

**UNITED STATES
CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY and SECONDARY
SCHOOLS 2010–2011**

**The Annual Statistical Report on
Schools, Enrollment and Staffing**

**Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D.
Margaret M. Schultz**



National Catholic Educational Association

Executive Summary

2010-2011 Academic Year

Enrollment figures for the 2010-2011 school year indicate that there are 53,469 fewer students, a 2.5 percent decrease from the previous academic year. The data indicate that 93.7% of that number who left the schools are Catholics.

While enrollment has declined in all regions of the country (22.1% since 2000), the largest decreases have been centered primarily in the Mideast and Great Lakes, areas that were populated by high concentrations of Catholic immigrants in the late 19th and 20th Centuries.

Large numbers of Catholic schools were built in the older industrial cities of the nation to serve the children of immigrants. Initially, these schools were sustained through the generosity of parishioners, but the succeeding generations of Catholics moved out of the neighborhoods into the suburbs. Parishes, with financial support from the dioceses and other donors, made heroic efforts to keep the schools open to serve newly arriving immigrants, even though the parish populations declined and many of the newer students were not Catholic.

However, in the last decade it has become increasingly more difficult for dioceses to continue to provide the substantial financial assistance required to keep the schools open with modest tuition and reasonable compensation for teachers. While private philanthropy has enabled many poorer families to meet some of the ever-rising tuition costs, it has not been enough to sustain the viability of these schools. Since 2000, 1,755 (21.6%) of schools have closed.

Efforts to secure public financial support for low-income students to attend Catholic schools have met with modest success. Tax relief for corporations making donations to scholarship granting organizations has provided student assistance in Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, Iowa and Rhode Island, yet enrollment has still declined. Assistance to families in the form of publicly financed vouchers and scholarships has benefitted thousands, but such aid comes at a cost to schools since the voucher is based on tuition, not the actual cost of the students' education.

The White House summit on faith-based urban schools convened in 2008 brought national attention to the problem of increasing closures of these institutions, but it did not result in any policy initiatives – and none appear to be forthcoming from the current administration.

The good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools. Waiting lists now exist in 26.1% of the schools, primarily in suburban areas. Across the nation, 34 new schools opened this year and more are projected to open in the coming years.

Highlights

Enrollment:

- Total Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year is 2,065,872.
1,467,694 elementary/middle school; 598,178 secondary school
- Minority student enrollment is 624,878 which is 30.2% of the total enrollment.
- Non-Catholic enrollment is 307,458 which is 14.9% of the total enrollment.

Schools:

- There are 6,980 Catholic schools: 5,774 elementary; 1,206 secondary.
- 34 new schools opened; 172 consolidated or closed.
- 1,822 schools have a waiting list for admission.
- Coeducational schools comprise 98.8% of elementary and 67.2% of secondary schools. At the secondary level, 13.2% of the schools are male and 19.6% are female.

Professional Staff:

- Full-time equivalent professional staff numbered 151,473:
96.3%: Laity (Lay women: 73.9% Lay men: 22.4%)
3.7%: Religious/Clergy (Sisters: 2.5%; Brothers: 0.5%; Clergy: 0.7%)
- The student/teacher ratio is 13.6:1.

Enrollment of Non-Catholics

Most Catholic school students are Catholic. However, non-Catholic student enrollment has risen from 2.7% in 1970 to 11.2% a decade later and today is 14.9% as shown in Exhibit 27. Of the 53,469 students who left the schools in 2010, 93.7% are Catholics. The non-Catholic population decreased by 0.1%.

EXHIBIT 27: Non-Catholic Enrollment

	Elementary/Middle		Secondary		All Schools	
	Number	% in Region	Number	% in Region	Number	% in Region
New England	12,397	15.6%	8,237	19.3%	20,634	16.9%
Mideast	58,722	16.8%	30,212	18.3%	88,934	17.3%
Great Lakes	41,109	11.8%	20,193	17.0%	61,302	13.1%
Plains	14,279	8.8%	6,056	11.3%	20,335	9.5%
Southeast	31,850	13.7%	16,505	18.0%	48,355	14.9%
West/Far West	36,098	12.2%	31,800	25.1%	67,898	16.1%
United States	194,455	13.2%	113,003	18.9%	307,458	14.9%
National Totals	Number	%				
Catholic	1,731,421	83.8%				
Non-Catholic	307,458	14.9%				
Not Reported	26,993	1.3%				
Total	2,065,872	100.0%				

Staffing of Catholic Schools

In 2010-2011, the total, full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff in Catholic elementary/middle and secondary schools is 151,473.

The FTE represents the total of all the full-time professional staff and each of the part-time professional staff weighted as 0.333.

Per pupil ratios: The pupil/teacher ratio in Catholic schools in 2010-2011, determined by the FTE, was approximately 14:1. By level they are: elementary/middle schools: 14:1, secondary schools: 12:1.

Over the past decade, the lay faculty percentages increased from 93% to the current 96.3%. At present, 3.7% of the professional staff are religious and clergy. Exhibit 28 presents the FTE data by category and percentage.

Ethnic and religious background data regarding all of the professional staff were collected. Exhibit 30 details the numbers and percentages of the religious background of the professional staff members and Exhibit 31 provides the ethnic profiles and percentages of the professional staff.

EXHIBIT 28: Full-time Equivalent Professional Staff 2010-2011

	Elementary	%	Secondary	%	All Schools	%	Total	%
Sisters	2,678	2.6	1,052	2.1	3,730	2.5	Lay	96.3
Brothers	119	0.1	633	1.3	752	0.5	Religious/Clergy	3.7
Clergy	274	0.3	812	1.7	1,086	0.7		
Female Lay	85,827	83.8	26,131	53.2	111,958	73.9		
Male Lay	13,467	13.2	20,480	41.7	33,947	22.4		
*Total	102,365	100.0	49,108	100.0	151,473	100.0		

**Adjusted totals to reflect weighted averages*

EXHIBIT 29: Student/Teacher Ratio

Elementary	14:1
Secondary	12:1
National	13.6:1

Historical Enrollment and Staffing Patterns

Schools and Enrollment History

Exhibit 1 reports the steady growth of Catholic schools from 1920 to the mid-1960s. By 1965, the peak year, there were almost 13,500 schools enrolling 5.6 million students. The next two decades saw a significant diminishment in both the numbers of schools and their enrollment. In the early part of the 1990s, the rate of school closures declined and total enrollment rose steadily. However, during the past decade, schools in the central cities have experienced sharp declines in enrollment due to down-turned economic trends and demographic changes in those areas. This decline impacted elementary schools primarily while secondary enrollment remained relatively stable until 2008 when secondary declined by 0.2% and by 2.0% in 2010. This year there has been a decline of 2.2% in secondary enrollment and 2.6% in elementary. Overall, the national enrollment decline since 2000 has been greater than 587,000, a 22.1% loss of the student population.

EXHIBIT 1: Schools and Enrollment History

	SCHOOLS			ENROLLMENT		
	Elementary	Secondary	Total	Elementary	Secondary	Total
1920	6,551	1,552	8,103	1,796,000	130,000	1,926,000
1930	7,923	2,123	10,046	2,223,000	242,000	2,465,000
1940	7,944	2,105	10,049	2,035,000	361,000	2,396,000
1950	8,589	2,189	10,778	2,561,000	506,000	3,067,000
1960	10,501	2,392	12,893	4,373,000	880,000	5,253,000
1970	9,366	1,986	11,352	3,359,000	1,008,000	4,367,000
1980	8,100	1,540	9,640	2,293,000	846,000	3,139,000
1990	7,395	1,324	8,719	1,983,000	606,000	2,589,000
2000	6,923	1,221	8,144	2,013,084	639,954	2,653,038
2010	5,889	1,205	7,094	1,507,618	611,723	2,119,341
2011	5,774	1,206	6,980	1,467,694	598,178	2,065,872

School Staffing History

During the last quarter of the 20th century, dramatic changes took place in the staffing of Catholic schools. The staffing patterns listed by decades in Exhibit 2 indicate the depth of the change. The data show the shift from an almost entirely religious staff (sisters, brothers, priests, deacons) of 90.1% at mid-century (1950) to 48.4% in the 1970s to a primarily lay staff, now at 96.3% during the current school year. In general, the changes have been attributed to the decline in the number of women and men entering religious orders, the large numbers of religious who left their orders and the change of ministry directions for many congregations from schools to other forms of social and pastoral ministries.

EXHIBIT 2: School Staffing History

TOTAL STAFF

	RELIGIOUS		LAY		TOTAL
	Number	%	Number	%	
1920	45,563	92.0%	3,942	8.0%	49,505
1930	65,601	90.4%	6,951	9.6%	72,552
1940	73,960	91.2%	7,097	8.8%	81,057
1950	84,925	90.1%	9,370	9.9%	94,295
1960	112,029	73.8%	39,873	26.2%	151,902
1970	80,615	48.4%	85,873	51.6%	166,488
1980	42,732	29.0%	104,562	71.0%	147,294
1990	20,020	14.6%	116,880	85.4%	136,900
2000	11,011	7.0%	146,123	93.0%	157,134
2010	5,749	3.7%	148,567	96.3%	154,316
2011	5,568	3.7%	145,905	96.3%	151,473

TOTAL STAFF SUMMARY 2010– 2011

Staff	Elementary/Middle	Secondary	Total
Female Religious	2,678	1,052	3730
Male Religious	119	633	752
Clergy (priest/deacon)	274	812	1,086
Female Lay	85,827	26,131	111,958
Male Lay	13,467	20,480	33,947
Total	102,365	49,108	151,473

Teaching Staff

	Number	Percentage
Lay	145,905	96.3%
Religious/Clergy	5,568	3.7%

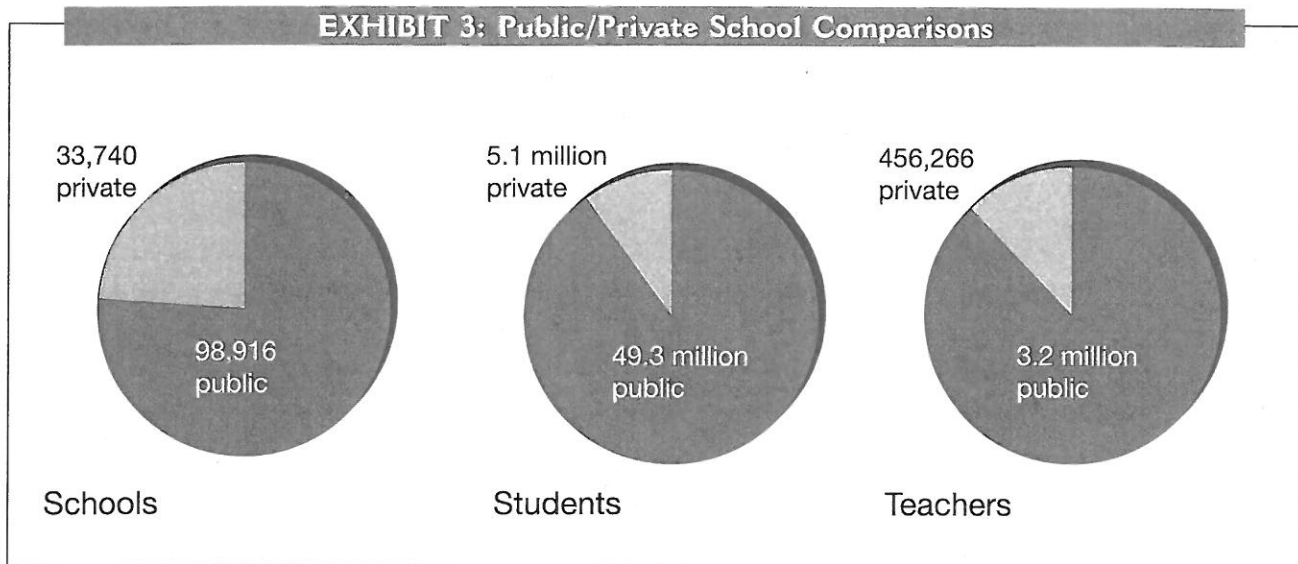
Public/Private School Comparisons

Private schools, defined as those controlled by a non-governmental entity and financed from sources other than public taxation, have been an important component of American education since colonial days. The existence of private schools reflects the fundamental right of parents to exercise freedom of choice in selecting the education they deem most appropriate for their children. Parents select private schools based on several factors, among which are the religious, educational, cultural and social values that are espoused by the institution.

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) survey of the private schools during the 2007-2008 school year indicates that there were 33,740 private elementary and secondary schools in the United States. Private schools account for 22.9% of all American schools. Private schools enroll approximately 5.1 million Pre-K-12 students, representing 9.4% of total elementary and secondary student enrollment in the United States.

Private schools are categorized as Catholic, other religious and non-sectarian. Catholic schools are classified as a) parochial, b) diocesan, c) private. The category 'other religious schools' is comprised of three typologies: a) schools identified as conservative Christian, b) schools affiliated with a specific religious national denomination, c) schools not aligned with a national denomination. Non-sectarian schools are a) regular, b) special emphasis, c) special education.

Schools which are classified as 'other religious' constitute 45.7% of private schools, Catholic schools represent 22.2% and non-sectarian 32.1%. In contrast to the number of schools, there is a higher percentage of students in Catholic schools which enroll 42.5% of private school students while other religious schools enroll 38.1% and nonsectarian 19.4%.



Sources: (All from National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC) Hoffman, L. (2010). *Numbers and Types of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2007-08* (NCES 2010-305); Noel, A.M., and Sable, J. (2009). *Public Elementary and Secondary School Student Enrollment and Staff Counts From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2007-08* (NCES 2010-309); Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313).

EXHIBIT 4: Comparisons of National Graduation Rates

Data collected from several sources by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the National Catholic Educational Association provide a portrait of the American high school graduates and their post-secondary school experiences.

National Secondary School Graduation Rates

Type of School	Graduation Rate
Catholic	99.1%
Other Religious	97.9%
Non-Sectarian	95.7%
Public Schools	73.2% (actual high school diplomas awarded)

Sources: Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.; Cataldi, E.F., Laird, J., and KewalRamani, A. (2009). *High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2007* (NCES 2009-064). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

EXHIBIT 5: College Attendance Comparisons

The percentage of High School graduates who attend 4-year colleges:

Type of School	College Attendance Percentage
Catholic	84.7%
Other Religious	63.7%
Non-Sectarian	56.2%
Public Schools	44.1%

Sources: Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.; Snyder, T.D., Dillow, S.A., and Hoffman, C.M. (2007). *Digest of Education Statistics 2006* (NCES 2007-017). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

EXHIBIT 6: Percentage Distribution of Private Schools by Enrollment Size

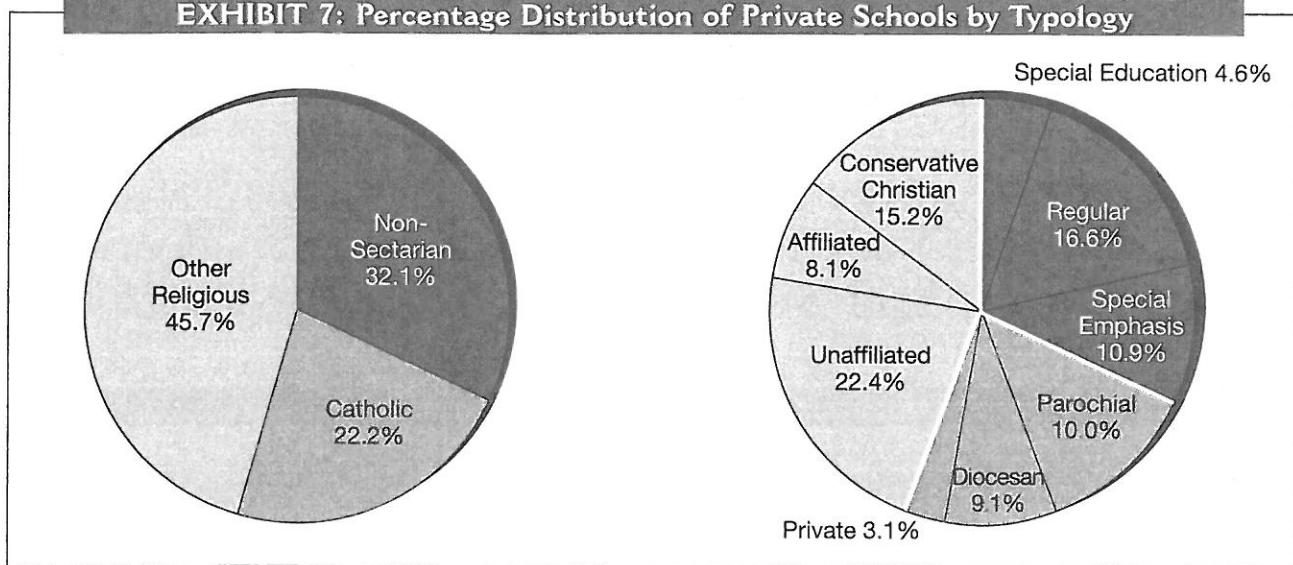
School Size	<50	50-149	150-299	300-499	500-749	750+
Catholic	4.8	22.8	39.1	19.9	8.7	4.7
Other Religious	46.8	28.8	14.0	5.8	2.6	2.0
Non-Sectarian	62.8	21.8	8.1	3.8	1.8	1.8

Source: Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC. Table 8.

Private School Universe

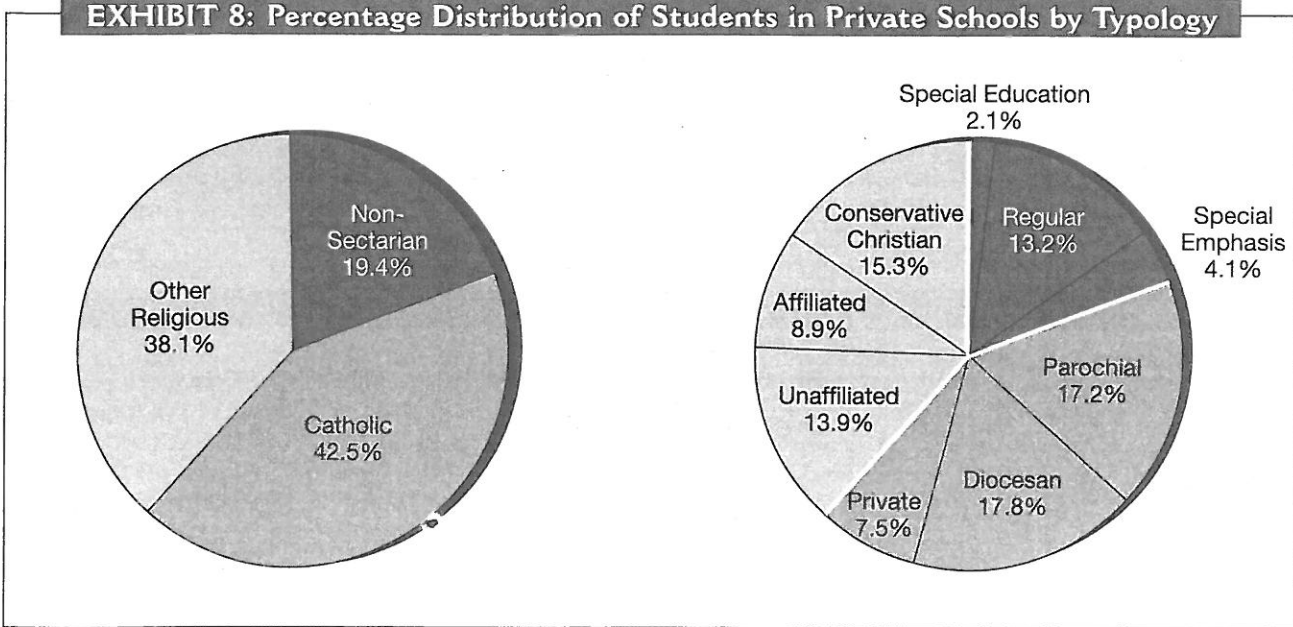
Some interesting changes have taken place within private education during the last 40 years. In 1965, Catholic education comprised approximately 68% of the schools and 87% of the enrollment in private education. At the start of the 21st century, religious schools of other denominations have grown rapidly and now comprise 45.7% of the private schools. They tend to be much smaller in size than Catholic schools, enrolling 38.1% of the students in nonpublic schools; Catholic schools comprise 22.2% of private schools, yet enroll 42.5% of the private school population.

EXHIBIT 7: Percentage Distribution of Private Schools by Typology



Source: Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

EXHIBIT 8: Percentage Distribution of Students in Private Schools by Typology



Source: Broughman, S.P., Swaim, N.L., and Keaton, P.W. (2009). *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results From the 2007-08 Private School Universe Survey* (NCES 2009-313). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC.

School Openings and Consolidations/Closings

During the past school year, thirty-four new schools opened their doors. There were 172 schools that consolidated or closed.

EXHIBIT 14: School Openings/Closings/Consolidations

Region	Opened		Consolidated/Closed	
	Elementary	Secondary	Elementary	Secondary
New England	3	0	18	1
Midwest	15	4	73	9
Great Lakes	3	2	41	2
Plains	1	0	9	2
Southeast	0	1	6	0
West/Far West	2	3	10	1
National	24	10	157	15

School Enrollment

In this section, the data pertaining to enrollment in Catholic elementary and secondary schools are presented in several categories: grade levels, regional distributions, state and diocesan rankings and enrollment patterns.

EXHIBIT 15: Enrollment by Grade Level

Grade Level	2000-2001		2005-06		2010-2011	
	Pupils	%	Pupils	%	Pupils	%
Preschool	155,742	7.7	146,327	8.5	152,846	10.3
Kindergarten	218,981	10.8	175,331	10.2	145,395	9.8
Grade 1	219,953	10.9	174,572	10.2	145,828	9.8
Grade 2	216,268	10.7	174,859	10.2	146,409	9.8
Grade 3	213,607	10.6	175,490	10.2	145,599	9.8
Grade 4	210,534	10.4	174,378	10.2	146,700	9.8
Grade 5	207,060	10.3	176,384	10.3	148,707	10.0
Grade 6	202,571	10.0	176,259	10.3	150,417	10.1
Grade 7	189,956	9.4	170,120	10.0	148,554	10.0
Grade 8	181,198	9.0	169,403	9.9	155,714	10.5
Ungraded	3,554	0.2	1,891	0.1	3,237	0.2
* Total Preschool - 8	2,019,424	100.0	1,715,014	100.0	1,489,406	100.0
Grade 9	171,215	27.3	161,881	26.5	150,673	26.1
Grade 10	161,952	25.8	156,835	25.7	145,197	25.2
Grade 11	150,096	23.9	148,477	24.3	144,197	25.0
Grade 12	142,954	22.8	142,650	23.4	135,700	23.5
Ungraded	1,660	0.3	363	0.1	699	0.1
* Total 9 - 12	627,877	100.0	610,206	100.0	576,466	100.0
Grand Total	2,647,301	100.0	2,325,220	100.0	2,065,872	100.0

* NB: Because some elementary schools have a ninth grade and some secondary schools have grades 6-8 in their totals, this distribution does not match that in Exhibits 16 and 26.

Enrollment by Region

The national enrollment data, charted by region in Exhibit 16, show that the Mideast and Great Lakes regions enroll almost half the Catholic school population (47.6%). This percentage does indicate a decline from 52.6% over the past decade.

EXHIBIT 16: Enrollment by Region						
	2000–2001		2005–2006		2010–2011	
Elementary/Middle	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
New England	120,084	6.0	97,655	5.7	79,246	5.4
Mideast	573,345	28.6	466,388	27.0	349,888	23.8
Great Lakes	492,875	24.7	405,700	23.5	349,293	23.8
Plains	195,858	9.8	179,297	10.4	161,579	11.0
Southeast	272,074	13.6	256,364	14.8	232,529	15.8
West/Far West	349,801	17.4	321,369	18.6	295,159	20.1
United States	2,004,037	100.0	1,726,773	100.0	1,467,694	100.0
Secondary						
New England	46,619	7.3	46,609	7.3	42,641	7.1
Mideast	185,801	28.9	186,269	29.3	164,914	27.6
Great Lakes	138,979	21.6	129,259	20.3	118,826	19.9
Plains	56,728	8.8	54,744	8.6	53,522	8.9
Southeast	92,137	14.3	90,720	14.3	91,752	15.3
West/Far West	123,000	19.1	128,846	20.2	126,523	21.2
United States	643,264	100.0	636,447	100.0	598,178	100.0
All Schools						
New England	166,703	6.3	144,264	6.1	121,887	5.9
Mideast	759,146	28.7	652,657	27.6	514,802	24.9
Great Lakes	631,854	23.9	534,959	22.6	468,119	22.7
Plains	252,586	9.6	234,041	9.9	215,101	10.4
Southeast	364,211	13.8	347,084	14.7	324,281	15.7
West/Far West	472,801	17.8	450,215	19.1	421,682	20.4
United States	2,647,301	100.0	2,363,220	100.0	2,065,872	100.0