



RESEARCH BRIEF: PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

This research brief describes the private school enrollment and enrollment changes for the 2019-20 to the 2023-24 school years. **Over the five most recent school years, private school enrollment likely increased approximately 11 percent.**

Private school approval information and enrollment records were merged for five school years to get a better understanding of enrollment changes over time. Merging was based on building code, school name, and school addresses, all of which were subject to change. To ensure the most accurate matching and merging, some records were excluded or deleted from this analysis.

This analysis is complicated by several factors. First, private schools are not required to submit enrollment figures, so the total enrollment shown below represents a subset of all approved and operating private schools. Second, private school enrollment is self-reported and unverified, and for the most part, is not updated or corrected when data entry errors are suspected. Because of these factors, **the total enrollment is an approximation** and the year-to-year enrollment changes are attributed in part to which schools are reporting and which are not, the total number of schools reporting enrollment, and the accuracy of the self-reporting.

Table 1 shows that the number of approved private schools decreased and the number of school reporting enrollment increased from the 2019-20 to the 2023-24 school year.

- The number of approved schools decreased 2.0 percent over the five school years.
- The number of schools reporting enrollment increased 25.1 percent over the five school years.
- The reported enrollment increased 25.8 percent. This increase reflects changes in enrollment and an additional 106 schools reporting.

Table 1: enrollment information for all approved schools by school year.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Approved Schools	558	502	527	562	547
Enrollment Submitted	423	436	413	533	529
K-12 Enrollment	65,099	66,689	73,293	81,950	81,898

Table 2 shows the change in private school enrollment from the 2019-20 to the 2023-24 school year for the 293 schools open and reporting enrollment for all five school years.

- For the 2019-20 to the 2023-24 school years, the enrollment for the 293 schools represents 72 to 84 percent of the total reported enrollment.
- The enrollment increased 11.1 percent over the five school years.

Table 2: enrollment information for the 293 private schools approved and submitting enrollment data for all five school years.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
K-12 Enrollment	53,668	53,516	58,731	58,779	59,622
Percent of Reported Enrollment	82.4	80.2	80.1	71.7	72.8