

K-12 US Education System

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Agenda

- ❑ Who are the students in U.S. schools?
- ❑ How are U.S. schools structured?
- ❑ What salient policies affect U.S. schools?

Who are the Students in U.S. Schools?

❑ K-12 students: 49.8 million

❑ pre-k-8th: 35.1 million

❑ 9th - 12th: 14.7 million

❑ Private school: 5 million

❑ K-12 Teachers: 3.7 million

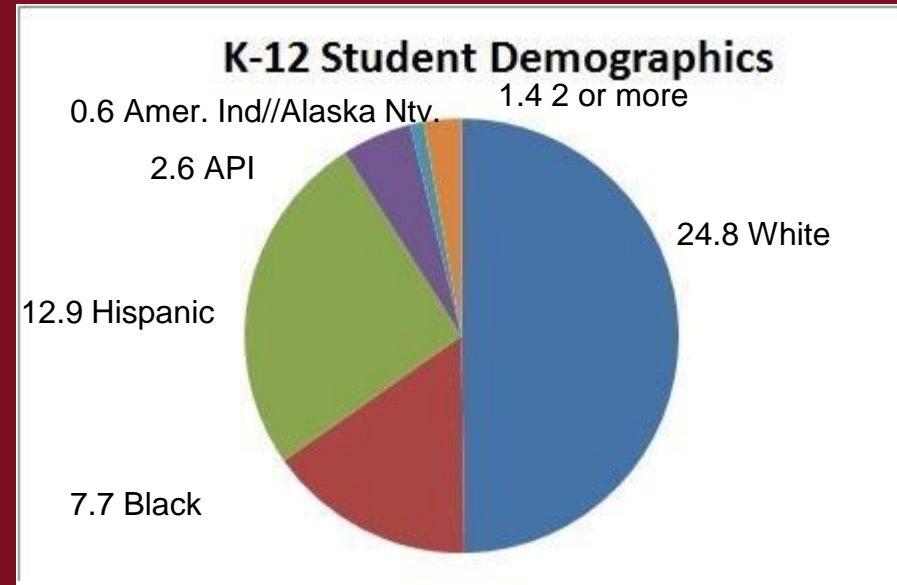
❑ public: 3.3 million

❑ private: 0.4 million

❑ K-12 Average Class Size

❑ public school ratio: 16/1

❑ private school ratio: 12/1



Structure of U.S. Public Schools

- ❑ **States** organized into **districts**
- ❑ **Districts** organized into **schools**:
 - ❑ **Pre-Kindergarten** (Pre-K): Preschool programs not compulsory, but some pre-k programs funded by federal money, such as **Head Start**
 - ❑ **Elementary**: Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd (primary grades), 3rd-5th (intermediate)
 - ❑ **Secondary**: Middle school (grades 6th-8th); high school (grades 9th-12th)

Pause

Federal Policies and Legal Precedence

1879:
Carlisle
Indian
Boarding
School

1954:
*Brown v.
Board of
Education*

1965:
Elementary
and
Secondary
Education
Act

1975:
Education for
All
Handicapped
Children

2004:
Individuals
with
Disabilities
Education
Act

1938:
Fair Labor
Standards
Act

1964: Civil
Rights Act

1968:
Bilingual
Education
Act

2002: No
Child Left
Behind Act

2014:
Common
Core
State
Standards

Local Control

❑ Funding structures

- ❑ Local school districts funded by property taxes, local government, state, and federal funds

❑ State offices [ministries] of education

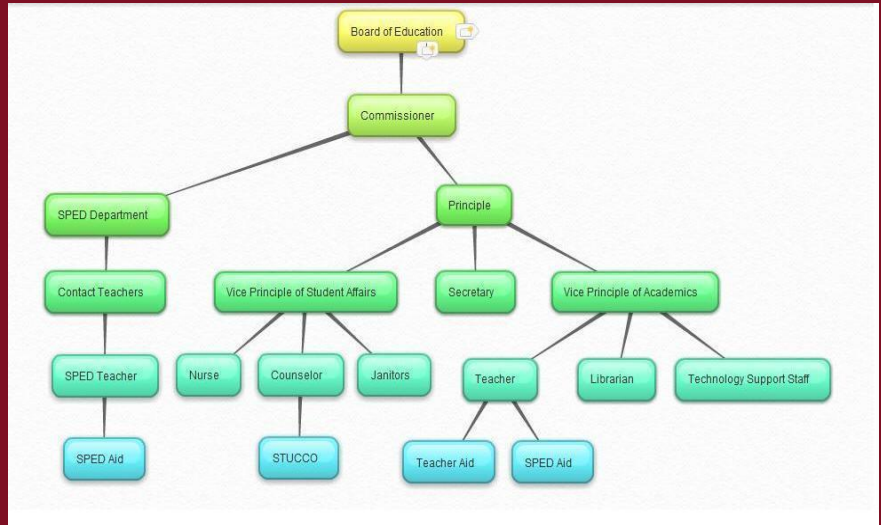
- ❑ OSPI, Superintendent of Public Instruction

❑ Local educational bodies

- ❑ School board, central office, “the District”

School Hierarchies

- ❑ Administrative
- ❑ Classified
- ❑ Certificated
- ❑ Principal
- ❑ Paraprofessional
- ❑ Others: Counselor, school psychologist, speech pathologist, security, nutritional staff, custodial staff



Pause

Socio-economic Status (SES) and U.S. Schooling

- ❑ **SES:** descriptor of income level of a school/district/area (for example: “high SES or low SES)
- ❑ **FRL** (free and reduced lunch): measure/indicator of SES
- ❑ **Title I:** Federal funding given to schools with high percentage of children from low-income families

ELL Students and Language Policy

- ❑ Schools are required by law (**Title III** of NCLB) to provide services for English Language Learners (ELLs)
- ❑ Students are identified and assessed as ELLs to determine services they receive.
- ❑ Schools provide different services:
Push-in/Pull-out (elementary) and **Sheltered** (secondary)

Special Education [SPED] in U.S. schools

- ❑ IDEA - federal legislation
 - ❑ Schools are required to educate students with disabilities
- ❑ Federal funding
- ❑ Mainstreaming and inclusion
 - ❑ IEP, 504
- ❑ Related staff: school psychologist, IA, speech pathologist

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Traditional Teacher Education

Graduate-level study and certification:

- ❑ Minimum of bachelor's degree to teach
- ❑ Qualifying exams - highly qualified
- ❑ Typically includes university coursework and internship/practicum in classroom
- ❑ State certifications or endorsements

Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification

- ❑ Who teaches the teachers?
- ❑ Where are they taught?
- ❑ What are they taught?
- ❑ How much student teaching, or “practice,” first?
- ❑ Who decides qualifications/certifications?

Examples:

- ❑ Seattle Teacher Residency (STR)
- ❑ Teach for America (TFA)
- ❑ Relay Graduate School
- ❑ Western Governors University

Questions...



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