The number of students enrolled in Colorado’s public schools has increased by 33% (192,714 students) from 1992-93 to 2008-09. District enrollment status: 90 districts increased enrollment, 86 declined and 2 did not change.

At-Risk students (free lunch): 30% of the total FTE enrollment, 234,481 students.
Special Ed students: 11% of the total FTE enrollment, 83,302 students.
ELPA students (students counted, districts funded by the state for 2 years): 38% of the total FTE enrollment, 48,774 students. CDE has modified the way they count ELL students, which decreases the student funded count but is not a decrease in actual ELL students. An additional 52,605 ELL students were served by districts but were not eligible for state ELPA funding.

As the overall population of students grows, so does the number of students requiring special services.