

Black Students Remain the Majority But Account for a Small Fraction of Public School Enrollment Growth

White students have driven enrollment growth at the elementary school level;
Hispanic students have fueled growth at the secondary school level.

In Washington DC, the majority of the public school enrollment (all grades from PK3 through adult and alternative) is African American. While the majority, the population of Black students has been essentially static and even declining in recent years. Alternatively, the number of Hispanic and White public school students has been steadily growing since SY13-14, which has fueled Washington, DC’s public school enrollment growth.

Enrollment Trends by Race/Ethnicity

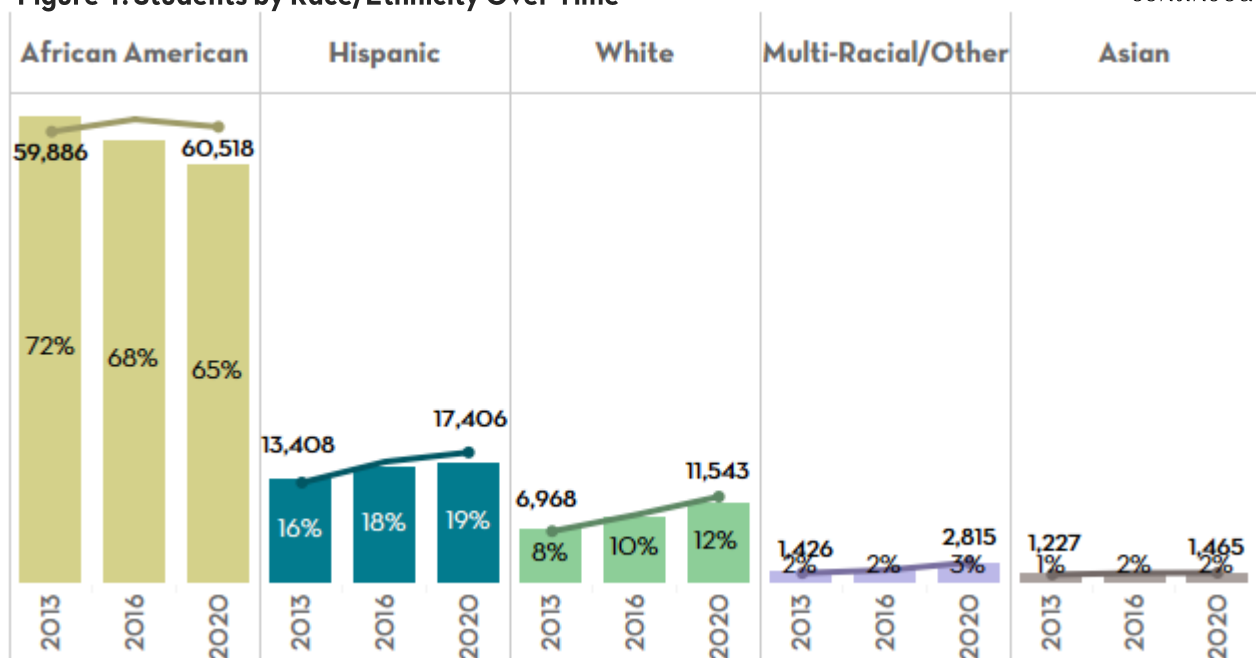
From SY13-14 to SY20-21, the overall public school enrollment in Washington, DC increased from 82,915 to 93,747 students, per the annual October audited enrollment. The

majority of all public school students remain Black in SY20-21 at 60,518 or 65% of all students. Black enrollment remained essentially flat and even slightly decreased in the last several years. The number of Black students grew by 1% annually between SY13-14 and SY16-17, had flat enrollment growth for the next two years, and then slightly decreased by 1% annually between SY18-19 and SY20-21 (see [Edscape](#) for yearly annual enrollments).

This compares to the Hispanic population that grew from 13,408 to 17,406 students between SY13-14 and SY20-21 resulting in the share of Hispanic students growing from 16% to 19%. Even more substantially,

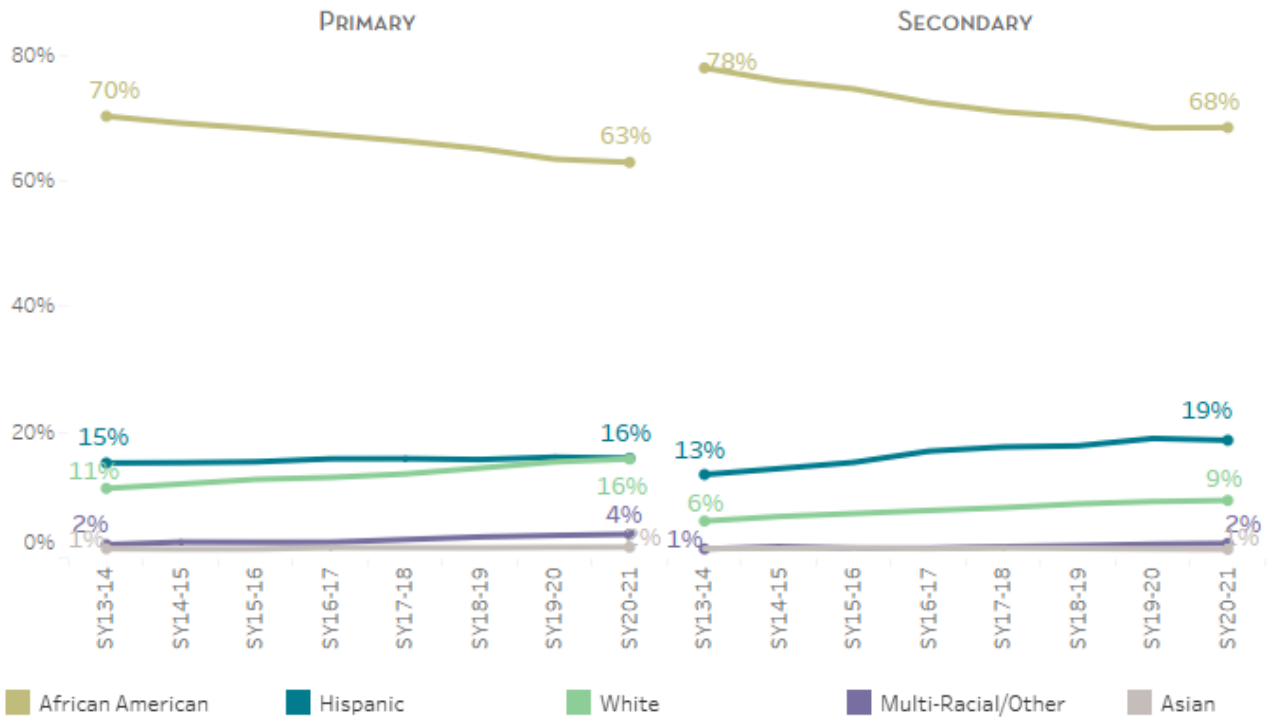
Figure 1: Students by Race/Ethnicity Over Time

continued



Source: OSSE audited enrollment

Figure 2: Share of Students by Race/Ethnicity and Grade Level Over Time



Source: OSSE audited enrollment

the share of White students grew from 6,968 to 11,543 students resulting in the White population growing in share from 8% to 12% over the time period.

The Multi-Racial/Other and Asian students have also relatively sizeable increases in enrollment, although their overall numbers are significantly lower than the other racial/ethnic categories.

White Primary School Enrollment Growth

At the primary or elementary school level (grades PK-5th grade) from SY13-14 to SY20-21, the White share of students increased the most compared to other racial/ethnic categories (11% to 16%). The Hispanic population has remained relatively stable (15% to 16%) and the Black population decreased from 70% to 63%. The racial/ethnic makeup of primary level students is slightly more diverse in comparison to the

racial/ethnic makeup of students at the secondary level (grades 6th-12th).

Hispanic Secondary Enrollment Growth

In the secondary grades, the Hispanic share of students increased the most compared to other racial categories, from 13% in SY13-14 to 19% in SY20-21. White secondary students increased from 6% to 9% and Black students decreased from 78% to 68%.

Enrollments at the adult/alternative levels consist of predominantly Black and Hispanic students (97% of all adult/alternative students). Over the time period, the share of Black students decreased from 60% to 57%, and the share of Hispanic students increased from 37% to 40%.

For more information on Race/Ethnicity in public schools visit [EdScape](#).

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