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ENROLLMENT INCREASES IN WYOMING PUSH STATE'S STUDENT COUNT NEAR 93,000

Record-breaking kindergarten class fuels growth

CHEYENNE - Another year, another record-setting kindergarten enrollment in Wyoming.

For the sixth consecutive year, the state of Wyoming is experiencing the largest kindergarten class in its history. This year's kindergarten enrollment of 8,141 is 10 more students than last year's class and has pushed the state to its eighth consecutive year of increased enrollment.

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) reported today that there are 92,218 students in Wyoming public schools as of October 1, 2013, up from 90,993 a year ago. To find complete enrollment statistics, contained in the Wyoming School District Statistical Report Series 2, [click here](#).

The rise in enrollment rates is consistent with an eight-year trend during which the state has seen its total enrollment increase over 7,000 students since the 2005-06 school year. Historically, Wyoming's largest enrollment came in 1993 when the state saw 100,899 students in its schools. The enrollment numbers declined to 83,701, a state low in 2005-06.

“With our birthrates statewide, we knew the incoming kindergarten class would be higher than average,” said WDE Data Governance Coordinator Leslie Zimmerschied. “Our enrollment is up this year, especially in the lower grades. It's been steadily increasing over the last few years. We were prepared for this and its good for Wyoming.”

2013-14 Fall Enrollment Ranked By Districts Total

The kindergarten statistics follow a pattern of increased birthrates from 2006-08, which saw a five-year high of 8,022 live births in the state, according to census numbers. That number fell to 7,874 in 2009 and 7,541 in 2010 and 7,339 in 2011.

The WDE uses enrollment data as part of a formula for school block grant funding and the student-level data also drives statistics such as the state's student-to-teacher ratio requirement, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), The Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) and Proficiency of Wyoming Students (PAWS). Enrollment data are collected through the WDE684 Collection and is made public through the state's online Statistical Report Series #2.

The WDE collects this student-level data from districts through use of a secure portal which uses a high-level encryption algorithm. It is then stored in a secure area where only authorized personnel are allowed. Data are only reported to the public in aggregates to protect confidentiality.

The enrollment numbers are collected by the Wyoming Department of Education's WDE684 information collection, which were reported by districts on Oct. 1, 2013. The enrollment is a student-level collection, which counts each individual student including his/her enrollment and demographic information.

Laramie County School District 1 remains the state's largest district with 13,635 students, with Natrona County District 1 maintaining it's slot as the state's second-largest district with a count of 12,796. Rounding out a list of the state's five largest districts are Campbell County District 1 (8,826), Sweetwater District 1 (5,607), and Albany County District 1 (3,762). The state's smallest district is Washakie County District 2, which has 94 students, including just two first graders. Sheridan County District 3, which has 96 students is the state's second smallest district with Park 16 (112), rounding out the three districts in Wyoming with the smallest enrollments.

Laramie County District 1 also saw the largest increase in students over a year ago with 248 more students coming through the doors of the Cheyenne-based district. Carbon County 1 and Albany County 1 added 121, and 105 students this year, respectively. Hot Springs 1 lost the most students this year dropping from 649 students a year ago to 616 students this year.

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