

STUDENT COUNTS IN CONNECTICUT

In Connecticut, there are several different methods for counting public school students in towns, schools, and school districts. Each method uses a different set of rules, and is used for different purposes. Please find below the descriptions and uses for commonly-used student counts in Connecticut.

Enrollment

What does it measure: Enrollment counts the number of students enrolled in public school districts and schools as of October 1st each school year.¹ School-level enrollment data contains students who are actually attending each school, while the district- and state-level enrollment data contains students from the district and state who have been outplaced to private schools as well as facilities outside of Connecticut.²

How is it used: This count is published by the Connecticut State Department of Education on the EdSight data portal, and is what education stakeholders commonly use when referring to student counts at the district level.³

Average Daily Membership (ADM)

What does it measure? Average Daily Membership is the number of resident students in a public school district (regardless of district attended) who are enrolled at the expense of the district as of October 1st each school year.⁴ This count is the average membership of the district, rather than a count at a single point in time. This count is adjusted up or down for school education less than or greater than the 900-hour, 180-day minimum school year.⁵ Pre-kindergarten students and summer school students are included as full-time equivalent students, students in School Readiness programs are excluded, and students participating in the Open Choice program are split equally between the sending and receiving districts.^{6,7,8,9}

How is it used? Average Daily Membership is used to calculate the Net Current Expenditures per Pupil (NCEP) for Connecticut local and regional boards of education.¹⁰ These figures are calculated each year by the Connecticut State Department of Education, and are the generally accepted measures of expenditure per student in Connecticut school districts.¹¹

These figures are also used in determining several state education grant programs, including the reimbursement thresholds for districts for the Excess Cost-Student Based grant, maximum interdistrict magnet school grants, school district eligibility for state grants for foster care placements, school district eligibility for state grants for vocational education equipment, and school district grant amounts for the Priority School District extended school hours program.^{12,13,14,15,16}

Resident Student Count

What does it measure? The resident student count is the number of students in a town enrolled in public schools at the expense of the town on October 1st each school year.¹⁷ This count is adjusted up or down for school education less than or greater than the 900-hour, 180-day minimum school year.¹⁸ Tuition-free summer school pupils are counted as full-time equivalent students, students in School Readiness programs are excluded, and students participating in the Open Choice program are split equally between the sending and receiving towns.^{19,20,21}

How is it used? The resident student count is used in the calculation of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant, which is the State of Connecticut's main form of financial support for education aid to towns.²²

The resident student count is also used in the calculation of Priority School District grant grants, the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), education technology grants, eligibility to establish agricultural science and technology education centers, and local charter school funding requirements.^{23,24,25,26,27}

¹ Connecticut State Department of Education. (2019). *Public School Enrollment Report Notes*. Hartford, CT: Author. Retrieved from http://edsight.ct.gov/relatedreports/ReportNotes_Enrollment.pdf.

² Ibid.

³ Connecticut State Department of Education. (n.d.). EdSight: Public School Enrollment. Available from <http://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do>.

⁴ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-261(a)(2).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-16(j).

⁸ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-261(a)(2).

⁹ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-266aa(h).

¹⁰ Connecticut State Department of Education. (2019). *2017-18 Net Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP) and 2018-19 Special Education Excess Cost Grant*. Retrieved from <http://ctschoolfinance.org/assets/uploads/files/2017-18-Net-Current-Expenditures-Per-Pupil.pdf>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-76g(b).

¹³ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-264(b)(2).

¹⁴ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262m.

¹⁵ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-265a(b).

¹⁶ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-266t (b).

¹⁷ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262f(22).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-16(j).

²¹ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-266aa(h).

²² Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262f(22).

²³ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-265m(c).

²⁴ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262j(b)(3).

²⁵ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-262n (d)(3).

²⁶ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-64(b).

²⁷ Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 164, § 10-66ee(b)(2).