

K-12 Education Caseload Forecasts Year in Review

JUNE 2005 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2006



STATE OF WASHINGTON • CASELOAD FORECAST COUNCIL

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CFC FORECAST YEAR IN REVIEW: K-12 Education

June 2005 Through
February 2006

The Year in Review provides a broad overview of the major forecast changes that have occurred over the past three forecast cycles. This report details changes from the June 2005 forecast through the February 2006 forecast.

The CFC produces forecasts of K-12 Education, Bilingual Education, and Special Education caseloads.

The **K-12 Basic Education** forecast is composed of K-12 Basic Education and Running Start enrollments, as well as enrollment generated by the UW Transition Program, summer school, and private and home-schooled students receiving ancillary services from public schools.

- K-12 Basic Education enrollment is forecast in terms of average annual Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) where one student taking a full load of classes generates one FTE. Students taking less than a full day of classes (e.g., half-time kindergarten, high school students) generate less than a full FTE.
- Running Start enrollment includes the FTEs of high school juniors and seniors taking community college classes through the Running Start program. K-12 Basic Education includes Running Start students taking only classes in community colleges as well as those taking both community college and high school classes.

The **Bilingual Education** enrollment is forecast in terms of an eight month (October – May) average headcount (HC). Bilingual enrollment is reported monthly by local school districts.

- Bilingual Education programs vary significantly from district to district. Models include “dual language,” “transitional” native language support through the use of “pull-out” instruction in the native language, and ESL models where the emphasis is on English language acquisition. About 57 percent of instruction is provided by teacher aides, as opposed to certificated staff.
- Bilingual enrollment, as a percentage of K-12 enrollment, has been increasing steadily from 1.6 percent in 1984 to 7.3 percent in 2004. While Spanish remains the predominant language, 141 foreign languages are represented among the Bilingual Program students.

The **Special Education** forecast consists of two programs: the Age 0-2 Infant and Toddler program and (funded) Age 3-21 school-based Special Education. Enrollment is forecast as an eight month (October-May) average funded headcount.

- The Age 0-2 program is a voluntary program for developmentally delayed infants and toddlers. Not all school districts participate in this program. Districts participating in the

program may provide services through the district or, in some cases, through subcontracts to community agencies.

- The Age 3-21 program is offered through the state's individual school districts. Basic state funding is indexed to 12.7 percent of each district's total K-12 enrollment. Districts with exceptional needs can apply to the state for additional "safety net" funding.

K-12 Basic Education

June 2005 to November 2005 Forecast Changes

- The November forecast reflects actual enrollments through October. Forecast assumptions on migration and private school crossover were updated from the June forecast based on the September ERFC employment forecast.
- Actual estimated 2005-06 enrollment was 500 FTEs higher than the June 2005 forecast of 971,404.
- The November 2005 forecast for the 2006-07 school year was 3,228 FTEs higher than the June forecast. This increase reflects both the higher than expected October enrollment as well as revised assumptions reflecting the impact of increased net migration resulting from the state's improved economic climate.

November 2005 to February 2006 Forecast Changes

- In December, two school districts and two technical colleges revised their reported October enrollment by a total of over 1,300 students. The higher revised October enrollments raised both the estimate of current school year enrollment and the forecast of 2006-07 enrollments.
 - The revised estimated 2005-06 enrollment is 901 FTEs higher than the November 2005 estimate of 971,904.
 - The February 2006 forecast for the 2006-07 school year is 2,346 FTEs higher than the November forecast.

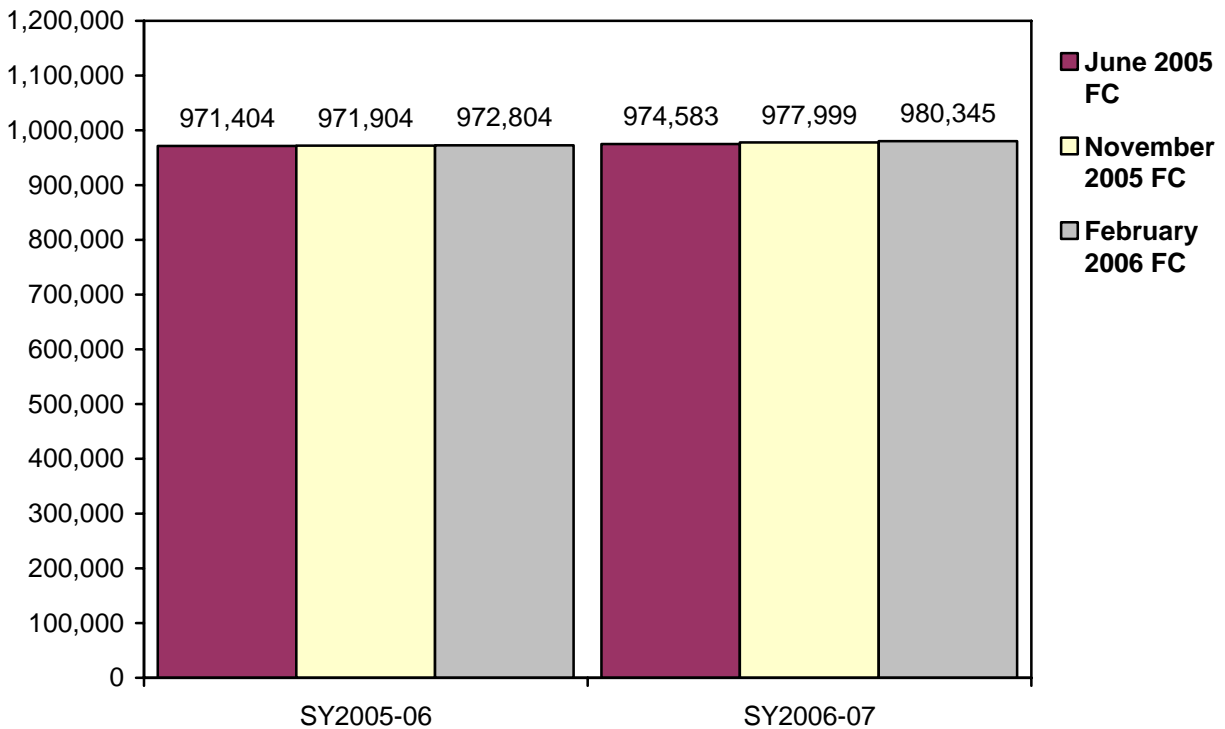
K-12 average annual FTE caseload is forecast to continue growing by an average of 7,050 FTEs (0.7 percent) per year over the 2005-07 Biennium. This rate of growth is higher than that experienced during the 2003-05 Biennium and reflects higher than average net migration into the state as well as the addition of new students as a result of growth at the Ft. Lewis army base.

K-12 Basic Education: Tracking the November 2005 Forecast

	Nov-05 Forecast*	Actual*	Variance	Percent Variance
Sep-05	960,672	961,133	461	0.0%
Oct-05	979,335	980,398	1,063	0.1%
Nov-05	976,607	978,041	1,434	0.1%
Dec-05	974,228	974,890	662	0.1%
Jan-06	971,666	972,416	750	0.1%

*K12 and Running Start

K-12 Basic Education Enrollment (FTE)



Bilingual Education

June 2005 to November 2005 Forecast Changes

- The November 2005 forecast was 2,415 students lower than the June 2005 forecast for the current school year. This adjustment reflected the lower than expected enrollment through October. While Bilingual enrollment continues to grow faster than K-12

enrollment, the growth rate evidenced by enrollment through October was significantly lower than expected.

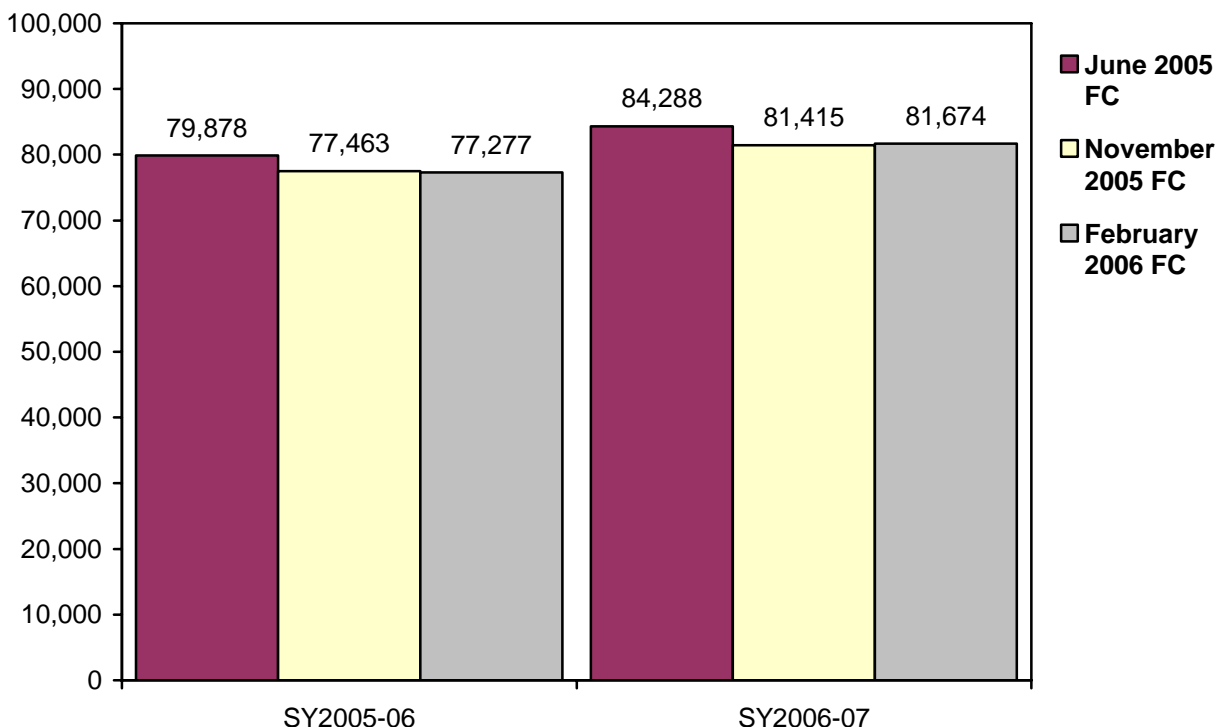
November 2005 to February 2006 Forecast Changes

- The February 2006 forecast is 186 students lower than the November 2005 forecast for the current school year. The reduction in the forecast reflects a lower than expected month to month retention rate through January 2006.
- The new forecast for 2006-07 is higher than the November forecast, reflecting the impact of the higher February 2006 K-12 forecast for October 2006 enrollment.

**Bilingual Education:
Tracking the November 2005 Forecast**

	Nov-05 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Sep-05	70,709	70,422	-287	-0.4%
Oct-05	77,290	77,434	144	0.2%
Nov-05	77,440	77,563	123	0.2%
Dec-05	77,262	76,875	-387	-0.5%
Jan-06	76,929	76,628	-301	-0.4%

Bilingual Education Enrollment (HC)



Special Education

June 2005 to November 2005 Forecast Changes

- The actual “Reported” October Special Education enrollment was very close (122,463 v. 122,868) to the June forecast.
- The November 2005 forecast of “Funded” Special Education enrollment was significantly lower than the June forecast which was 1,401 higher than the November forecast. However, this variance simply reflects a technical change to the forecast. The Age 3-21 June forecast was indexed to 13.0 percent of district enrollment; the November forecast is now indexed to 12.7 percent of district enrollment.
- Overall, “Funded” Special Education enrollment is expected to grow slowly over the next biennium. The rate of growth is about the same as forecast for overall K-12 enrollment, reflecting the fact that most districts are at or close to the basic funding index of 12.7 percent of district enrollment. The Special Education Age 0-2 program, which is optional, is expected to grow more quickly as additional districts opt into the program.

November 2005 to February 2006 Forecast Changes

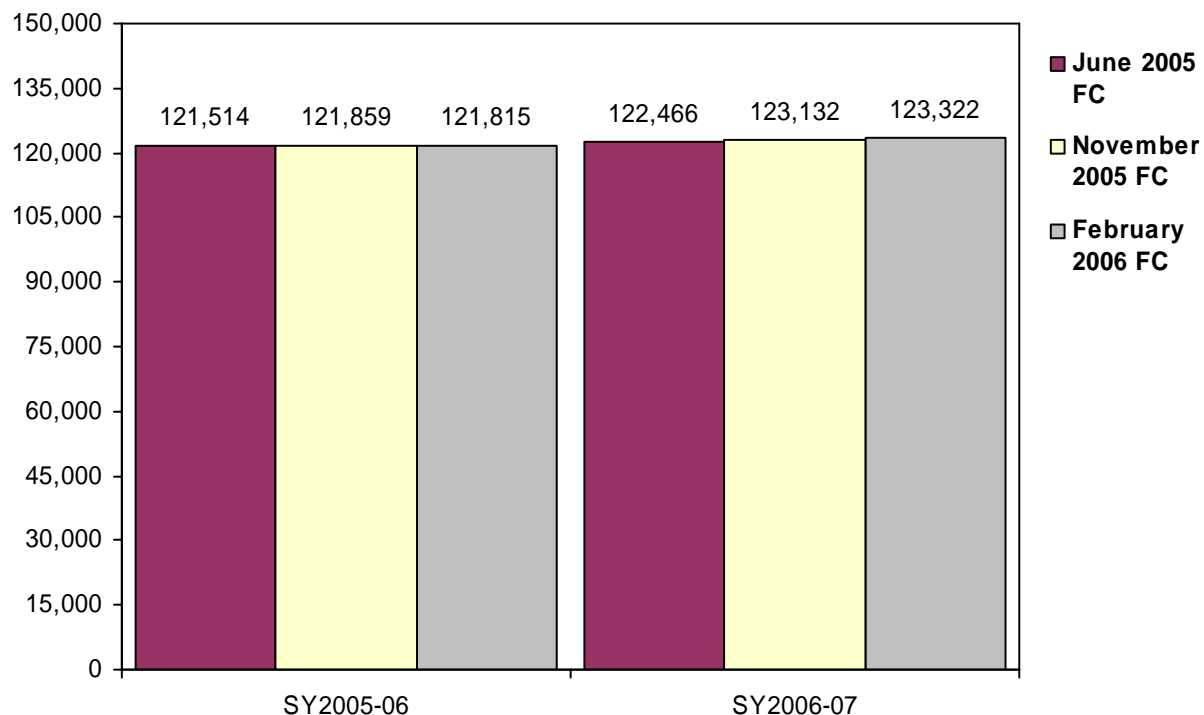
- The February forecast estimate for current school year Special Education enrollment is 44 students below the November forecast estimate. This reflects a slightly lower than expected Special Education enrollment through January.
- Overall, “Funded” Special Education enrollment is expected to grow slightly faster than forecasted growth in overall K-12 enrollment. The Age 3-21 component is growing at about the same rate as K12, reflecting the fact that most districts are at or close to the basic funding index of 12.7 percent of district enrollment. The optional Special Education Age 0-2 program is growing as additional districts opt into the program.

Special Education: Tracking the November 2005 Forecast

	Nov-05 Forecast*	Actual*	Variance	Percent Variance
Sep-05	117,411	117,748	337	0.3%
Oct-05	122,468	122,587	119	0.1%
Nov-05	123,954	123,996	42	0.0%
Dec-05	126,353	126,666	313	0.2%
Jan-06	126,328	126,506	178	0.1%

*Reported Age 0-21

Special Education Enrollment (HC) (Age 0-2 and State Funded Age 3-21)



**K-12 Basic Education:
February 2006 Forecast Compared to June and November 2005 Forecasts**

Forecast Comparisons										Caseload Change		
		Actual	Jun 05	Nov 05	Feb 06	Change from Nov 05	% Change	Change from Jun 05	% Change	School Year	Annual Change	% Change
K-12 Basic Education ^{1,2}	SY2001-02	956,567								02-03	2,278	0.2%
	SY2002-03	958,846								03-04	3,449	0.4%
	SY2003-04	962,294								04-05	3,951	0.4%
	SY2004-05	966,246								05-06	6,559	0.7%
	SY2005-06		971,404	971,904	972,804	901	0.1%	1,401	0.1%	06-07	7,541	0.8%
	SY2006-07		974,583	977,999	980,345	2,346	0.2%	5,762	0.6%			
Bilingual Education	SY2001-02	62,522								02-03	3,737	6.0%
	SY2002-03	66,258								03-04	4,650	7.0%
	SY2003-04	70,908								04-05	4,347	6.1%
	SY2004-05	75,255								05-06	2,022	2.7%
	SY2005-06		79,878	77,463	77,277	-186	-0.2%	-2,601	-3.3%	06-07	4,397	5.7%
	SY2006-07		84,288	81,415	81,674	259	0.3%	-2,614	-3.1%			
Special Education ³	SY2001-02	118,519								02-03	754	0.6%
	SY2002-03	119,272								03-04	615	0.5%
	SY2003-04	119,887								04-05	798	0.7%
	SY2004-05	120,685								05-06	1,130	0.9%
	SY2005-06		122,848	121,859	121,815	-44	0.0%	-1,033	-0.8%	06-07	1,507	1.2%
	SY2006-07		123,800	123,132	123,322	191	0.2%	-478	-0.4%			

¹ Includes Running Start, Private and Home-based ancillary programs, UW Transition Program, and Summer School.

² November 2005 forecast for SY2006-07 was adjusted to include expected impact of Ft. Lewis Stryker brigade.

³ Forecasts are for the Age 0-2 program and state funded portion of Age 3-21 program. June 2005 and November 2005 forecasts were adjusted to show only 12.7% indexed state funded caseload.

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