5.4
324	WEST BROOKFIELD	577	568	-1.6

		Foundation Enrollment		
LEA	CITY / TOWN	Oct 02	Oct 07	% change
325	WESTFIELD	6,510	6,202	-4.7
326	WESTFORD	4,756	5,149	8.3
327	WESTHAMPTON	268	263	-1.9
328	WESTMINSTER	1,303	1,353	3.8
329	WEST NEWBURY	877	748	-14.7
330	WESTON	2,250	2,323	3.2
331	WESTPORT	2,019	1,964	-2.7
332	WEST SPRINGFIELD	4,016	3,910	-2.6
333	W. STOCKBRIDGE	193	174	-9.8
334	WEST TISBURY	507	400	-21.1
335	WESTWOOD	2,694	3,033	12.6
336	WEYMOUTH	6,845	6,668	-2.6
337	WHATELY	255	213	-16.5
338	WHITMAN	2,508	2,440	-2.7
339	WILBRAHAM	2,851	2,703	-5.2
340	WILLIAMSBURG	370	303	-18.1
341	WILLIAMSTOWN	938	723	-22.9
342	WILMINGTON	3,906	4,097	4.9
343	WINCHENDON	1,968	1,852	-5.9
344	WINCHESTER	3,390	3,844	13.4
345	WINDSOR	131	134	2.3
346	WINTHROP	2,161	1,932	-10.6
347	WOBURN	4,696	4,785	1.9
348	WORCESTER	27,087	25,158	-7.1
349	WORTHINGTON	206	160	-22.3
350	WRENTHAM	2,041	2,085	2.2
351	YARMOUTH	2,814	2,575	-8.5
	STATE TOTAL	963,766	944,224	-2.0