



2013 Observations – 876,999 PK-12 students served in Colorado’s public schools.

How has Colorado’s PK-12 student population changed since 2002?

- Total PK-12 students increased 125,137 students (14% increase since 2002)
- Gifted and Talented increased 19,567 students (29% increase)
- Special Education increased 12,605 students (14% increase)
- English Learners increased 40,621 students (32% increase)
- Free Lunch (At-Risk proxy) increased 124,207 students (41% increase)

Quick Facts on English Learners and Free Lunch:

- **126,758 students are English Learners. The School Finance Act funds 35,695.** CDE estimates the state provides support of about 20%-25% of the total educational expenditures incurred by districts to address the needs of English Learner students, leaving the remaining 75% - 80% for local districts to fund.
- Free Lunch student counts outpaced the increase in student enrollment. **In 2013, 35% of students are Free Lunch students.**

Additional information: [Student Trends](#) tab on our website [cosfp](#).

Data Source: CDE Instructional Program Counts, CDE Free Lunch Eligibility Counts (2002 count not available), Understanding Colorado School Finance, July 2013.