

# Student Enrollment and School Characteristics in U.S. Public Schools

2020-21 Civil Rights Data Collection



U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights

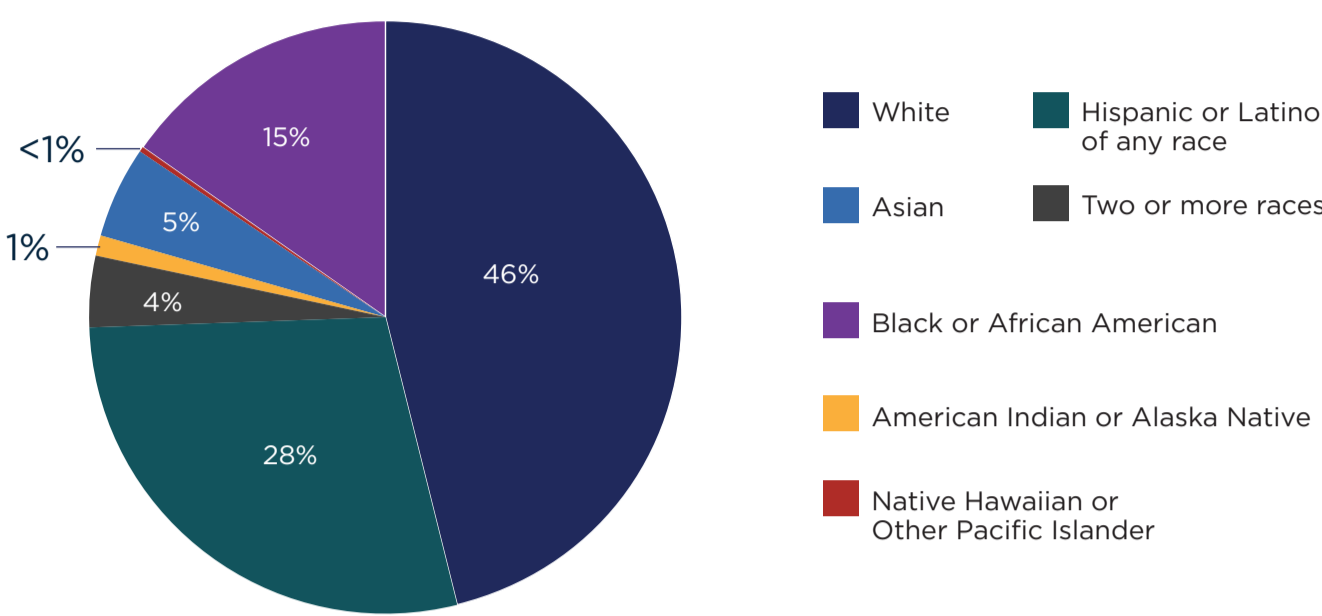
## About the Civil Rights Data Collection

The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) is a mandatory survey of all public schools and school districts in the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It gathers information about student access to educational programs, activities, staff, and school climate factors from public schools serving students in preschool through 12th grade. For more information about the CRDC or to download the full 2020-21 CRDC public-use data file, please visit <https://civilrightsdata.ed.gov>.

## Who's in the 2020-21 CRDC?

### Student Demographics

In the 2020-21 school year, about 49.2 million students were enrolled in public schools from preschool through 12th grade.



**Boys: 51%**  
**Girls: 49%**  
**English Learners: 11%**

**Students with Disabilities: 17%**  
Students with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): 14%  
Students with disabilities served only under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act: 3%

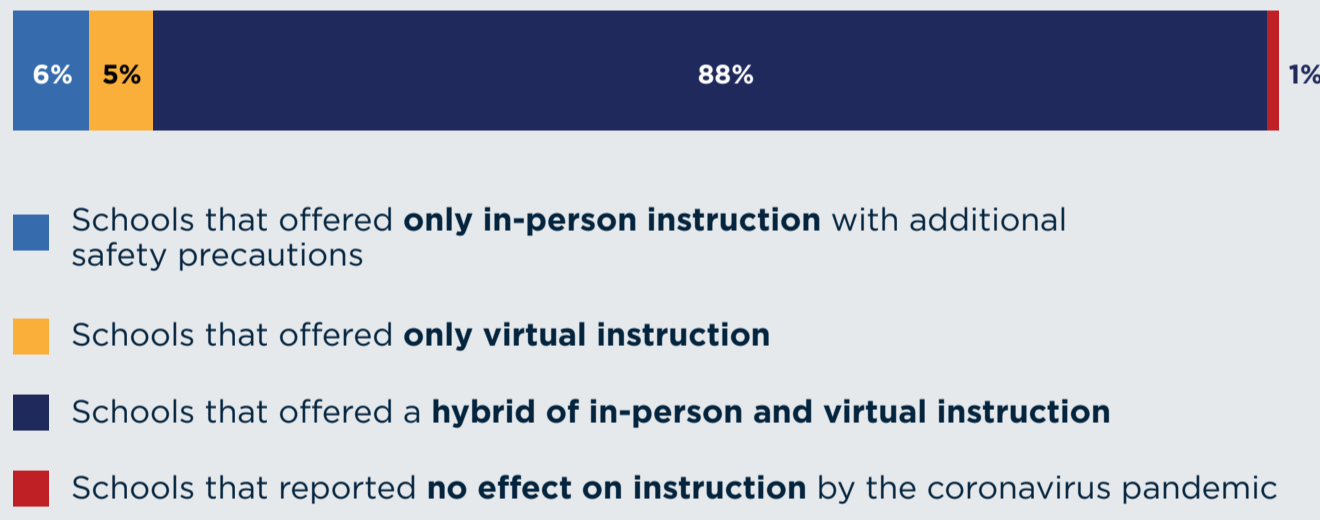
## School Characteristics & Staff

<b>97,575</b> Public Schools	<b>17,821</b> School Districts	<b>10,837</b> School Districts Offering Preschool
<b>579</b> Justice Facilities	<b>1,894</b> Special Education Schools*	<b>7,653</b> Charter Schools
<b>4,103</b> Magnet Schools	<b>2,847</b> Alternative Schools	<b>127,201</b> Full-time Equivalent Counselors
<b>3.4 Million</b> Full-time Equivalent Teachers	<b>59,075</b> Full-time Equivalent Law Enforcement Officers and Security Guards	

\*A special education school is a public elementary or secondary school that focuses primarily on meeting the educational needs of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

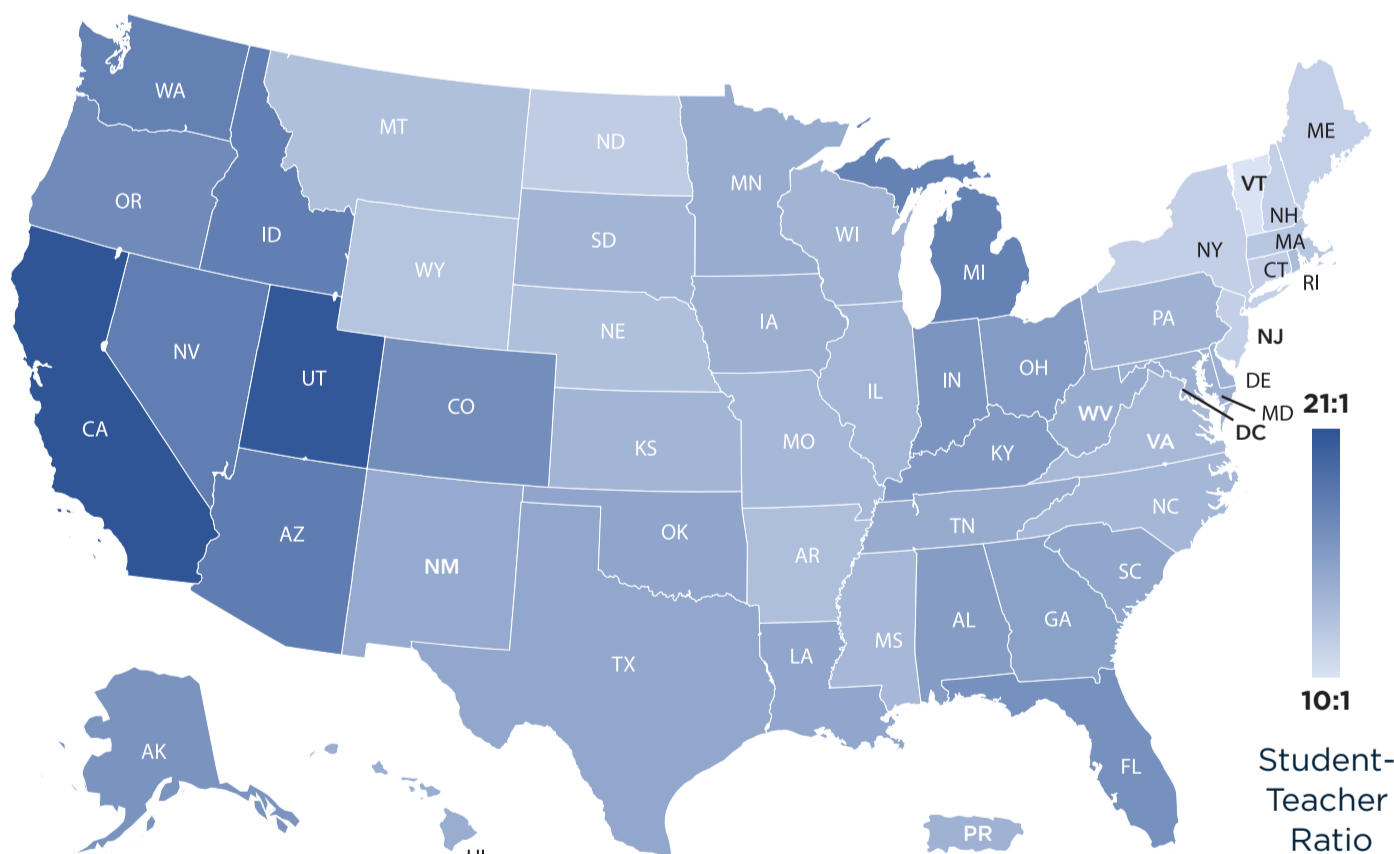
## Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic

During the 2020-21 school year, 88% of schools offered a hybrid of in-person and virtual instruction in response to the coronavirus pandemic, 6% of schools offered only in-person instruction, and 5% of schools offered virtual instruction only. Only 1% of schools reported that the pandemic had no effect on instruction.



## Student-Teacher Ratio by State

During the 2020-21 school year, the average student-teacher ratio was 15:1, meaning that there was 1 teacher for every 15 students. The state with the highest student-teacher ratio was California. The state with the lowest was Vermont.



**National Average: 15:1**  
**Highest Student-Teacher Ratio: California (21:1)**  
**Lowest Student-Teacher Ratio: Vermont (10:1)**

Note: The student-teacher ratios are averages based on an aggregation of school-level data. The student-teacher ratios at the school-level may vary (e.g., may be larger or smaller) within each state.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 2020-21 Civil Rights Data Collection, released November 2023, available at <https://civilrightsdata.ed.gov>.

The data presented in this report is from the 2020-21 CRDC privacy-protected, public-use data file, released November 2023.

! The calculated counts and percentages in this report may differ from those by other offices within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) due to differences in methodology, data sources, and survey population (or universe of schools and school districts that submit data). For additional information about the differences between the CRDC and other ED data, please see, [Building Bridges: Increasing the Power of the CRDC Through Data Linking With an ID Crosswalk](#).

% The percentages listed are rounded to the nearest whole number. Counts of 1,000,000 or greater are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand. Counts of 1,000 or greater are rounded to the nearest hundred. Counts of less than 1,000 are rounded to the nearest ten.

🖱️ This analysis excludes schools for which OCR determined potentially erroneous data had been reported. For more information on the 2020-21 CRDC data quality efforts, review the User's Manual available at <https://civilrightsdata.ed.gov>.

🌐 If you have difficulty understanding English, then you may ask OCR to provide language access services or resources, which may include oral technical assistance or written translation of a publicly available OCR document, free of charge, by contacting OCR at [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov).

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