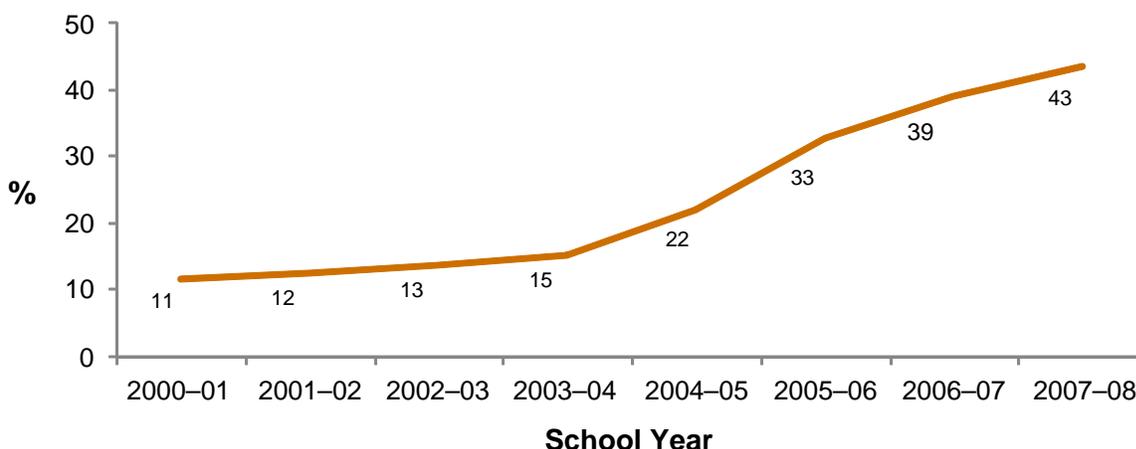


- **ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF U.S. KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN ATTEND FULL-DAY CLASSES.**
California has traditionally offered half-day kindergarten classes, lagging behind an increasing national trend toward full-day classes. Full-day and half-day classes are defined in terms of the number of instructional hours spent in the classroom, not the total number of hours at school. Thus lunchtime, for example, is not counted as instructional time. California's half-day classes offer up to four hours of instruction per day. Full-day classes offer more than four hours of instruction, with about 80% of full-day classes providing at least five hours of instruction per day.
- **THE PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA STUDENTS IN FULL-DAY CLASSES HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY.**
Only 11% of California public school kindergartners attended full-day classes in the 2000–01 school year. In 2007–08, nearly half (43%) of the state's kindergartners were attending full-day classes. This notable increase was due in part to rule changes that now allow districts to offer full-day classes without seeking waivers from the State Board of Education.
- **BLACKS, HISPANICS, AND ENGLISH LEARNERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ENROLLED IN FULL-DAY CLASSES.**
Full-day kindergarten enrollment is higher for blacks (49%) and Hispanics (49%) than for Asians (37%) and whites (36%). About 48% of kindergartners who are English learners are in full-day programs, compared to 40% of non-English-learners.
- **FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN IS MORE COMMON IN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS.**
In schools where more than half of the students are designated as economically disadvantaged, 52% of kindergartners are in full-day classes, compared to 43% across all schools. Schools offering full-day kindergarten have a higher economically disadvantaged student enrollment (60%) than schools offering half-day kindergarten (45%).
- **LOWER-PERFORMING SCHOOLS ARE MORE LIKELY TO OFFER FULL-DAY CLASSES.**
In schools with an Academic Performance Index (API) rank of 1 or 2 (i.e., well-below average), 53% of children are enrolled in full-day kindergarten classes. In schools with a 9 or 10 API rank (i.e., well-above average), 30% of children are enrolled in full-day classes.
- **THE AVAILABILITY OF FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN VARIES WIDELY ACROSS REGIONS OF THE STATE.**
In Los Angeles County, 74% of kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day classes, compared to only 18% of kindergarten students in the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties).
- **PARENTS AND EDUCATORS PERCEIVE AN ACADEMIC BENEFIT FROM FULL-DAY CLASSES, BUT RESEARCH SUPPORT IS LIMITED.**
In addition to the perceived academic advantage, full-day classes may provide practical benefits, such as free child care, which may be especially important for working parents. However, research to date on full-day kindergarten has provided little evidence of long-term academic benefits beyond kindergarten or first grade.



Percentage of California Public School Kindergarten Students in Full-Day Classes



Students in Full-Day Kindergarten by Region, 2007-08

	California	Bay Area	Inland Empire	Los Angeles County	Orange & San Diego Counties
% of students in full-day classes	43	39	18	74	37
Race/Ethnicity					
% Hispanic	49	40	19	79	33
% White	36	37	16	55	38
% Black	49	43	14	79	74
% Asian	37	34	13	66	39
% English learners	48	41	20	80	35
% in high-ED school	52	48	20	82	40
% in high API school (9 or 10)	30	30	15	48	29
% in low API school (1 or 2)	53	41	27	85	37

Source: PPIC survey of California public schools, 2007-2008.

Notes: (1) Percentages are based on a response from 73% of schools with kindergarten enrollment in the 2007-08 school year (N=4,106), which is generally representative of the state's kindergarten students.
 (2) High-ED = greater than 50% of school's students are economically disadvantaged.
 (3) API = Academic Performance Index (10=highest, 1=lowest)
 (4) Counties included in Bay Area region include Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma.

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