Welcome to Today’s WCET Webcast

JULY 13, 2023

The webcast will begin shortly.
There is no audio being broadcast at this time.
An archive of this webcast will be available on the WCET website next week.
Declining Enrollments: A Cliff or a Shift?

July 13, 2023
Welcome!

• Slides can be downloaded via the link in chat.
• Please use the Question box for questions and Chat for other information exchange.
• Follow the Twitter feed: #WCETWebcast.
• Slides, recording, and shared resources will be emailed to attendees.

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WICHE
Slowing Number of U.S. High School Graduates, then Decline (U.S. Total High School Graduates)
U.S. Births Per Thousand People

Source:
World Bank, via Federal Reserve
Bank of St. Louis
Projected Change in the Number of Public High School Graduates from Class of 2019 to Class of 2025
Projected Change in the Number of Public High School Graduates from Class of 2019 to Class of 2037
Diversification of Public High School Graduating Classes

2019:
- White: 51%
- Hispanic: 25%
- Black: 14%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 6%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 3%

2025:
- White: 46%
- Hispanic: 28%
- Black: 14%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 6%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 5%

2030:
- White: 44%
- Hispanic: 28%
- Black: 13%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 7%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 6%

2036:
- White: 43%
- Hispanic: 28%
- Black: 14%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 8%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 6%

Legend:
- White
- Hispanic
- Black
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Multiracial
Projected Change in the Number of Public High School Graduates from Class of 2019

- Two or More Races: +81%
- Asian/PI: +24%
- Hispanic: +9%
- Private HS Grads: +0%
- Black: -8%
- Public Schools Total: -6%
- AI/AN: -28%
- White: -19%
Demographic adjustments are expected to result in near- and medium-term enrollment increases, with 2025 as an inflection point before growth rates decrease.
Methodology for enrollment projection leverages historical data to forecast growth; weights are applied to variables based on projected impact and case probability.

Enrollment growth methodology

Enrollment × Growth factor = Projected enrollment (AY '23–'27)

Variable

1. Growth due to demographic adjustment
   - Near-term: ↑
   - Medium-term: ↑
   - Long-term: ↘

2. Growth due to job market
   - Near-term: ↓
   - Medium-term: ↑
   - Long-term: ↑

3. Growth due to student learning preferences
   - Near-term: →
   - Medium-term: →
   - Long-term: →

4. Growth due to federal tuition assistance
   - Near-term: →
   - Medium-term: →
   - Long-term: →

International enrollment growth is projected separately, leveraging historical growth rates.
Overall enrollment expected to remain largely flat over the next five years; cooling job market and demographic adjustment to have greatest impact

### Overview of postsecondary enrollment forecast

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<th>AY 2022-23</th>
<th>AY 2023-24</th>
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<td>• Low birth rate in 2008 contributes to lower growth</td>
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- **No new federal assistance** (i.e., consistent federal assistance) has a near negligible impact on enrollment
- **Shifting student learning preferences** has slight, but consistent positive impact on enrollment

With demographics as a known variable, monitoring the job market will most inform changes to projections

*Note: Projected enrollment for AY '22-'23 reflects Fall 2022 enrollment based on the NSC Spring '23 report, whereas projection for the other academic years reflect fall enrollment in that academic year based on model projections*

*Sources: CDC, FRED, NCES, NSC, Tyton Partners interviews and analysis*
Directionally, the signal power of a postsecondary degree to employers has held steady both over time and through recessionary events.
Questions from the Audience
Webcast Resources

Publications

• *Knocking at the College Door*
• *From Cliff to Escalator: Why the 5-year Higher Ed Enrollment Outlook is Less Dire Than Some May Suggest*
• *WCET Frontiers* blog series – coming soon!

Learn more about our organizations:

• *Every Learner Everywhere | WCET | WICHE*
• *Tyton Partners*
Additional Information and Resources

The webcast recording and additional resources will be available in the next week: wcet.wiche.edu/events/webcasts.
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