

Education Estimating Conference for PreK-12 Enrollment
Executive Summary
Phase I – February 14, 2025

The Education Estimating Conference met on February 14, 2025, to adopt a PreK-12 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment forecast through FY 2029-30. This forecast is Phase I of a multi-phase process used to develop the final PreK-12 FTE enrollment forecast for the 2025 legislative session. The adopted initial forecast incorporates new data for all the following: FY 2023-24 Final Calculation; Mid-Year Estimate for FY 2024-25 developed by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR MYE); revised birth information; and EDR's estimated scholarship credits.

At the July 2024 Conference, the Education Estimating Conference used the Fourth Calculation for FY 2023-24 as the base for its forecast. The Final Calculation came in 2,367.00 lower than the Fourth Calculation, with all the difference occurring in the traditional public-school setting. The slightly smaller FTE number reflected less than a one percent change to the overall forecast for that year, an adjustment that the various conferences normally attribute to noise.

Conversely, the new estimate for FY 2024-25, is 11,355.25 higher than assumed for the prior forecast. This modest upward change masks the magnitude of the changes that led to this net result. The traditional public-school setting had a reduction of 41,303.38 FTE relative to the prior forecast, while the Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) were 52,658.63 FTE higher than projected in July. This adjustment largely reflected a greater methodological reliance on the data seen since the shift to universal enrollment in FY 2023-24, rather than longer-term historical trends. In addition, the privately funded Florida Tax Credits (FTC) scholarships have come in much lower than expected in July, pushing more students into the publicly funded FES scholarship program. Overall, the FTC program provided 22,003 fewer scholarships than previously projected for this year. Altogether, the changes produce a net scholarship increase of 30,656 since the last forecast for all scholarship programs, regardless of funding source. The new totals for FY 2024-25 are 466,098 scholarships in private settings (including home school) and 2,813,105.63 FTEs in traditional public schools.

For FY 2025-26, the Education Estimating Conference used the EDR MYE as the base for its new forecast. Scholarships for private settings are expected to grow to 540,824—an increase of 71,361 from the prior forecast. Of these, 95,168 scholarships will be from the privately funded FTC program and 445,656 will be associated with the publicly funded FES scholarship program. Combining the 87,691 FES increase with the lower estimate of FTEs in traditional public schools (a reduction of 67,546.99 FTE), all publicly funded students are 20,144.45 FTE higher than anticipated in July, an upward change of 0.63 percent. Traditional public school enrollment is forecasted to decline throughout the forecast horizon from 2,796,212.40 in FY 2025-26 to 2,745,354.48 FTEs in FY 2029-30 as the total scholarships for private settings continue to grow. Enrollment in all scholarships will increase from 540,824 in FY 2025-26 to 708,855 in FY 2029-30. The forecast for public school transportation stipends was unchanged from the prior conference and are expected to grow from 20,408 in FY 2025-26 to 41,461 in FY 2029-30.

There are three tables below: Table 1 provides a summary of the forecast by program category, Table 2 displays total FTE enrollment by year, and Table 3 illustrates the differences between the July 2024 and February 2025 forecasts.

Table 1. February 14, 2025 Forecast Summary

Program Category	FY 2023-24 Final Calc	FY 2024-25 MYE*	FY 2025-26 Forecast	FY 2026-27 Forecast	FY 2027-28 Forecast	FY 2028-29 Forecast	FY 2029-30 Forecast
101 Basic Non-ESE PreK-3	631,827.17	647,909.62	656,911.03	653,440.71	658,005.81	663,532.98	671,577.91
102 Basic Non-ESE 4-8	812,471.39	849,555.72	867,250.26	876,026.71	884,297.63	880,789.11	875,858.81
103 Basic Non-ESE 9-12	657,456.28	678,092.54	693,257.56	689,753.40	684,215.08	688,207.05	682,909.46
111 Basic ESE PreK-3	185,754.13	199,636.90	208,465.53	214,760.93	222,691.68	229,342.59	235,554.07
112 Basic ESE 4-8	271,156.81	275,348.77	281,033.75	290,422.33	303,219.84	318,262.11	338,815.08
113 Basic ESE 9-12	178,994.08	181,664.14	187,046.86	189,776.01	192,825.29	200,770.06	207,115.57
130 ESOL	215,519.61	243,376.48	241,154.47	238,525.40	238,450.44	238,683.63	239,079.02
254 ESE Level IV	25,734.41	28,830.63	29,723.76	30,608.84	31,749.71	33,265.38	34,805.91
255 ESE Level V	5,088.53	5,841.91	6,112.81	6,361.94	6,670.62	7,094.47	7,506.65
300 Career Ed	70,589.46	70,540.55	70,912.81	69,922.40	68,887.47	69,281.45	68,392.03
Group 1 FTE	2,737,659.86	2,832,207.69	2,893,964.99	2,914,180.09	2,945,255.33	2,980,903.90	3,011,830.90
Group 2 FTE	316,932.01	348,589.57	347,903.85	345,418.58	345,758.24	348,324.93	349,783.61
ESE FTE	666,727.96	691,322.35	712,382.71	731,930.05	757,157.14	788,734.61	823,797.28
Total FTE	3,054,591.87	3,180,797.26	3,241,868.84	3,259,598.67	3,291,013.57	3,329,228.83	3,361,614.51

*FY2024-25 MYE represents recalibrated survey 2 (October 2024) data, as of 1/15/25, adjusted for scholarship students reported in multiple settings

Table 2. Historical and Forecasted Total FTE Enrollment

Fiscal Year	Total PK-12 FTE	Change	% Change
FY 2019-2020	2,860,469.34	28,556.11	1.01%
FY 2020-2021	2,801,507.89	-58,961.45	-2.06%
FY 2021-2022	2,917,321.99	115,814.10	4.13%
FY 2022-2023	2,978,905.57	61,583.58	2.11%
FY 2023-2024 Final Calc	3,054,591.87	75,686.30	2.54%
FY 2024-2025 MYE*	3,180,797.26	126,205.39	4.13%
FY 2025-2026 Forecast	3,241,868.84	61,071.58	1.92%
FY 2026-2027 Forecast	3,259,598.67	17,729.83	0.55%
FY 2027-2028 Forecast	3,291,013.57	31,414.90	0.96%
FY 2028-2029 Forecast	3,329,228.83	38,215.26	1.16%
FY 2029-2030 Forecast	3,361,614.51	32,385.68	0.97%

*FY2024-25 MYE represents recalibrated survey 2 (October 2024) data, as of 1/15/25, adjusted for scholarship students reported in multiple settings

Table 3. Forecast Summary

	July 25, 2024 Conference	February 14, 2025 Conference	Difference	% Diff
FY 2023-24 4th Calc vs Final Calc	3,056,958.87	3,054,591.87	-2,367.00	-0.08%
FY 2024-2025 Forecast vs MYE*	3,169,442.01	3,180,797.26	11,355.25	0.36%
FY 2025-2026 Forecast	3,221,724.39	3,241,868.84	20,144.45	0.63%
FY 2026-2027 Forecast	3,257,259.22	3,259,598.67	2,339.45	0.07%
FY 2027-2028 Forecast	3,308,472.42	3,291,013.57	-17,458.85	-0.53%
FY 2028-2029 Forecast	3,359,766.25	3,329,228.83	-30,537.42	-0.91%
FY 2029-2030 Forecast	3,411,311.44	3,361,614.51	-49,696.93	-1.46%

*FY2024-25 MYE represents recalibrated survey 2 (October 2024) data, as of 1/15/25, adjusted for scholarship students reported in multiple settings

General Notes...

The Education Estimating Conference for PreK-12 Enrollment forecasts full-time equivalent (FTE) students whose educational instruction is funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). There are ten program categories in two groups:

Group 1

- Three for basic education students who are not exceptional education students (101: for PreK through Grade 3; 102: for Grades 4 through 8; 103: for Grades 9 through 12) and
- Three for basic education exceptional educational students by grade grouping (111, 112, and 113).

Group 2

- One for English Language Learners (130),
- Two for exceptional education students who need higher levels of services (254, 255) and
- One for students taking career education instruction (300).

The funded educational time for a student may be in a single program category or spread through two or more program categories.

The FEFP is calculated five times throughout the year to arrive at each year's final appropriation. Each calculation ("calc") uses the latest information regarding the number of students that is available:

- (1) First Calculation (1st Calc) – This calculation is completed immediately after the annual legislative session. FTE student enrollment is the forecast used by the Legislature for the General Appropriations Act.
- (2) Second Calculation (2nd Calc) – This calculation is made upon receipt of the certified tax roll from the Department of Revenue. FTE student enrollment is the forecast used by the Legislature for the General Appropriations Act.
- (3) Third Calculation (3rd Calc) – This calculation includes the July and October actual FTE student enrollment surveys and the February and June estimated FTE enrollment. It is available in November.
- (4) Fourth Calculation (4th Calc) – This calculation includes July, October, and February actual FTE student enrollment surveys and the June estimated FTE enrollment. It is available in March.
- (5) Final Calculation – This calculation includes the actual final FTE student enrollment surveys for all four counts (July, October, February, and June) and is available in September or October of the next fiscal year.

FEFP FTE includes public education settings and a scholarship program for non-public students, the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) program. This program consists of two subtypes: FES-EO (for Educational Options) and FES-UA (for Unique Abilities). Families awarded a private school voucher are either funded through the FES-EO or Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship programs. Families awarded a personalized education program (PEP) voucher are only funded through the FTC program.

The FTC program size is limited to the revenues collected for the scholarship program. Once FTC has reached its statutorily prescribed capacity, the FES-EO program is then used for funding private school vouchers. The FES-UA and FTC-PEP programs have the ability to grow based on statutory requirements. In addition, the FES-UA program has statutorily identified student groups that do not count towards the growth cap.

Among other changes, the Conference principals may adopt forecasts that include FTE enrollment estimates for the current year. For the conference held on February 14, 2025, the FY 2024-25 "MYE" represented recalibrated survey 2 (October 2024) data as of January 15, 2025 with adjustments for scholarship students reported in multiple settings.

'PreK' figures include only pre-school age children with disabilities (ESE) and pre-school age children whose parents are in the Teenage Parent Program. It does not include children participating exclusively in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program who receive those services through the public school system.

Acronyms

AAA	AAA Scholarship Foundation
Calc	Calculation
ESE	Exceptional Student Education
ESOL	English Speakers of Other Languages
FEFP	Florida Education Finance Program
FES	Family Empowerment Scholarship
FES-EO	Family Empowerment Scholarship – Educational Options
FES-UA	Family Empowerment Scholarship – Unique Abilities
FTC	Florida Tax Credit
FTC-PEP	Florida Tax Credit - Personalized Education Program
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
MYE	Mid-Year Estimate
PreK	Prekindergarten
SUFS	Step Up for Students
TSC	Tallahassee State College