

Process Overview: Education Estimating Conference

House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee

Presented by:



January 13, 2026

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Conference Background...

- The Conference process is established in law (ss. 216.133-216.138, F.S.).
 - All forecasts adopted by estimating conferences are by consensus (unanimous agreement by the four principals representing the House, Senate, EDR and EOG).
- Three of the ten named conferences directly interact with the House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee:
 - Education Estimating Conference
 - PreK-12 Enrollments
 - Scholarships
 - Revenue Estimating Conference
 - Slot Machine and Lottery Revenues / Educational Enhancement Trust Fund
 - Unclaimed Property Transfers / State School Trust Fund
 - Ad Valorem Values / Required Local Effort (RLE)
 - Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference
 - Voluntary Prekindergarten
 - School Readiness

Conference Participants...

- Conference Participants are defined in s. 216.134(4)(b), F.S. as “...any person who is invited to participate in the consensus estimating conference by a principal. A participant shall, at the request of any principal before or during any session of the conference, develop alternative forecasts, **collect and supply data**, perform analyses, or **provide other information needed by the conference**.”
- Education Estimating Conference participants for PreK-12 include:
 - School Districts (specifically required in law)
 - Inclusive of traditional districts, lab schools, and FLVS
 - Department of Education (by longstanding conference practice)
 - Scholarship Funding Organizations (by recent conference practice)
 - AAA
 - Step Up for Students

Current Expectations for Participants...

- DOE
 - Collect, process, and recalibrate FTE data, including the provision of any necessary guidance and quality control
 - Provide scholarship student and payment data
 - Host forecast data portal for required district input
- School Districts (as required by law in preparation for the GAA)
 - Review initial forecasts adopted by the Education Estimating Conference
 - Submit requests for adjustments with justifications that reflect local knowledge

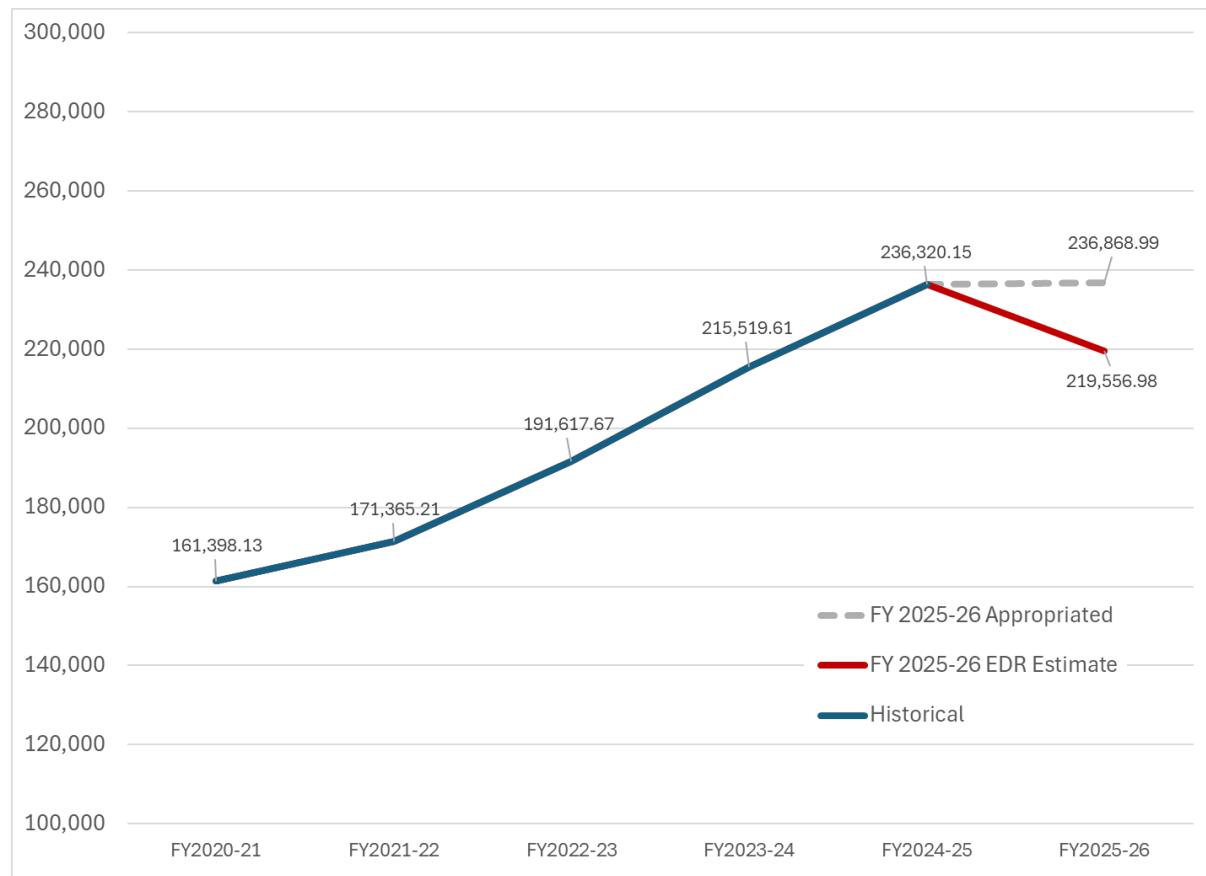
Note: The process is formal, and the review is in-depth; by convention, a district request for adjustment is approved by the Superintendent or his / her designee.
- Scholarship Funding Organizations
 - Provide expected end-of-year carry-forward dollars available for awarding scholarships
 - Provide expected transfer of funds between SFOs
 - Provide counts of active participants and other ad hoc requests to support the forecasting process

Conference Products...

- In practice, each Education Estimating Conference for PreK-12 Enrollment adopts a forecast that includes the current year and the upcoming five fiscal years—the most recent forecast runs through FY 2030-31.
- “Official information” means the data, forecasts, estimates, analyses, studies, and other information which the principals of a consensus estimating conference unanimously adopt for purposes of the state planning and budgeting system.
- Recent conferences have also adopted formal Scholarship Outlook Statements and Scholarship Summaries.
- Each state agency and the judicial branch are required to use the official information developed by the consensus estimating conferences in carrying out their duties under the state planning and budgeting system.
- Following each conference, the products are posted on EDR’s website at:
<https://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/publicschools/index.cfm>

Recent Factors and Trends...

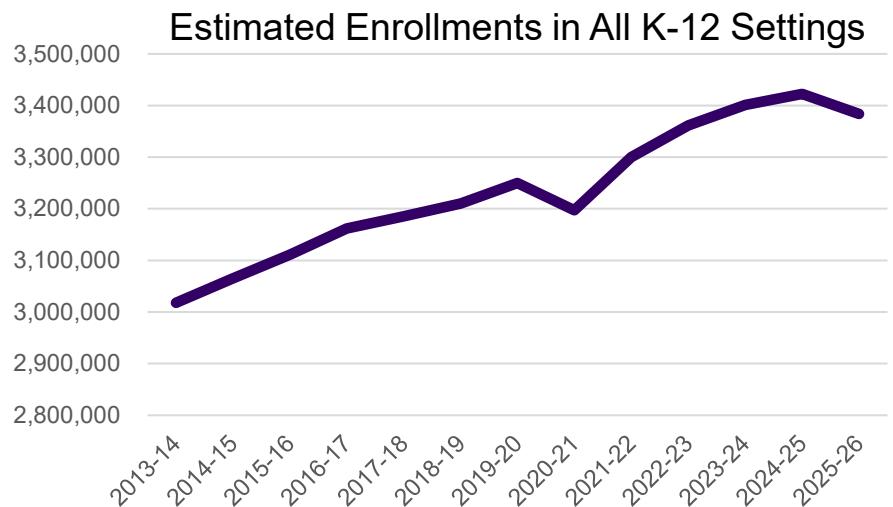
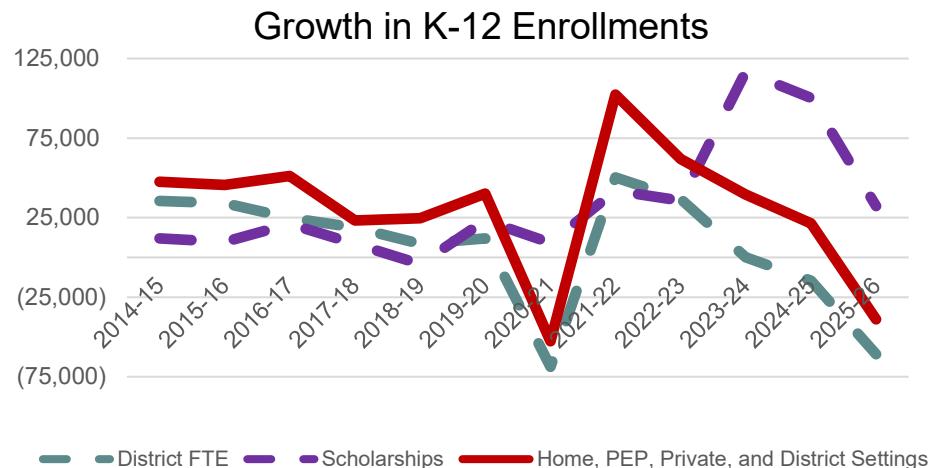
Forecasts are always influenced by recent factors and trends that affect FTE. The most recent forecast had to address an unexpected decline in enrollment in the current year that was particularly notable in the ESOL program (-17,312.01 FTE relative to last forecast).



Enrollments in All Settings...

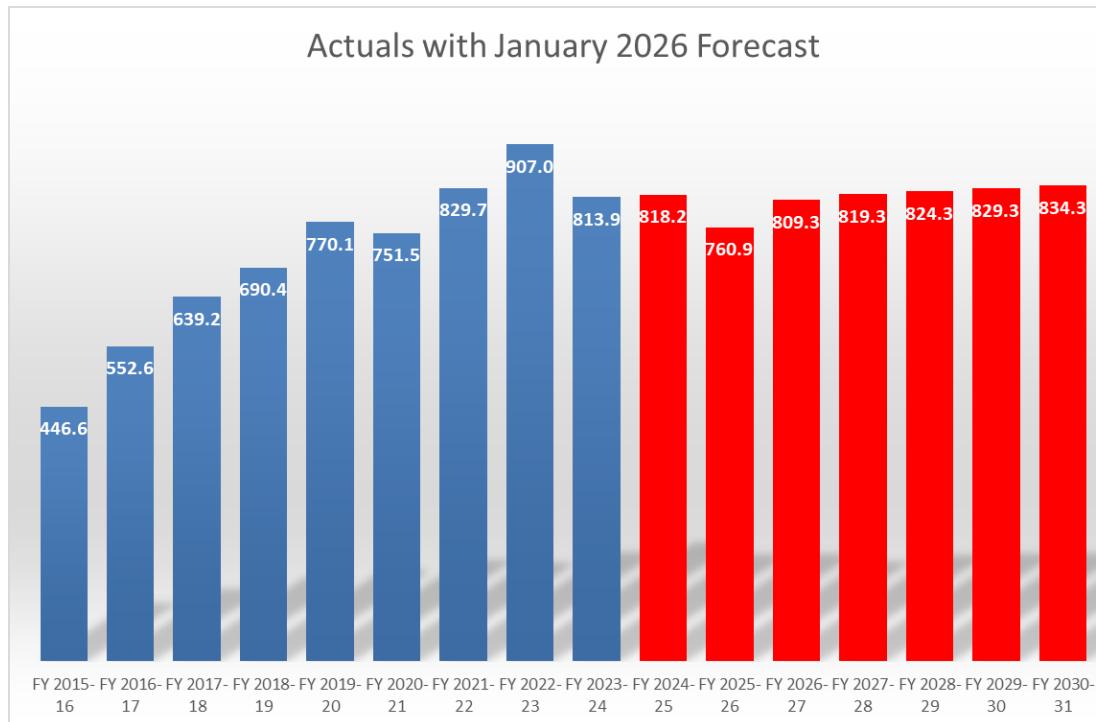
Downward movements appeared across all student settings in the broader K-12 array (home, PEP, private, and district). Collectively, they signal that the universe of K-12 enrollment is atypically contracting.

- The most likely explanation is related to the chilling effects from recently implemented immigration policies.
- Similar effects are also seen in the new forecasts for Early Learning Programs and Medicaid.
- For this reason, the downward adjustment is expected to persist throughout the forecast horizon.



Outlook for Florida Tax Credit Scholarships...

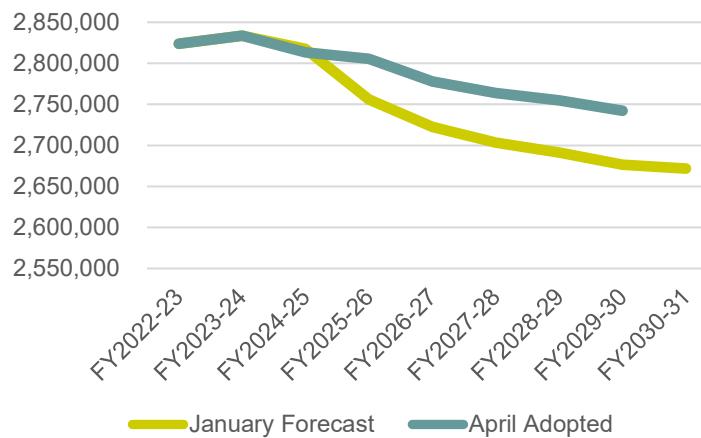
- In addition to private school and PEP scholarships, the tax credit program is used to fund administrative costs for all PreK-12 scholarships and transportation stipends.
- Beginning at the August conference, the adopted scholarship credit forecast from the General Revenue Estimating Conference was significantly revised downward. This change in trend seemed to begin late in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- The enrollment forecast assumes that starting in FY 2026-27, the credit-induced contributions will fund administrative costs and then primarily be used for PEP scholarships. This means reliance for private school scholarship funds will largely shift to FES.



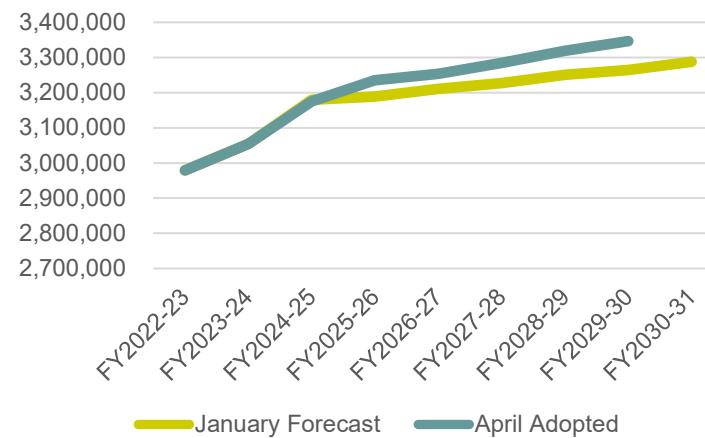
Forecast Comparison: April 2025 vs January 2026...

Across the publicly funded programs, overall enrollment—while still growing year over year—is expected to be 42,414.25 FTE lower than previously forecast for FY 2026-27, with the difference growing to 81,808.89 in FY 2029-30. This is the net effect from district school enrollment that declines throughout the forecast horizon from 2,722,240.57 FTEs in FY 2026-27 to 2,671,699.92 FTEs in FY 2030-31 as the FES scholarships continue to grow from 488,849.75 in FY 2026-27 to 616,057.75 in FY 2030-31. Even so, the number of projected FES scholarships in each of the outermost years is lower than previously expected.

District FTE, Excluding FES



All FEFP FTE



	FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29	FY2029-30
District FTE	-49,432.88	-55,449.44	-60,224.18	-63,608.48	-65,676.50
FES FTE	2,977.00	13,035.19	2,797.23	-4,499.98	-16,132.39
All FEFP	-46,455.88	-42,414.25	-57,426.95	-68,108.46	-81,808.89