Certified Enrollment Overview

Certified Enrollment is an annual report of enrolled resident students used for the Iowa School Finance Formula calculation. The certified enrollment count is taken on the first day of October every year, or the following Monday if the first falls on a weekend. The data collection is due no later than October 15.

Based on the Certified Enrollment report, financial support is generated for districts from different funding types. The funding type is based on how the student is enrolled in a district. Each different revenue stream is considered a line or row for funding. Certified Enrollment consists of 16 different lines. The lines included are:

1. resident students
2. open enrolled out resident students
3. tuitioned out resident students
4. shared time student from non-public schools
5. competent private instruction dual enrollment students
6. *
7. total of lines 1 to 5
8. open enrolled nonresident public students
9. tuitioned out nonresident public students
10. four year old state funded preschool
11. total school age student provided instructional by district (lines 1 + 4 + 5+ 8 +9 + 10)
12. supplemental weighting and sharing
13. limited English proficiency weighting
14. resident students in accredited nonpublic schools
15. nonpublic text book funding
16. teacher fte
(* Line 6 is intentionally blank)

Line 7 of Certified Enrollment is used as the primary measure of the number of students in the state served by the public school system. Line 7 on Certified Enrollment is the addition of lines 1, 2, 3 4 and 5.

Recent Changes to the Certified Enrollment Data Collection

In the 2004-2005 school year, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) launched the Project Easier data collection system statewide. The Easier system was implemented as the primary means for collecting information on students required for federal and state reporting requirements. The Easier data set consists of an extract of information in student information systems used throughout the state to manage the day-to-day activities of a district. Districts export these student data and upload the information to the DE's secured portal. The Easier application runs a number of sophisticated validation routines, provides flags for outliers, and has a number of reports which are used to ensure data accuracy. The DE employs a team of education program consultants who work with districts on transmission of information. This team works diligently to ensure the information is valid and reliable.

In 2005, the DE implemented a multi-year transition plan to merge the Easier and Certified Enrollment data collection together. One major hurdle in combining the collection is that the Easier data collection is reported from the *attending* district, unlike Certified Enrollment which reports from the *resident* district counts. Further, Certified Enrollment counts have historically

been reported at the district-level while Easier counts have been reported at the individual student records level. Therefore, all of the different types of funding and coding of students needed to be considered to ensure districts receive correct funding counts.
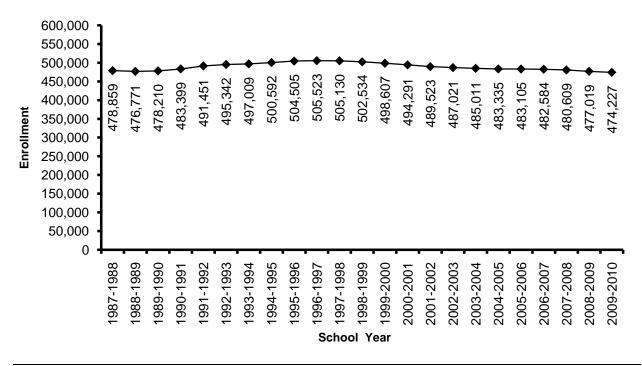
One important enhancement in using the Easier system is that each enrollment is tied to an individual student record. These records are submitted by the district on the front end of the counts and aggregated up to generate certified student totals. Further, accidental duplicate student records are caught immediately. Lastly, an important benefit of linking the Easier and Certified Enrollment collections together is to decrease the overall burden of reporting on districts.

In 2009-2010, the DE built a new application and process which tied the Easier collection into Certified Enrollment. It is now one unified process and data collection. The only way to add or adjust student counts is by cleaning up data in a district and re-submitting via the Easier system. This creates an accountability and audit process on the front end of the data collection further ensuring quality information and correct enrollment counts for funding.

Certified Enrollment Trends

Over the past 13 consecutive years, Iowa has seen declining enrollment in student populations. Figure 1 provides a trend line for enrollments counts from 1987 to 2009.

IOWA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL K-12 ENROLLMENTS 1987-1988 TO 2009-2010

The most recent enrollment projections available show growth in student enrollments in the coming years. The growth in enrollment is due to the large increase in birth rates across the State. For more information about enrollment projections go to (http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=561&Itemid=1563). Updated projection numbers will be available in the coming weeks.

District enrollment size category provides an interesting view for looking at trends in student counts over time. Table 1 shows the change in Certified Enrollment from 2005-2006 by district enrollment category.

In 2009-2010, forty six percent (46%) of districts had less than 600 students (167/361). These districts serve only 13% of the statewide student population. Only nine percent (9%) of districts have certified enrollment counts greater than 2,499 but serve almost half (49%) of students in Iowa. A similar pattern can be seen in 2005-2006.

The number of districts with fewer than 300 students has increased in the last five years. This resulted in a 13.8% increase in the number of students in districts with fewer than 300 students. There has also been an increase in the number of districts in the largest enrollment category (7,500+) which shows a 5% increase in student enrollment during the same time period.

Table 1 – Certified Enrollment Trends by Enrollment Category October 2005 to October 2009						
Enrollment Category	Number of Districts 2005-2006	Certified Enrollment 2005-2006	Number of Districts 2009-2010	Certified Enrollment 2009-2010	Change in Certified Enrollment	Percent Change in Certified Enrollment
<300	47	10,269.2	55	11,687	1,417.8	13.8
300-599	111	50,203.2	111	50,203.2	129.3	0.3
600-999	93	64,474.6	87	64,4474	-5,011.7	-7.2
1,000-2,499	82	123,737.9	76	114,864.1	-8,873.8	-7.2
2,500-7,499	23	98,548.8	22	95,373.5	-3,175.3	-3.2
7,500+	9	130,988.7	10	137,624.9	6,636.2	5.1
State	365	483,104.8	361	474,277.3	-8,877.5	-1.8

Table 2 shows the number of districts in each category and the percentage that have increasing or decreasing enrollment between 2005-2006 and 2009-2010. During this timeframe, 77% of districts in Iowa had declining enrollment. Districts in the smallest enrollment category saw greater than an 80% loss of students between October 2005 and 2009 Certified Enrollment counts. Districts between 2,500 to 7,499 students were the only enrollment category in which the majority of districts (60.9) had an increase in enrollment counts. One district in the state had the same enrollment in the 5 year timeframe.

Table 2 Certified Enrollment Trends by Enrollment Category October 2005 to October 2009							
Enrollment Category	Number of Districts with Increasing Enrollment	Percent Increasing	Number of Districts with Decreasing Enrollment	Percent Decrease	Number with Same Enrollment	Percent Same	Total Number of Districts
<300	3	6.4	40	85.1	0	0	43
300-599	18	16.2	92	82.9	1	0.9	111
600-999	18	19.4	75	80.6	0	0	93
1,000-2,499	23	28.0	59	72.0	0	0	82
2,500-7,499	14	60.9	9	39.1	0	0	23
7,500+	3	33.3	6	66.7	0	0	9
State	79	21.6	281	77.0	1	0.3	361

For more information on the specifics of Certified Enrollment you can visit the Iowa Department of Education website.
http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1348&Itemid=2410
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