

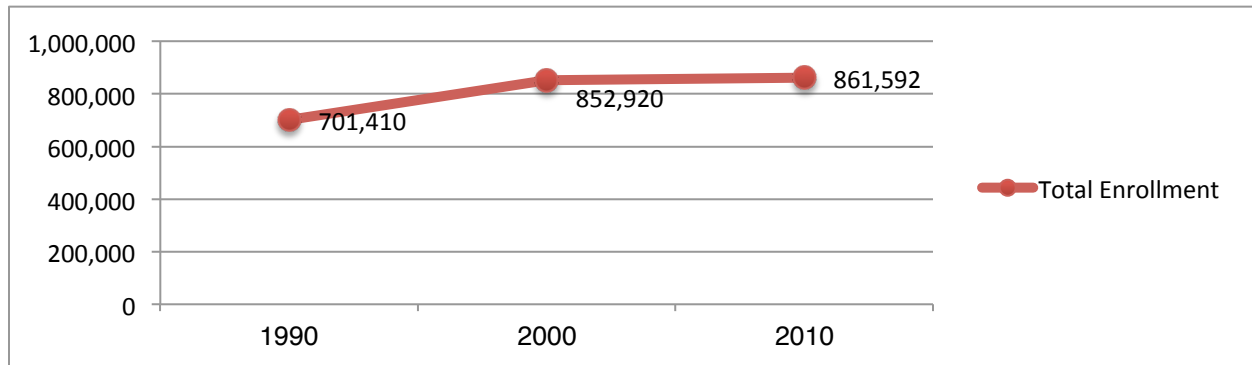
Trends in Maryland Public Schools: Enrollment

February 2015

Enrollment in Maryland's Public Schools is Increasing

Enrollment in Maryland's public schools increased 22.8% between 1990 and 2010 from 701,410 in 1990 to 861,592 in 2010. However, this growth is not distributed evenly across the state.

Figure 1. Total Enrollment in Maryland Public Schools, 1990-2010.

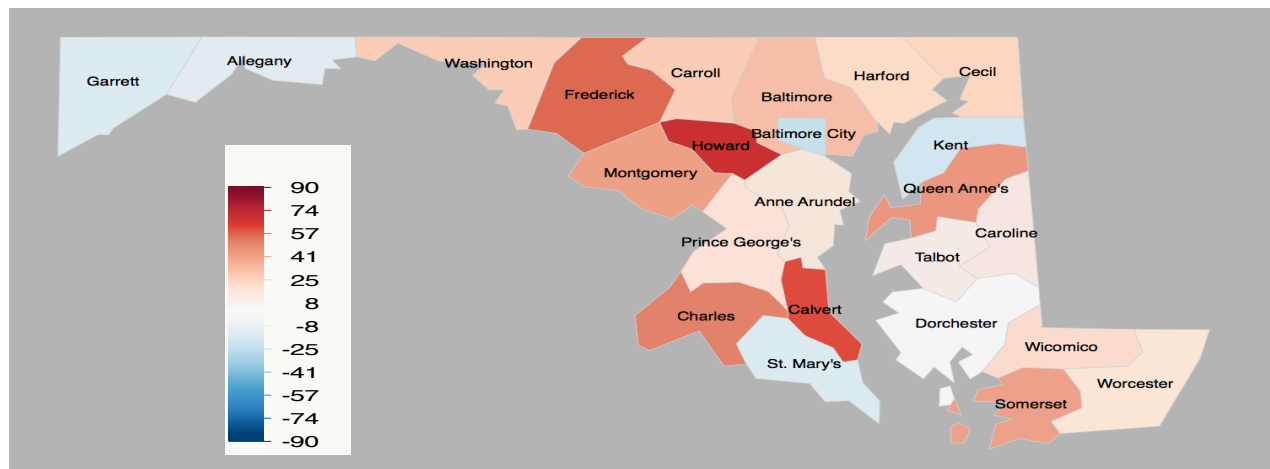


Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*.

Public School Enrollment is Increasing in Different Places in Different Ways

While public school enrollment across the state increased 22.8% over the last twenty years, changes in enrollment at the district level varied by county and region. Growth in enrollment ranged from 2.1% in Dorchester to 70.1% in Howard counties. Enrollment grew the most for school systems in the central portion of the state, with the exception of Baltimore City. School districts with the largest enrollment increase between 1990 and 2010 include Howard (70.1%), Calvert (61.4%), Frederick (57.4%), and Charles (51.1%). In contrast, Baltimore City's enrollment shrank 20.3% from 1990 to 2010. Other districts with declining enrollment are in the eastern and western regions of the state and include Kent (-16.7%), Somerset (-12.7%), Garrett (-12.6%) and Allegany (-9.8%).

Figure 2. Percent change in public school enrollment by district, 1990-2010.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*.

DATA BRIEF

Table 1. Change in Maryland Public School Enrollment by District, 1990-2010

District	1990	2010	Change in Enrollment	Percent (%) Change
			1990-2010	1990-2010
Baltimore City	10,6109	84,594	-21,515	-20.3
Kent	2,591	2,159	-432	-16.7
Somerset	3,330	2,906	-424	-12.7
Garrett	4,808	4,200	-608	-12.6
Allegany	9,916	8,948	-968	-9.8
Dorchester	4,525	4,621	96	2.1
Talbot	4,068	4,504	436	10.7
Caroline	4,790	5,503	713	14.9
Anne Arundel	65,051	75,453	10,402	16.0
Worcester	5,703	6,687	984	17.3
Prince George's	107,179	126,606	19,427	18.1
Wicomico	11,908	14,382	2,474	20.8
Harford	31,468	38,394	6,926	22.0
Cecil	12,868	15,923	3,055	23.7
Washington	17,483	22,206	4,723	27.0
Carroll	21,478	27,292	5,814	27.1
Baltimore	86,102	113,466	27,364	31.8
St. Mary's	12,206	17,243	5,037	41.3
Montgomery	100,836	143,995	43,159	42.8
Queen Anne's	5,368	7,781	2,413	45.0
Charles	17,760	26,836	9,076	51.1
Frederick	25,502	40,132	14,630	57.4
Calvert	10,398	16,781	6,383	61.4
Howard	29,963	50,980	21,017	70.1
State Total	701,410	861,592	160,182	22.8

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*.

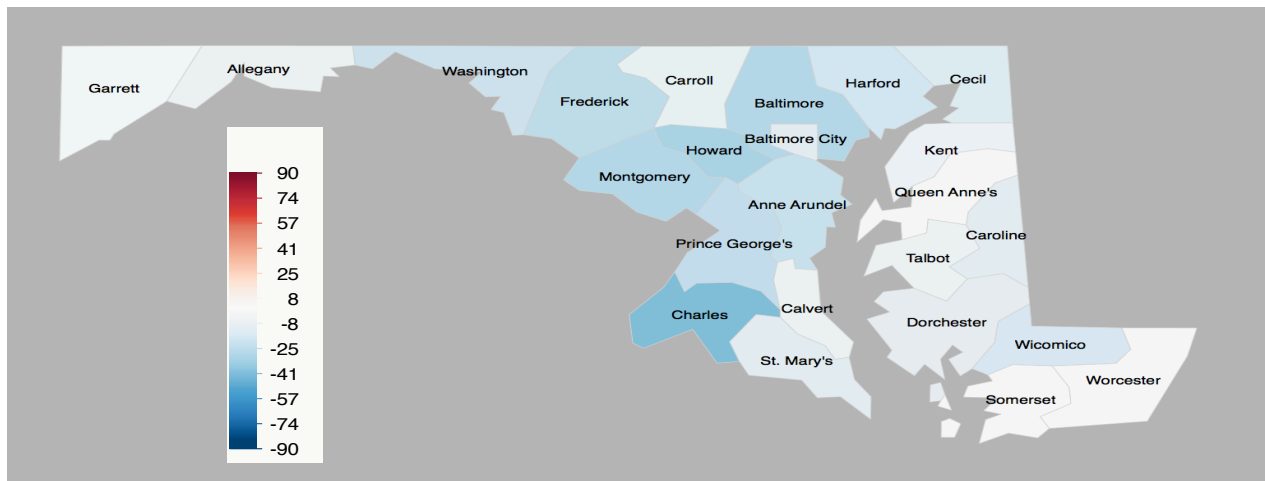
Changes in the Racial Composition of Maryland's Public Schools

For the most part, districts with the largest enrollment growth were those where the White share of the enrollment declined and the minority share of enrollment increased. As with growth in enrollment, the districts in the central portion of the state show the greatest change in the proportion of White students, while the districts in eastern and western Maryland show the least. Thus, growing districts are becoming more diverse while districts with declining enrollments have the least change in racial composition of students.

Latinos represent the fastest growing segment of public school enrollment. Latino student enrollment quintupled between 1990 and 2010, growing from 2.3% of total enrollment in 1990 to 11.4% in 2010. The percentage of Black students enrolled in public schools increased from 32.9% to 35.4% while Asian/Pacific Islander's enrollment increased from 3.5% to 5.6% of total enrollment. Conversely, the percentage of White students in public schools declined over the last twenty years, from 61.1% in 1990 to 43.6% in 2010.

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Figure 3. Average percentage point change in white student enrollment by district, 1990-2010.

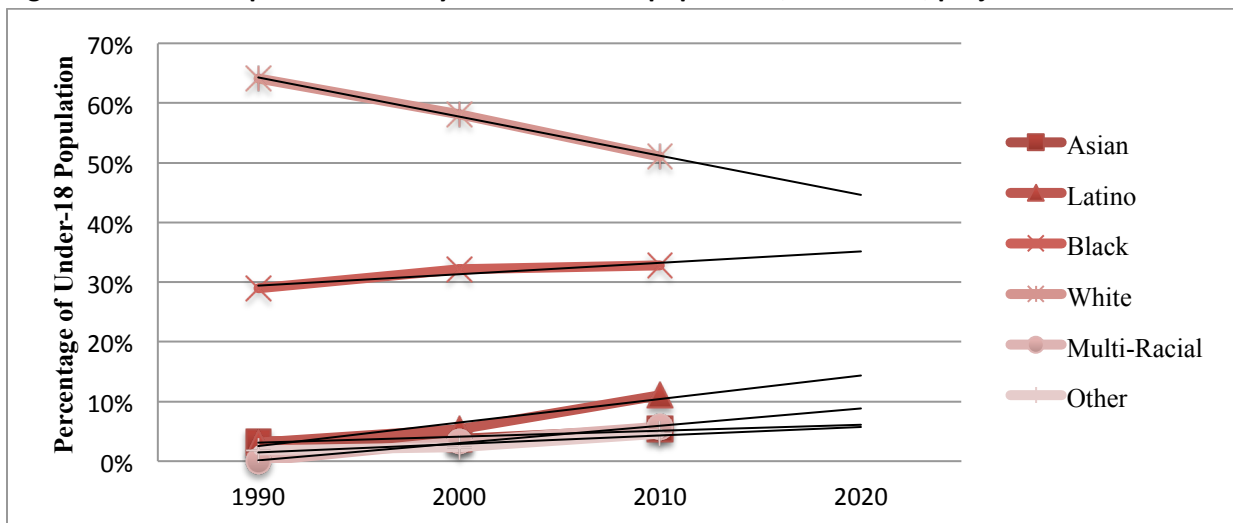


Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*.

Conclusion and Implications

Population data suggest that public schools will continue to become more diverse. Census data show a steady decline in the White share of the under-18 population and continued growth of the minority share. If these population trends continue at their current rate, White youth will comprise less than 45% of youth under the age of 18 in Maryland by 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). Assuming that public school enrollment trends mirror these population trends, White student enrollment will be less than 38% of Maryland public school enrollment in 2020. As enrollment diversifies, school districts will have to pay attention to how students are distributed across schools to avoid racial segregation. Understanding how public school enrollment is changing can also direct educators and policymakers to the kinds of resources needed to educate a diverse student population.

Figure 4. Racial composition of Maryland's under-18 population, 1990-2010, projected to 2020.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*.

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