Home Education

in Pennsylvania

2005-06

Pennsylvania Department of Education 2007
Home Education

in Pennsylvania

2005-06

Compiled by Cheryl L. Wenger
Statistician

September 2007
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OVERVIEW

The 2005-06 total for home education students in Pennsylvania was 22,412. The total was comprised of 11,583 males and 10,829 females. There was a decrease of 875 students, or 3.8%, from the 2004-05 total of 23,287. It was the third year in a row that home education enrollments decreased and only the fourth year overall since the passage of Act 169 of 1988, which authorized parents, guardians and legal custodians to teach their children at home.

Data was collected from all of Pennsylvania’s 501 school districts for home education students aged five through 21. Bristol Borough, Iroquois, Johnsonburg Area and Midland Borough were the only school districts that reported no home education students in 2005-06.

The number of home education students decreased in 47 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties. Once again, Lancaster County led the state with 2,605 students, followed by York County with 1,606 (see figure 2, page 4). Students educated at home comprised an additional 1.1% of the state’s public, private and nonpublic enrollments in 2005-06 (see figure 5, page 8). There were 345 school districts (68.9%), up from 245, that allowed home education students to participate in curricular programs (see table 2, page 9).

Act 67 of 2005, amended the home education law of Pennsylvania. The new law allows home-educated students to participate in the school district activities that are subject to the provisions of Sec. 511 of the School Code. These activities include clubs, musical ensembles, athletics (such as varsity sports), and theatrical productions and may include other activities related to the school program. The school board may develop or amend current policies on these activities, but local policies may not conflict with Act 67 of 2005. The law allowed participation in activities to begin January 1, 2006.
## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

**2005-06**

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<tr>
<th>HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>Ages 5 through 11</td>
<td>9,950</td>
<td>44.4</td>
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<td>Ages 12 through 18+</td>
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### COUNTIES WITH THE MOST STUDENTS

- **Lancaster** 2,605 (11.6%)
- **York** 1,606 (7.2%)
- **Berks** 1,222 (5.5%)
- **Allegheny** 1,062 (4.7%)
- **Chester** 1,035 (4.6%)

### COUNTIES WITH THE FEWEST STUDENTS

- **Cameron** 10 (0.1%)
- **Elk** 15 (0.1%)
- **Forest** 17 (0.1%)
- **Sullivan** 21 (0.1%)
- **Fulton** 45 (0.2%)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL DISTRICTS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td><strong>OUTSIDE ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION</strong></td>
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Since the passage of Act 169 of 1988, the total number of home education students increased every year until 2001-02. In 2002-03, the number of home educated children reached its all-time high of 24,415. The 2005-06 total of 22,412 was a one-year decrease of 875 from the 2004-05 total of 23,287.
The distribution of home education students throughout the state corresponded closely to the population density centers. The highest concentration appeared in the south central and southeastern regions of Pennsylvania. Lancaster County led the state with a total of 2,605 students.

There were 40 counties with 250 or fewer students. Counties with between 251 and 500 students numbered 15. There were six counties with between 501 and 750 students, and six with more than 751 students.
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<td>340</td>
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<td>383</td>
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</table>

In 2005-06, the number of home education students decreased in all age categories except age 10. When home education statistics were first collected for the 1988-89 school year, nearly 70% of the students were age 11 and under. Collectively, the percentage of students in the older age groups (12 and over) has consistently grown and now makes up 55.6% of the 2005-06 home education enrollment.
The distribution of home education students showed that ages eight through 15 had the largest numbers, with age 10 having the most students. These ages accounted for 79.7% of the home education students. The Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, does not require a child to be registered for school until age eight. This accounted for the relatively low number of students registered in ages five, six and seven.
Lancaster, York and Berks counties contained the largest concentration of home education students in 2005-06. These three counties represented 24.2% of the 22,412 home education students. Trends for these three counties closely paralleled the overall rise in the number of home education students for the entire state. Lancaster County has had the largest number every year since the passage of Act 169 of 1988. More than 11% of Pennsylvania’s home educated students reside in Lancaster County.
There were 2,138,037 children enrolled in grades K-12 in Pennsylvania in 1996-97. In that year, home education enrollments numbered 17,861, or 0.8% of the total enrollment. By 2005-06, the number of home education students had risen to 22,412, which equaled 1.1% of the public, private and nonpublic enrollment of 2,111,589.
Act 67 of 2005, amended the home education law of Pennsylvania. The new law allows home-educated students to participate in the school district activities that are subject to the provisions of Sec. 511 of the School Code. These activities include clubs, musical ensembles, athletics (such as varsity sports), and theatrical productions and may include other activities related to the school program. The school board may develop or amend current policies on these activities, but local policies may not conflict with Act 67 of 2005. The law allowed participation in activities to begin January 1, 2006.
## APPENDIX A

### HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP

#### 2005-06

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>AGES 5-11</th>
<th>AGES 12-18+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>22,412</td>
<td>9,950</td>
<td>12,462</td>
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# APPENDIX A

## HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP

**2005-06**

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<th>County</th>
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<th>AGES 12-18+</th>
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## APPENDIX A

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## APPENDIX A

### HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP

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## APPENDIX A

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## APPENDIX A

### HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP

#### 2005-06

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## APPENDIX A

### HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP

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| Huntingdon Area SD   | 37    | 18        | 19          |
| Juniata Valley SD    | 30    | 15        | 15          |
| Mount Union Area SD  | 25    | 10        | 15          |
| Southern Huntingdon Co SD | 30  | 16        | 14          |

|                |       |           |             |
| **Indiana County** |       |           |             |
| Blairsville-Saltsburg SD | 24 | 13        | 11          |
| Homer-Center SD      | 18    | 6         | 12          |
| Indiana Area SD      | 35    | 19        | 16          |
| Marion Center Area SD | 24  | 12        | 12          |
| Penns Manor Area SD  | 15    | 7         | 8           |
| Purchase Line SD     | 4     | 2         | 2           |
| United SD            | 20    | 14        | 6           |

|                |       |           |             |
| **Jefferson County** |       |           |             |
| Brockway Area SD    | 14    | 4         | 10          |
| Brookville Area SD  | 16    | 7         | 9           |
| Punxsutawney Area SD | 24  | 10        | 14          |

|                |       |           |             |
| **Juniata County** |       |           |             |
| Juniata County SD  | 148   | 67        | 81          |

|                |       |           |             |
| **Juniata County SD** |       |           |             |
| Juniata County SD  | 148   | 67        | 81          |

|                |       |           |             |
| **Lackawanna County** |       |           |             |
| Abington Heights SD | 29    | 16        | 13          |
| Carbondale Area SD  | 8     | 3         | 5           |
| Dunmore SD          | 6     | 3         | 3           |
| Lakeland SD         | 14    | 7         | 7           |
| Mid Valley SD       | 8     | 0         | 8           |
| North Pocono SD     | 41    | 20        | 21          |
| Old Forge SD        | 6     | 2         | 4           |
| Riverside SD        | 2     | 0         | 2           |
| Scranton SD         | 38    | 21        | 17          |
| Valley View SD      | 4     | 0         | 4           |

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|                |       |           |             |
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| Cocalico SD        | 181   | 86        | 95          |
| Columbia Borough SD | 17    | 10        | 7           |
| Conestoga Valley SD | 160  | 71        | 89          |
| Donegal SD         | 104   | 55        | 49          |
| Eastern Lancaster Co SD | 301 | 166       | 135         |
| Elizabethtown Area SD | 201 | 81        | 120         |
| Ephrata Area SD    | 206   | 83        | 123         |
| Hempfield SD       | 141   | 77        | 64          |
| Lampeter-Strasburg SD | 106 | 48        | 58          |</p>
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## APPENDIX A

### HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP

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## APPENDIX A

**HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP**

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### APPENDIX A

**HOME EDUCATION STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AGE GROUP**

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<tr>
<td>York Suburban SD</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
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</table>
APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY

ACT 169 OF 1988 - Created a home education category designed to permit parents, guardians and legal custodians to conduct a home education program for their children.

CURRICULAR MATERIALS - Copies of the planned courses, textbooks and other materials appropriate to the student’s age and grade level that are available to be borrowed from the school district.

CURRICULAR PROGRAMS - A series of planned instruction that is coordinated and articulated and implemented in a manner designed to result in the achievement by all students of specific knowledge and skills and the application of this knowledge.

HOME EDUCATION AFFIDAVIT - A notarized document filed by a child’s parent, guardian or legal custodian. It contains the name of the home education supervisor, each child by name and age, as well as the address and phone number of the program site. The affidavit must contain an outline of proposed educational objectives, by subject area, for the subjects required by law. These subjects are to be offered in the English language. It will show evidence of the child’s immunization and that the child has received health services. The supervisor must provide assurance that the education program meets the requirements of Act 169 of 1988, as well as certify that all adults living in the home and other custodial adults have not been convicted of a criminal offense listed in Section III(E) of Act 34 of 1985 within the last five years preceding the date of submission.

HOME EDUCATION SUPERVISOR - The parent, guardian or legal custodian who has broad responsibility for the education of the child. This person must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent.

HOME EDUCATION EVALUATOR - A teacher or administrator who has at least two years of experience in grading subjects. This includes evaluating classwork, homework, quizzes, classwork-based tests and prepared tests related to classwork subject matter.
APPENDIX C

SOURCES

1. Home Education Report (PDE-4097)