Student Enrollment FAQ

Student Enrollment is an important metric in OSPI's data systems.

How is Student Enrollment determined?

Student Enrollment is defined, collected, reported, and used in several similar yet distinct ways; each are correct in their context, and together, provide a full picture. **OSPI's Student Information Team** collects student records through CEDARS; data are collected at the student level and aggregated. This is a **Headcount** (each student is counted once) referencing the **enrollment count date** (the first business day in October) in the student's primary school.
OSPI's Fiscal Team also collects student enrollment for apportionment. For more on this, see page 2.

How are student data collected?

Student-level data are collected through Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS), a longitudinal data system that allows OSPI to store and report data related to students, courses, and teachers in order to meet state and federal reporting requirements and to help educators and policymakers to make data-driven decisions.

How frequently are student data collected?

Through CEDARS, districts send data to OSPI on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

Where is Student Enrollment published?

OSPI's Student Information team publishes Student Enrollment on OSPI's Washington State Report Card and OSPI's Data Portal.

When are reports updated?

The preliminary October Enrollment count is published between December and January of the school year.
Every June, the final October Enrollment count for the current school year is published.
The footnotes in the Enrollment Report Card explain the details for preliminary and final enrollment.

What Enrollment is collected by School Apportionment and Financial Services (SAFS)?

OSPI's **School Apportionment and Financial Services (SAFS) team** collects student enrollment as needed for apportionment determinations. This monthly collection includes Headcount and **Full Time Equivalent (FTE)**, and FTE is used more commonly. For basic education funding, both headcount and FTE are collected on the monthly P-223. For special education funding, headcount is collected on the monthly P-223H

How does SAFS use FTE Enrollment?

LEAs report enrollment so that OSPI's SAFS team can calculate school year allocations as required by the state budget. For apportionment, most programs are paid based on the **average annual Full Time Equivalent (AAFTE) enrollment**. Refer to Fiscal resources for details. Enrollment Reporting (ospi.k12.wa.us)

How is FTE Enrollment for state funding collected?

These are collected monthly through the P-223 and P-223H and reported by LEAs in aggregate, by grade and by program. SAFS collects these at the school level only, not the student level.

How frequently is FTE Enrollment for state funding collected?

Districts send data to OSPI monthly, September through June, based on the monthly count day. Some LEAs submit an annual P223S where possible summer enrollment can be reported for state funding.

Where is FTE Enrollment published?

OSPI's Fiscal Team publishes FTE Enrollment on Apportionment, Enrollment, and Fiscal Reports | OSPI. On the Report Type filter, select Apportionment.

When are the SAFS Enrollment reports updated?

The enrollment reports for state funding are generated and posted monthly.

Why is there more than one Enrollment metric?

The two metrics came out of different uses, requirements and conventions. For example –

- The Student Enrollment headcount is associated to students' demographics and programming, and used to understand other outcomes.
- Beginning in January, the Fiscal Annual Average FTE as of each month is used for apportionment calculations.

How do the two metrics compare?

They are often close. When referring to Final data, it is expected that Fiscal AAFTE Enrollment and Student Enrollment Headcount are slightly different due to differences in the metrics and that AAFTE is an annual average of a monthly value. When referring to Preliminary data, there is also variation due to the differences in reporting cycles. These differences are expected.

Which one should I use?

Like in many cases, it depends on the specific need. For many uses, refer to the Student Enrollment as reported on Report Card. For Apportionment-related uses, refer to the Fiscal FTE or AAFTE Enrollment. Where possible, use Final values. If using Preliminary values, recognize there may be some variation when the Final values are available. This is expected.

Can one be substituted for the other?

Although the definitions and values are distinct, at times they are used in consistency checking. It's not a good idea to substitute one metric for the other without a nuanced understanding of their differences, the reporting cycles and other context.

Is there anything else to know about these metrics?

Student enrollment as reported on Report Card references October 1st, or the first business day in October.
Fiscal FTE Enrollment references a monthly count day; this is the fourth school day of Sept., and the first of the month for other months.

School Year	Student Enrollment	Fiscal FTE Enrollment
SY 2024-2025 student enrollment – PRELIMINARY	1,104,247 students enrolled This is an **Annual Head Count (Preliminary)** and reflects the number of students enrolled as of the first business day in October at primary schools. This is captured through CEDARS submissions as of Jan. 6, 2025.	1,057,567 students as of September 2025 for Basic Education funding This is **Annual Average FTE Students (monthly)** and reflects an average of the FTE enrollments from September through the specific month; these are reported monthly on the monthly reporting days, captured by P223. The reports are replaced monthly, with the monthly submissions including most current month's data and the most current annual average FTE value.
SY 2023-2024 student enrollment – FINAL	1,100,059 students enrolled This is an **Annual Head Count (Final)** and reflects the number of students enrolled as of the first business day in October at primary schools. This is captured through CEDARS submissions as of June 1, 2024.	1,065,093 students as of January 2025 for Basic Education funding This is **Annual Average FTE Students (Final)** and reflects an average of the monthly FTE enrollments (and monthly reporting days) captured by P223 once the collection is closed.