

Arizona Education by the Numbers: 2005

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Introduction

There are many gaps in the available information about Arizona's public school system. As long as this information deficit persists it will be difficult to make data-based policy decisions in a number of key areas. For example, due to missing or contradictory data, Arizonans do not know:

1. Arizona's dropout rate.
2. The exact number of charter holders.
3. The number of charter schools.
4. The average size of charter schools.
5. The number of Arizona's public school students attending charter schools.
6. The ethnic composition of Arizona's charter school student population.
7. The number of English Language Learners (ELL) in Arizona's charter schools.
8. The number of charter school teachers.
9. The ethnic and gender composition and years of experience of charter school teachers.
10. The number of charter school administrators.

Organization

In this report, data about Arizona's public schools are presented in two categories:

1. Information Associated with Non-Charter Districts and District Schools:

Non-Charter District Characteristics

District School Characteristics

District School Student Characteristics

District School Teacher Characteristics

District School Administrators by Administrative Category

2. Information Associated with Charter Holders and Charter Schools:

Charter Holder School Characteristics

Charter School Characteristics

Charter School Student Characteristics

Charter School Teacher Characteristics

Charter School Administrators by Administrative Category

Where possible, data from 2002-2003 have been included, and differences between 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 noted. A narrative explaining why the data can not be reported replaces data in some of the tables that follow.

Information on Non-Charter Districts and District Schools

Non-Charter District Characteristics

Table 1: Total Non-Charter School Districts

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
Elementary School Districts	97	108	11
Secondary Districts	15	15	None
Unified School Districts	95	95	None
Accommodation School Districts	7	16	9
<i>Total Districts</i>	214	234	20

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

Table 2: Non-Charter School Districts by Size

Number of Students	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
Districts Serving less than 100	30	38	8
Districts Serving 100 to 500	49	46	3
Districts Serving 501 to 1,000	20	22	2
Districts Serving 1,001 to 2,500	46	45	1
Districts Serving 2,501 to 5,000	27	32	5
Districts Serving 5,001 to 10,000	21	21	None
Districts Serving 10,001 or more	24	26	2
<i>Total Districts with Enrollment Data</i>	217*	230**	13

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

*ADE reported 214 in the state summary of number and type of public schools, but AEPI counted 217 in its enrollment data collected in 2002-2003.

**The following districts did not report enrollment data: Greenlee County Accommodation District, Kino Academy accommodation District, Maricopa County Regional Special Services District, and Pima County Special Education Program District

Table 3: Total Non-Charter School Districts: Average School Size by District Size

Number of Students	2003-04
Districts Serving less than 100	34.5
Districts Serving 100 to 500	165.6
Districts Serving 501 to 1,000	267.8
Districts Serving 1,001 to 2,500	310.9
Districts Serving 2,501 to 5,000	492.3
Districts Serving 5,001 to 10,000	630.3
Districts Serving 10,001 or more	778.4
<i>Average School Size District Schools</i>	592.4

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

District School Characteristics

Table 4: Number of District Schools

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference	% Change
District Schools	1,512	1,576	64	4.23%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

Table 5: Number of District Schools by Type

School Type	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
Elementary	1,138	1,180	42
Secondary	271	285	14
Combined	78	62	-16
Accommodation	25	49	24
Total District Schools	1,512	1576	64

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

Table 6: Composition of District Schools by Type

School Type	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
Elementary	75.26%	74.87%	-0.39%
Secondary	17.92%	18.08%	0.16%
Combined	5.16%	3.93%	-1.23%
Accommodation	1.65%	3.11%	-1.46%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

District School Student Characteristics

Table 7: Total District School Enrollment*

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference	% Change
District Schools	906,403	930,343	23,940	2.64%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

*District enrollment figures include enrollment of 31 district sponsored charter schools.¹

Table 8: Number of District School Students by Ethnicity*

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
White (non-Hispanic)	452,628	453,610	982
Native American **	58,621	61,899	3,278
Hispanic	333,646	350,655	17,009
Black (non-Hispanic)	41,636	43,405	1,769
Pacific Islander or Asian	19,872	20,774	902
Total District School Students	906,403	930,343	23,940

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

*District enrollment figures include enrollment of 31 district sponsored charter schools.²

**These numbers are reported by ADE as “American Indian or Alaskan Native.”

Table 9: Composition of District School Student Enrollment by Ethnicity

	2002-03	2003-04	% Change
White (non-Hispanic)	49.94%	48.76%	-1.18%
Native American*	6.47%	6.65%	0.18%
Hispanic	36.81%	37.69%	0.88%
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.59%	4.66%	0.07%
Pacific Islander or Asian	2.19%	2.23%	0.04%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

*These numbers are reported by ADE as “American Indian or Alaskan Native.”

Table 10: District School Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunches

	2003-04
Total District School Students	930,343
Total District School Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunches	412,787
<i>Percentage of Total District School Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunches</i>	44.37%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004, December). *Free & reduced price lunches data counts*. Research & Policy Division

Table 11: District School Students Classified as English Language Learners (ELL)

	2003-04
Total District School Students	930,343
Total District School ELL Students	148,527
<i>Percentage of Total District School ELL Students</i>	15.96%

Sources: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>
 Arizona Department of Education. (2004, February). *ELL student counts data*. English Acquisition Services Unit.

Table 12: District School Students Classified as Students with Disabilities

	2002-03*
Total District School Students	930,343
Total District School Students with Disabilities	106,261 ³
<i>Percentage of Total District School Students who have Disabilities</i>	11.42%

Sources: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>
 Arizona Department of Education. (2004, August & October). *Disability data counts*. Exceptional Student Services Division.

* The Disability Data Counts report indicates numbers from 2003, though the counts were updated in August and October of 2004.

Table 13: District School Dropout Rate – Grades 7–12

	2003-04
White (non-Hispanic)	<p>ADE included the following disclaimer with the <i>Dropout Rate Statistics for 2003-2004</i>: “These results may not be comparable to prior year’s dropout rate studies as a majority of SAIS data were [<i>sic</i>] excluded from these calculations due to the inability to verify accuracy.”⁴</p> <p>ADE’s Student Accountability Information System (SAIS) is an online tracking system. Given the magnitude of excluded data, the figures provided by ADE cannot be said to accurately reflect dropout rates in Arizona schools.</p>
Native American	
Hispanic	
Black (non-Hispanic)	
Pacific Islander or Asian	
<i>Percentage of Total District School Students who Dropped Out</i>	

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2003). *Dropout rate study report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/>

District School Teacher Characteristics

Table 14: Number of District School Teachers by Ethnicity

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
White (non-Hispanic)	41,384	42,861	1,477
Native American	1,075	1,087	12
Hispanic	5,177	5,404	227
Black (non-Hispanic)	889	908	19
Pacific Islander or Asian	472	487	15
<i>Total District School Teacher Population</i>	48,997	50,747*	1,750

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, positions by gender and ethnicity report*.

*The *Positions by Ethnicity and Gender Report* (SDER 31) reports teachers by position and it is possible that some teachers have been counted twice.⁵

Table 15: Composition of District School Teacher Population by Ethnicity

	2002-03	2003-04	% Change
White (non-Hispanic)	84.46%	84.46%	None
Native American	2.19%	2.14%	-0.05%
Hispanic	10.57%	10.64%	0.07%
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.81%	1.79%	-0.02%
Pacific Islander or Asian	0.96%	0.96%	None

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, positions by gender and ethnicity report.*

Table 16: Composition of District School Teacher Population by Gender

	Gender	Elementary Schools	%	Secondary Schools	%	Combined Schools	%	Total	Total %
	2002-03	Male	5,506	16.29	5,822	45.30	719	33.13	12,047
Female		28,296	83.71	7,030	54.70	1,451	66.87	36,777	75.33
Total		33,802		12,852		2,170		48,824	
2003-04	Male	5,406	15.88	5,853	45.01	803	33.51	12,062	24.40
	Female	28,638	84.12	7,150	54.99	1,593	66.49	37,381	75.60
	Total	34,044		13,003		2,396		49,443*	
Difference	Gender	Elementary Schools	% Change	Secondary Schools	% Change	Combined Schools	% Change	Total Change	Total % Change
	Male	-100	-0.49	31	-0.29	84	0.38	15	0.12
	Female	342	0.41	120	0.29	142	-0.38	604	1.64
	Total	242		151		226		619	

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, teacher by gender and grade level report.*

* The *Teachers by Grade Level/Gender Report (SDER 77)* should reflect the most accurate information.⁶

Table 17: Number of District School Teachers by Years of Experience

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
1	3,945	3,348	-597
2	3,317	3,231	-86
3	3,162	3,029	-133
4	2,970	3,050	80
5	2,721	2,734	13
6	2,365	2,748	383
7	2,301	2,265	-36
8	2,066	2,131	65
9	2,026	1,943	-83
10	1,685	1,898	213
11	1,519	1,631	112
12	1,313	1,485	172
13+	15,418	15,175	-243
Total	44,628	44,670*	42

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, teacher experience index (TEI) detail.*

*The Teacher Experience Index (TEI) (SDER 96) does not include any teachers that are not paid through Maintenance and Organization. Teachers who are paid through federal grants and Chapter 1 funds, for example, are excluded.⁷

Table 18: Composition of District School Teachers by Years of Experience

	Percent of Teaching Core Represented 2002-03	Percent of Teaching Core Represented 2003-04	Change in Percent of Teaching Core Represented
1	8.84%	7.49%	-1.35%
2	7.43%	7.23%	-0.20%
3	7.09%	6.78%	-0.31%
4	6.25%	6.82%	0.57%
5	6.10%	6.12%	0.02%
6	5.30%	6.15%	0.85%
7	5.16%	5.07%	-0.09%
8	4.63%	4.77%	0.14%
9	4.54%	4.35%	-0.19%
10	3.78%	4.25%	0.47%
11	3.40%	3.65%	0.15%
12	2.94%	3.32%	0.38%
13+	34.55%	33.97%	-0.58%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, teacher experience index detail.*

District School Administrators

Table 19: Number of District School Administrators by Administrative Category

	2002-03	2003-04	Difference
Superintendent	190	190	0
Assistant Superintendent	114	116	2
Principal	1,189	1,270	81
Assistant Principal	744	723	-21
<i>Total Administrative Positions</i>	2,237	2,299	62

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, positions by gender and ethnicity.*

Table 20: Composition of District School Administration by Administrative Category

	2002-03	2003-04	% Change
Superintendent	8.49%	8.26%	-0.23%
Assistant Superintendent	5.10%	5.04%	-0.06%
Principal	53.15%	55.24%	2.09%
Assistant Principal	33.26%	31.44%	-1.82%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, positions by gender and ethnicity.*

Information on Arizona's Charter Schools

Charter Holder Characteristics

Table 21: Total Charter Holders

	2003-04
Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (ASBCS) Sponsored Charter Holders	Arizona State Board of Charter Schools (ASBCS) indicated that there are 311 charter holders sponsored solely by ASBCS.
Arizona State Board of Education Sponsored Charter Holders (SBE)	ASBCS indicated that there are 36 charter holders sponsored by solely SBE.
District Sponsored Charter holders	According to ASBCS there are 14 district sponsored charter holders. The sponsoring district serves as the oversight authority for these charter holders and are, therefore, not included in charter school data provided by ASBCS. ⁸
Total Charters Holders with Enrollment Data	338
Total Charter Holders	The total number of Charter holders reported by ADE and ASBCS are conflicting. AEPI could account for 338 charter holders with enrollment data. ⁹

Source: Arizona Department of Education (2004): *Superintendent's Annual Report (SAR)*. Access at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/> and the *FY2005 Number of District and Charter Schools Report*¹⁰ and the *Charter Holder List*.¹¹

Table 22: Charter Holders by Size

2003-04
The Arizona Department of Education's 2004 <i>Superintendent's Annual Report</i> does not provide enrollment data for at least 12 SBE and ASBCS sponsored charter holders. Given that the exact number of charter holders provided by ADE is uncertain, it is not possible to report accurate information for charter holders by size.

Table 23: Charter Holders by Size: Average School Size 2003-04

Average School Size
Given that enrollment data are missing for at least 12 SBE and ASBCS charter holders, it is not possible to calculate average charter school size.

Charter School Characteristics

Table 24: Total Charter Schools

	2003-04
Arizona State Board For Charter Schools (ASBCS) Sponsored Charter Schools	ASBCS reported 406 ASBCS sponsored sites. However, as of April 25, 2005, ASBCS was unable to provide a list of charter holders sponsored by ASBCS and the number of schools for which each holder was responsible. In some instances ADE has not changed the identifier used to distinguish between ASBCS and SBE sponsored sites, which makes such a list less reliable. ¹²
Arizona State Board of Education Sponsored Charter Schools (SBE)	ASBCS reported 62 SBE sponsored sites. However, as of April 25, 2005, ASBCS was unable to provide a list of charter holders sponsored by SBE and the number of schools for which each holder was responsible. In some instances ADE has not changed the identifier used to distinguish between ASBCS and SBE sponsored sites, which makes such a list less reliable. ¹³
District Sponsored Charter Schools	ASBCS reported 31 charter schools sponsored by districts. These data are not included in charter school information. ¹⁴
Total Charters Schools	ASBCS reports a total of 500 charter school sites for 2003-2004, ¹⁵ while ADE indicates there are 694 sites for this same year. ¹⁶ AEPI was able to account for 442 school sites, though at least 12 of these charter holders have no enrollment data (it is unclear how many sites for which these 12 holders may be responsible). The 31 district sponsored schools are not included in this number. Given the discrepancies in these numbers, it is not possible to report accurate information on the number of charter schools.

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Access at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/>

Table 25: Number of Total Charter Schools by Type

2003-04
It is not possible to report the number of elementary, high school, or combined sites. The information provided by ADE in this regard is incorrect ¹⁷ and it is not gathered by any other entity.

Table 26: Composition of Total Charter Schools by Type

2003-04
It is not possible to report the composition of elementary, high school, or combined sites. The information provided by ADE in this regard is incorrect ¹⁸ and it is not gathered by any other entity.

Charter School Student Characteristics

Table 27: Charter School Enrollment

	2003-04
Charter Schools	ADE reported a total enrollment figure of 81,725 while AEPI was able to account for a total enrollment figure of 77,904. ¹⁹ The difference in these figures may be attributed to the lack of enrollment data for the 12 holders sponsored by SBE or ASBCS. Given the lack of information, it is not possible to report total charter enrollment.

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Superintendent's annual report*. Access at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Reports/> and <http://www.ade.state.az.us/Districts/ReportsData/ReportsData.asp>

Table 28: Number of Charter School Students by Ethnicity

2003-04
It is not possible to report student ethnicity numbers because accurate enrollment data are not available.

Table 29: Composition of Charter School Student Population by Ethnicity

2003-04
It is not possible to report student ethnicity composition because accurate enrollment data are not available.

Table 30: Charter School Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunches

	2003-04
Total Charter Schools Participating in Free or Reduced Lunch Program	132*
Total Charter School Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunches	26,987
<i>Percentage of Total Charter School Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunches</i>	66.36%

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Free and reduced percentage reports*. Available at: <http://www.ade.state.az.us/health-safety/cnp/frpercentages/>

* Figures only reflect the charter schools that have chosen to participate in the National School Lunch program. These figures cannot be generalized across charter schools statewide, as they do not include all charter school students who may be eligible for the program.²⁰

Table 31: Charter School Students Classified as English Language Learners (ELL)

2003-04	
It is not possible to report the number of English Language Learners in charter schools because accurate enrollment data are not available.	

Table 32: Charter School Students Classified as Students with Disabilities

	2002-03*
Total Charter School Students	Because charter school enrollment data are not accurate, statistics cannot be accurately calculated.
Total Charter School Students with Disabilities	The 6,625 charter school students with disabilities are based on the December 2003 reporting period and represent a verified count reported to the U.S. Department of Education annually. ²¹

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Exceptional student services: Data management*. Available at: <http://www.ade.state.az.us/ess/DataManagement/DmHome.asp>

* The *Disability Data Counts* report provided by ADE reports numbers from 2003, though ADE also indicates that the counts were updated in August and October of 2004.

Table 33: Charter School Dropout Rate – Grades 7–12

2003-04
ADE included the following disclaimer with the <i>Dropout Rate Statistics for 2003-2004</i> : “These results may not be comparable to prior year’s dropout rate studies as a majority of SAIS data were [<i>sic</i>] excluded from these calculations due to the inability to verify accuracy.” ²²
ADE’s Student Accountability Information System (SAIS) is an online tracking system. Given the magnitude of excluded data, the figures provided by ADE cannot be said to accurately reflect dropout rates in Arizona schools.

Source: Arizona Department of Education (2003). *Dropout rate study report*. Available at: <http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/>

Charter School Teacher Characteristics

Table 34: Number of Charter School Teachers by Ethnicity

2003-04

Charter schools are not required to report this information.

Table 35: Composition of Charter School Teachers by Ethnicity

2003-04

Charter schools are not required to report this information.

Table 36: Charter School Teacher Gender

2003-04

Charter schools are not required to report this information

Table 37: Number of Charter School Teachers by Years of Experience

2003-04

Charter schools are not required to report this information

Table 38: Composition of Charter School Teachers by Years of Experience

2003-04

Charter schools are not required to report this information

Charter School Administrators

Table 39: Number of Charter School Administrators by Administrative Category

2003-04
Charter schools are not required to report this information.

Table 40: Composition Charter School Administration by Administrative Category

2003-04
Charter schools are not required to report this information.

Data Limitations

Information on Non-Charter District Schools

Non-charter District Characteristics (Tables 1–3)

Four districts (Greenlee County Accommodation District, Kino Academy Accommodation District, Maricopa County Regional Special Services District, and Pima County Special Education District) did not report enrollment data. Although these data are missing, the data available are sufficient to provide a substantially accurate picture of district schools average size.

District School Student Characteristics (7–13)

With regard to Student Dropout Rates, ADE included the following disclaimer with the *Dropout Rate Statistics for 2003-2004*:

These results may not be comparable to prior year's dropout rate studies as a majority of SAIS data were [*sic*] excluded from these calculations due to the inability to verify accuracy.²³

Dropout Rates in Arizona are calculated for grades 7-12 and are based on *Year End Enrollment Application* and the *Student Accountability Information System (SAIS)*, which is an online tracking system. It is important to note that Year End Enrollment Applications are not mandatory, and the majority of information taken from SAIS was omitted. Therefore, only those schools that submitted the Year End Enrollment information are reflected in the data. Given the magnitude of excluded data, the figures provided by ADE cannot be said to accurately reflect dropout rates in Arizona schools.

District Teacher Characteristics (Tables 14–18)

The data for all three of these tables were taken from the ADE annual *School District Employee Report (SDER)*. ADE reports three different figures for the total number of public school teachers: Table 21 reports 50,747 public school teachers in Arizona,²⁴ Table 22 reports 49,443,²⁵ and Table 23 reports 44,670.²⁶ ADE provided the following explanation for the discrepancies between the reports:

The Positions by Ethnicity and Gender report (SDER 31) reports teachers by position and it is possible that some teachers have been counted twice (Table 14).

The Teacher Experience Index (TEI) (SDER 96) does not include any teachers that are not paid through *Maintenance and Organization*, therefore some teachers will not be reflected in the report. This would include any teachers who are paid through federal grants and Chapter 1 funds (Table 16).

The Teachers by Grade Level/Gender Report (SDER 77) should reflect the most accurate information (Table 17).²⁷

Information on Arizona's Charter Schools

Charter Holder Characteristics (Tables 21–23)

In the *FY 2003-2004 State Summary Number and Type of Public Schools*, ADE reports 364 charter holders while ACBCS reports 347 charter holders, and 14 charter holders sponsored by 7 schools districts.²⁸ AEPI was only able to account for 338 charter holders with enrollment data.²⁹ In the *Charter Holder Detail Report*, ADE provided the names and some enrollment figures for 352 charter holders. Eight of the 14 district sponsored charter holders were included in this list, though these schools are the responsibility of the districts sponsoring them. Given the discrepancies in these data, the number of charter holders cannot be accurately calculated.

Charter School Characteristics (Tables 24–26)

Disparities in the number of charter schools listed between ADE's Charter Schools List, the *FY2005 Number of District and Charter Schools Report*, and the *Charter Holder Detail Report* indicates that the numbers reported in the *2003-2004 Superintendent Annual Report (SAR)* are not accurate.³⁰ In addition, the total number of charter schools reported by ADE in the *2003-04 SAR*, does not match the total number of charter schools listed on the Charter School List. The Charter School List contains the following disclaimer to explain the discrepancy:

Disclaimer: The following information is self reported and is not an exhaustive list. If the school does not have a Mission Statement in the database it will not show up in the search.³¹

ASBCS reports a total of 468 charter school sites (not including district sponsored charter schools) for 2003-2004.³² ADE, in the *FY 2003-2004 State Summary of Number and Type of Public Schools*, indicates there are 694 sites for this same year.³³ AEPI was able to account for 442 schools, again not including district sponsored charter schools.³⁴ Given the discrepancies in the numbers available, it is not possible to accurately calculate the number of charter schools.

Charter School Student Characteristics (Tables 27–33)

ADE reported a total enrollment figure of 81,725 while AEPI was able to account for a total enrollment figure of 77,904.³⁵ The difference in these figures may be attributed to the lack of enrollment data for the district sponsored charter holders, and the 12 holders sponsored by SBE or ASBCS. The *2004 Superintendent's Annual Report* is a compilation of reports from fiscal year 2004 that includes enrollment data collected on October 1, 2003 for the 2003-2004 school year. This reporting period limits the amount of information that can be gathered because subsequent changes in school composition, charter holder status, school operations, or the addition of new charter schools cannot be captured or compared to data from other sources. Given the lack of information, total charter enrollment cannot be accurately calculated.

Due to the lack of total enrollment figures for charter schools provided by ADE, it is not possible to provide accurate student ethnicity statistics.

The 26,987 students eligible for free, reduced or paid lunches represent only those students that have been verified by the 132 charter schools participating in the program and are separate figures from enrollment data collected by ADE. These figures are submitted to ADE and reported by school for reimbursement by the federal government.

Charter enrollment data are not complete; therefore, the number of English Language Learners in charter schools could not be accurately calculated.

The 6,625 charter school students identified as students with disabilities represent the student count on December 1 used to determine eligibility for federal entitlement dollars and additional state funding. The count requires reporting of all students receiving special education services on December 1 of the current school year and is a separate accounting from enrollment data collected by ADE.

With regard to dropout rates for charter schools, this information is also provided as an aggregate figure reflecting dropout rates for all of Arizona's public schools. Given the inability to report enrollment figures for charter schools, it is not possible to report dropout information on these schools either.

More importantly, as indicated in the District Schools Student Characteristics section, ADE included the following disclaimer with the *Dropout Rate Statistics for 2003-2004*: “These results may not be comparable to prior year’s dropout rate studies as a majority of SAIS data were [sic] excluded from these calculations due to the inability to verify accuracy.”³⁶

Dropout Rates in Arizona are calculated for grades 7-12 and are based on *Year End Enrollment Application* and the *Student Accountability Information System (SAIS)*, which is an online tracking system. It is important to note that Year End Enrollment Applications are not mandatory, and the majority of information taken from SAIS was omitted. Therefore, only those schools that submitted the Year End Enrollment information are reflected in the data. Given the magnitude of excluded data, the figures provided by ADE cannot be said to accurately reflect dropout rates in general for Arizona schools.

Charter School Teacher Characteristics (Tables 34–38)

There are no available data on charter school teachers. Charter schools are not required provide this information.

Charter School Administrator Characteristics (Tables 39–40)

There are no available data on charter school administrators. Charter schools are not required to provide such information.

Notes & References

¹ L. Damanti, Management Analyst, ADE (Personal communication, May 5, 2005).

² L. Damanti, Management Analyst, ADE (Personal communication, May 5, 2005).

³ This number is derived by subtracting the 6,625 charter school students classified as disabled from the total number of public school students (charter and district students) classified as disabled as reported by ADE. The number 6,625 was obtained from L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools, April 29, 2005.

⁴ Melton, D. (March 2005). *Dropout rate report 2003-2004*. Phoenix, AZ: Research & Evaluation Section, Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved March 22, 2005, from http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/Complete_2003-2004_Dropout_Report.pdf

⁵ Explanation regarding the difference on total teacher population provided in each of the three reports was obtained from:

S. Willis, ADE Program Project Specialist, Transportation/SDER (Personal communication, telephone, April 13, 2005).

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⁸ The seven districts sponsor 14 charter holders. The charter holders run a total of 31 schools. These districts are:

Benson Unified District, Casa Grande Union High School District, Coolidge Unified District, Higley Unified District, Payson Unified District, Peach Springs Unified District, and Vail Unified District.

Some charters are governed in the same manner as the other schools in a district, while others are not. Prior to legislative change, districts were allowed to charter schools anywhere in Arizona, which made oversight more difficult because of the geographic distance between district operations and some charter schools. The legislative change (*ARS §15-183.C.1.d*) permitted districts to sponsor charter schools only if the charter school existed within that district's geographic boundaries, beginning July 1, 2000.

Information on district schools received from:

L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Personal communication, April 15 and 26, 2005).

⁹ ADE and ASBCS reports each provide a different number of charter holders:

FY2005 number of district and charter schools report, provided by R. Arroyo, Budget Analyst, School Finance, ADE (Personal communication, email, March 1, 2005).

Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *FY 2003-2004 state summary of number and type of public schools*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P12StateSumNumTypePublicSchls.pdf>

Charter Holder list provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

¹⁰ *FY2005 number of district and charter schools report*, provided by R. Arroyo, Budget Analyst, School Finance, ADE (Personal communication, email, March 1, 2005).

¹¹ Charter Holder list provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

¹² Information and numbers provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

¹³ Information and numbers provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

¹⁴ Information on district schools provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

¹⁵ Numbers provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

¹⁶ Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *FY 2003-2004 state summary of number and type of public schools*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P12StateSumNumTypePublicSchls.pdf>

¹⁷ Summary info indicates a number of total charter schools that cannot be verified in any other report. The number is more than 200 higher than AEPI could account for and 194 higher than reported by ASBCS. See:

Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *FY 2003-2004 state summary of number and type of public schools*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P12StateSumNumTypePublicSchls.pdf>

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¹⁹ Enrollment information was calculated by AEPI using following reports:

Arizona Department of Education. (2004) *Charter holder detail report*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/>

FY 2005 number of district and charter schools report, provided by R. Arroyo, Budget Analyst, School Finance, ADE (Personal communication, email, March 1, 2005).

Arizona Department of Education. (2005). *Information and financial services, student counts reports and data*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from: <http://www.ade.state.az.us/Districts/ReportsData/ReportsData.asp>

²⁰ Percentages are based on the 2004-2005 school year's October claims for reimbursement. Health & Nutrition Services Section, Arizona Department of Education (2004).

Provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Personal communication, email, April 15, 2005).

²¹ The student count on December 1 is used to determine eligibility for Federal Part B IDEA entitlement dollars distributed to states and allocated to districts. The count requires reporting of all students receiving special education services on December 1 of the current school year. This count is also used to calculate add-on weights for state funding.

²² Melton, D. (2005, March). *Dropout rate report 2003-2004*. Phoenix, AZ: Research & Evaluation Section, Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved March 22, 2005, from http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/Complete_2003-2004_Dropout_Report.pdf

²³ Melton, D. (March 2005). *Dropout rate report 2003-2004*. Phoenix, AZ: Research & Evaluation Section, Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved March 22, 2005, from http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/Complete_2003-2004_Dropout_Report.pdf

²⁴ Arizona State Department of Education. (2004). *School district employee report, school year 2003-2004, positions by gender and ethnicity report*. Phoenix, AZ: Author.

²⁵ Arizona State Department of Education. (2004). *School District Employee Report, school year 2003-2004, teacher by gender and grade level report*. Phoenix, AZ: Author.

²⁶ Arizona State Department of Education. (2004). *School District Employee Report, school year 2003-2004, teacher experience index (TEI) detail*. Phoenix, AZ: Author.

²⁷ Explanation of the differences in total teacher population reported in each of the three reports was obtained from:

S. Willis, ADE Program Project Specialist, Transportation/SDER (Personal communication, telephone, April 13, 2005).

The exact magnitude of the difference in teacher totals is unknown, though in light of the conversation, it is likely that it is approximately 100.

²⁸ Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *FY 2003-2004 state summary of number and type of public schools*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P12StateSumNumTypePublicSchls.pdf>

Number of charter holders and district sponsored charter holders provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 13, 2005).

²⁹ Enrollment data was compiled from the following sources:

Arizona Department of Education. (2004) *Charter holder detail report*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/>

FY 2005 number of district and charter schools report, provided by R. Arroyo, Budget Analyst, School Finance, ADE (Personal communication, email, March 1, 2005).

Charter Holder list provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

Arizona Department of Education. (2005). *Information and financial services, student counts reports and data*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/Districts/ReportsData/ReportsData.asp>

³⁰ For access to ADE's Charter School List, see:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/charterschools/search/SiteList.asp>

For the Charter Holder Detail Report, see:

Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Charter holder detail report*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/>

Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *FY 2003-2004 state summary of number and type of public schools*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from: <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P12StateSumNumTypePublicSchls.pdf>

³¹ For information on the disclaimer provided by ADE see: <http://www.ade.az.gov/charterschools/search/>

³² Numbers provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Personal communication, April 13, 2005).

³³ Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *FY 2003-2004 state summary of number and type of public schools*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P12StateSumNumTypePublicSchls.pdf>

³⁴ ADE reports enrollment data by charter holder, providing the number of sites that can be attributed to each holder. Information on charter holders was compiled from ASBCS and ADE. ASBCS was unable to provide a list of charter holders with the number of sites each holder is responsible for (Personal communication with L. McIlroy, April, 22, 2005). Therefore, the charter holders added to the ASBCS list lacked site information.

³⁵ ADE Enrollment data are located in the Superintendent's Annual Report.

Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *State Summary by Grade of Pupil Enrollment: Charters Only*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved April 22, 2005, from: <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/Includes/Summary/P14StateSumGrdPupilEnrChars.pdf>

AEPI compiled individual charter enrollment data from the following sources:

Arizona Department of Education. (2004). *Charter holder detail report*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.az.gov/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2004/>

FY 2005 number of district and charter schools report, provided by R. Arroyo, Budget Analyst, School Finance, ADE (Personal communication, email, March 1, 2005).

Charter Holder list provided by L. McIlroy, Research Analyst, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (personal communication, April 15, 2005).

Arizona Department of Education. (2005). *Information and financial services, student counts reports and data*. Phoenix, AZ: Author. Retrieved February 27, 2005, from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/Districts/ReportsData/ReportsData.asp>

³⁶ Melton, D. (2005, March). *Dropout rate report 2003-2004*. Phoenix, AZ: Research & Evaluation Section, Arizona Department of Education. Retrieved March 22, 2005, from http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/DropoutInfo/Complete_2003-2004_Dropout_Report.pdf