



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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For Immediate Release

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Kids are Back in School as Utah Public Schools Add 8,638 Students in 2021 *Total Enrollment Tops 675,000, Kindergarten Bounces Back, Homeschool Transfers Decline*

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah public schools added 8,638 students this fall for a growth rate of 1.3 percent, bringing the total number of students to 675,247, according to [October 1 enrollment data](#) released today by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE).

Kindergarten enrollment, which had dropped by more than 1,500 students in the fall of 2020 rebounded this year to levels higher than in 2019, USBE noted. Student transfers from public school to homeschooling grew from 914 in the fall of 2019 to 3,375 in 2020. That number fell to 1,227 this year, USBE reported. Enrollment in online-only public schools remained virtually unchanged: 26,605 students in 2020 and 26,711 this year.

“We applaud the work of our many educators and staff who have made conditions possible for our students to come back to school for optimal learning and support. Parents have responded by having their students return where possible,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “Of course, we understand that everything’s not back to normal yet and there are parents, students, teachers, and school staff who continue to have concerns. Schools and health departments continue to work to make schools a safe environment in which all students can learn and succeed.”

October 1, 2021, USBE student enrollment highlights.

Total enrollment:

	Oct. 2021	Oct. 2020	Difference	Percentage
Charter	77,786	79,255	-1,469	-1.9%
District	597,461	587,354	10,107	1.7%
State	675,247	666,609	8,638	1.3%

October 1 kindergarten enrollment:

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Utah	49,510	47,971	49,489	49,782	48,346

Utah student transfers from public school to homeschool:

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Utah	1,227	3,375	914	817	747

October 1 Utah student enrollment in online/virtual schools:

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Utah	26,711	26,605	14,755	12,255	11,156

Utah 2021 public school demographics:

	Number	Percentage
American Indian	6,381	1%
Asian	11,081	2%
Black/African American	8,992	1%
Hispanic/Latino	126,467	19%
Pacific Islander	10,895	2%
White	488,102	72%
Two or more races	22,433	3%
Economically Disadvantaged	184,963	27%
English Language Learner	55,546	8%
Student with a Disability	81,296	12%
Homeless	9,014	1%

More information about [this year's enrollment data](#), as well as [longitudinal data](#), is available on the USBE website.

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