



**SANDY GARRETT**  
**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
**STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Thursday, October 29, 2009  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Shelly Hickman, Public Affairs Director, (405) 521-3371

**Oklahoma public school enrollment climbs nearly 10,000 students from 2008,**  
**Hispanic population fuels majority of the growth**  
*Oklahoma City surpasses Tulsa to become state's largest school district!*

OKLAHOMA CITY - According to preliminary enrollment numbers presented today to the State Board of Education, current-year pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade public school enrollment has climbed by 9,734 students from the previous school year.

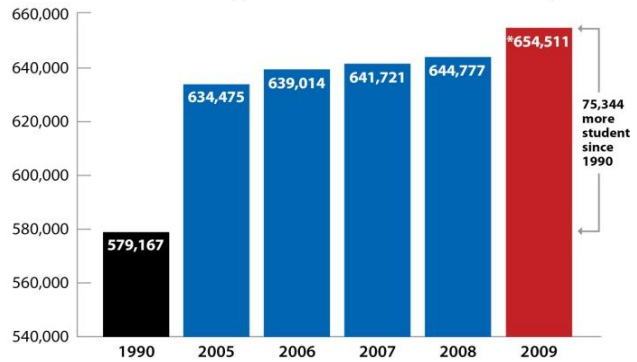
Preliminary enrollment numbers indicate 654,511 students are now enrolled in Oklahoma public schools for the 2009-2010 school year, as compared to 644,754 last year.

State Superintendent Sandy Garrett reminded her fellow Board members that last year student enrollment grew by 3,056 students, which means Oklahoma public schools are educating nearly 13,000 new students since 2008 and 20,036 since 2005. Moreover, there are 75,344 more students enrolled in Oklahoma public schools since the passage of House Bill 1017 in 1990.

In recent years, Garrett said the majority of enrollment growth has been in the category of Hispanic students, climbing by more than 5,500 students (56.6 percent of the total enrollment growth) since just last year and it represented nearly all of the enrollment growth from the previous year, as well. In 1990, 15,574 Oklahoma public school students were Hispanic; today that number is 73,172, according to the preliminary data.

**Annual October Enrollment**  
**Oklahoma Public Schools**

Statewide fall enrollment count from the annual Oklahoma Public School Applications for Accreditation in selected years

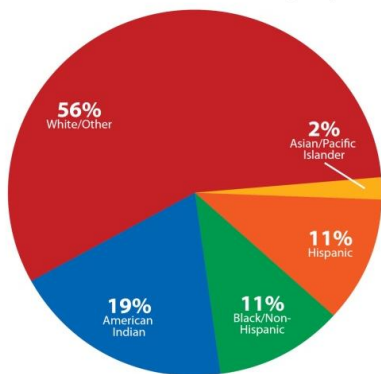


\*Preliminary data reported to the State Board of Education, October 29, 2009  
 SOURCE: Oklahoma State Department of Education, Accreditation and Data Services, October 2009

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**Preliminary**

**2009 Oklahoma Demographics**



NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.  
 SOURCE: School Applications for Accreditation, State Department of Education, October 2009.

"Hispanic students now represent, according to these preliminary numbers, 11 percent of our total student population," Garrett said. "That is the same percentage for Black students. Since 1990, white students have dropped by nearly 61,000 students to 56 percent of the student population. Yet some districts have been majority-minority for some years."

This trend is clear when looking specifically at Oklahoma City Public Schools, which has surpassed Tulsa to be the state's largest school district.

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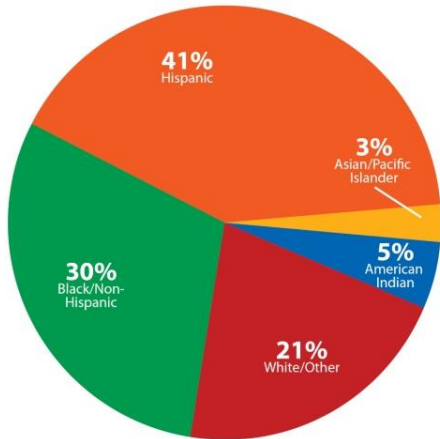


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**Preliminary**

**Oklahoma City Public Schools**

Preliminary October 2009 Enrollment by Ethnicity



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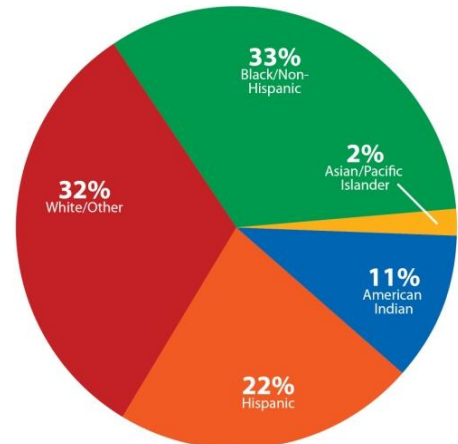
"Oklahoma City has grown by 1,481 students and, of those new students, 1,284 are Hispanic," Garrett said. "While Tulsa grew by a total of 298 students, it gained 695 additional Hispanic students. Hispanic students represent 41 percent of Oklahoma City's students and 22 percent of Tulsa's. Many of these students come to those schools with significant language barriers that must then be overcome by educators."

The preliminary enrollment data for 2009-2010 also indicates:

**Preliminary**

**Tulsa Public Schools**

Preliminary October 2009 Enrollment by Ethnicity



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- The clear preference of parents in regard to early childhood education seems to be full-day early opportunities for their students. The gap between the number of students enrolled in full-day pre-Kindergarten as opposed to half-day grew again this year (21,428 students compared to 15,950 students).
- Only 4,088 kindergarten students are enrolled in half-day kindergarten, compared to the 47,040 students enrolled in full-day programs.
- All but one (Putnam City, which declined by 90 students) of the Top 10 largest school districts gained students from the previous school year. The largest districts are: Oklahoma City (42,570 students), Tulsa (41,493), Moore (21,675), Edmond (20,747), Putnam City (18,700), Broken Arrow (16,618), Lawton (16,398), Union (15,010), Midwest City-Del City (14,643) and Norman (14,358).
- All but two of the 10 smallest districts (Straight and Felt) lost students from the previous school year. The smallest districts are: Plainview (9), Boley (37), Byars (53), Watson (54), Milfay (55), Nashoba (55), Greasy (67), Fanshawe (67), Straight (67) and Felt (68). Of these districts, only Felt is a preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade school district; the other nine are elementary school districts (also called dependent schools).

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