



# Enrollment and Equity

Demographer Newsletter

SPRING 2021

Seattle Public Schools

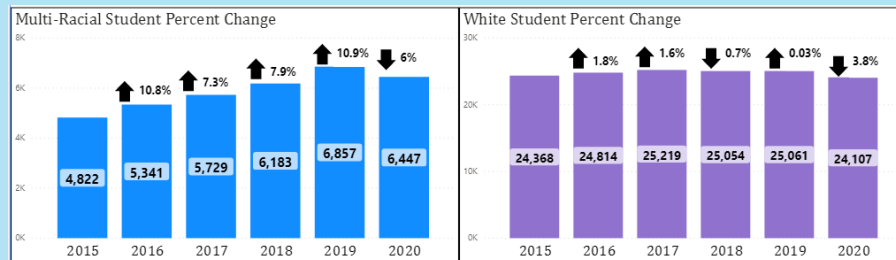
## Enrollment Changes and Demographic Trends

### K-5 In/Out Migration Trends

Year	In Migration	Out Migration	Difference
2016	1,921	-2,221	↓ -300
2017	1,886	-2,212	↓ -326
2018	1,656	-2,255	↓ -599
2019	1,758	-1,996	↓ -238
2020	1,269	-2,372	↓ -1,103

Grades K-5 saw the largest drop in enrollment as a result of COVID-19 and remote learning in the 2020-21 school year. Out migration from 2019 to 2020 far exceeded in migration, and at a much higher rate than previous years. Much of the out migration this school year resulted from a drop in Kindergarten enrollment, as many families with children expecting to enter Kindergarten this year have decided not to enroll. The economic downturn due to COVID-19 could also be causing families to move out of the district.

### Multi-Racial Student Enrollment Growth

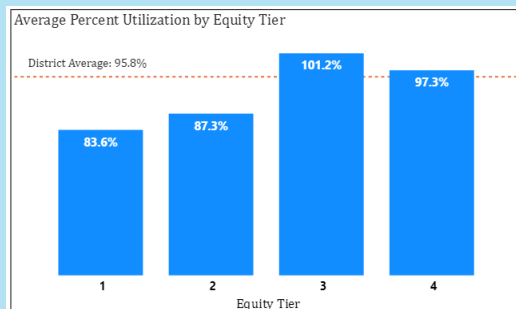


The biggest change in district demographics in the last five years occurred with a large increase in the number of multi-racial students enrolled. As shown in the charts above, multi-racial student enrollment has consistently grown while white student enrollment has remained relatively constant over the last five years. Multi-racial student enrollment has grown by 33.7% from 2015-2020, despite a 6% decrease in the 2020-21 school year. Conversely, white student enrollment only increased slightly by 2.8% from 2015-2020, with a 3.8% decrease in the 2020-21. However, most demographic groups have shown decreased enrollment this school year as a result of COVID-19.

**Note:** The Multi-Racial category was added in 2012.

## Equity Reports

### District School Utilization by Equity Tiers (2020-21)



*Equity tiers are used by the district to identify and prioritize schools that serve large numbers and/or high proportions of historically underserved students. Tier 1 schools are the highest equity on the scale (serve the largest proportion of these students) and Tier 4 schools are the lowest equity.*

*The utilization rates shown in the chart to the left were measured by dividing each schools' enrollment count by their buildings' [right-size capacity](#).*

As shown in the chart above, higher equity tier schools (Tiers 1 and 2) have below average utilization rates when compared to the district average utilization rate. However, lower equity tier schools (Tiers 3 and 4) have above average utilization rates. It is important to note that the average utilization for Tier 4 schools is skewed downward by option schools which have, on average, lower utilization rates than attendance area schools. Also, there are a few outlier option schools that are considered "small schools" and have extremely low utilization rates compared to other Tier 4 schools, further skewing the average. Despite remote learning in the 2020-21 school year, utilization is an important measure for evaluating which schools are over- or under-enrolled and how this might impact quality of education with an eventual return to in-person learning. By analyzing this data by equity tiers, Enrollment Planning can prioritize our students furthest from educational justice when making decisions that impact capacity and student assignment.

## Seattle Housing

### Affordable Housing Tracking

The Enrollment Planning team closely tracks both existing and new affordable housing developments within the district. This information is compiled for both assessing possible impacts on enrollment and for sharing with district families. Both the existing and the new affordable housing trackers can be found on the team's [Research and Partnerships webpage](#).

### New Housing:

**Hinoki**, Estimated Completion in 2021

***Impacted Schools: Bailey Gatzert Elementary, Washington Middle School, and Garfield High School***

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) is developing 130 units of affordable housing as part of the Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Project. This development is expected to include around 100 two or more bedroom units. More information on the development can be found on the [Hewitt Architecture website](#). More information on SHA's redevelopment project can be found on the [SHA website](#).

**Polaris at Rainier Beach**, Estimated Completion in 2021

***Impacted Schools: Emerson Elementary, Aki Kurose Middle School, and Rainier Beach High School***

Inland Washington is developing about 330 units of affordable housing on the border of the Dunlap and the Rainier Beach neighborhoods. This development is expected to include around 160 two or more bedroom units. More information on the development can be found in the [Design Review Proposal](#).

## News and Updates

### What's Happening in the District

- On January 27th, 2021, the Seattle School Board approved changes to the attendance area boundaries for Mercer Int'l Middle School, starting in the 2021-22 school year. The Kimball Elementary feeder area will attend Washington Middle School and the Hawthorne Elementary feeder area will attend Aki Kurose Middle School. More information can be found on the [Mercer Boundary Change webpage](#).
- In honor of Black History Month, the Office for African American Male Achievement posted some reflections and a number of educational resources. These resources can be found through the [Seattle Public Schools website](#).

### What's Happening Outside the District

- [BUILD 2021 works to unite, engage, and inspire local Black leaders](#)
- [City provides an update on more than 350 new shelter beds coming online, including opening of hotels, tiny house villages, and an enhanced shelter for women](#)

## Meet Our Staff



**Meet the Admissions Team's  
Enrollment Policy Analyst,  
HyeSu Han!**

"Hello SPS colleagues, parents, students, and community. It's a pleasure to introduce myself here. I have been working at the Admissions office for 6 months now. As the Enrollment Policy Analyst, I've been interpreting and updating our enrollment policy and procedures. Also, I've been managing international student enrollment. I would love to hear your experiences, as I want to make the enrollment process easy for everyone. Most of my professional experience related to student and community engagement comes from universities and international organizations in the U.S., Korea, and Nepal. I hold a Master's degree in Public Policy from Oregon State University. I am excited to serve our SPS communities and hope to connect with you all. ☺"

– HyeSu Han

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If there is a topic you would like to see covered in our next newsletter, please email the following address.

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