

ACTUAL ENROLMENT FIGURES (1971-1981)
AND ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS (1982-1986)
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MANITOBA

Research Branch
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HIGHLIGHTS

I. The following are based upon School Divisions and Remote School

District enrolment figures only:

- From 1971 to 1981, there was an overall enrolment decline of 17.8%.
- A further overall enrolment decline of 6.2% is projected for 1986 (with 1981 used as a base figure). This indicates a slowdown of enrolment decline, when compared to the previous 5 year period. The decline from 1976 to 1981 was 10.8%, or 4.6% greater than the 6.2% decline in enrolments projected for 1986 (compared to 1981).
- These enrolment projections may be somewhat pessimistic, since they are based on previous trends. To illustrate, the projected and actual enrolment figures for September, 1981 were compared. Actual enrolments were 980, or 0.5%, greater than projected.
- When percentage change from the previous year is examined, the greatest percentage decline occurred between 1978 and 1979, a 3.2% drop in enrolment figures. The most recent year 1981, shows a 1.7% decline from the previous year, and is the smallest percentage decline since 1976.

II. The following are based upon Special Revenue and Special Schools enrolment figures:

- From 1971 to 1981, there was an overall enrolment decline of 33%.
- A further overall enrolment decline of 11.9% is projected for 1986 (with 1981 used as a base figure).

III. Private school enrolment figures were not included in Table 1 because they were not available for each year. Also, projections are not calculated for private schools. However, the following information was available:

- There has been an overall increase of 22.4% in private school enrolments from 1972 (7,527 students) to 1981 (9,214 students). Also, an increase of 3.1% was recorded between 1980 (8,936 students) and 1981 private school enrolment figures.

METHODOLOGY

The figures shown in Table 1 were supplied by various sources. The actual enrolment figures, as of September 30, for years 1971 to 1981 inclusive, were obtained from Superintendents' reports. The projected enrolment figures were determined by the Finance Branch, Department of Education.¹

The methodology used by the Finance Branch to calculate enrolment projections is also based upon different sources. Retention rates², or past trends, are used to estimate enrolment progression through the grades.

Special education, nursery, kindergarten and Grade 1 enrolments are calculated differently. Special education enrolments are estimated upon historical trends and then enlarged slightly to account for the increasing attention in this area. Nursery enrolments are estimated on the basis of historical and recent trends. Kindergarten and Grade 1 enrolments however, are estimated on the basis of birth statistics in recent years, obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics for Manitoba.

¹Public Schools in Manitoba Enrolment Estimate 1981-1986, Finance Branch, June, 1981.

²Retention Rate = $\frac{\text{Enrolment in a given grade for a given year}}{\text{Enrolment in the preceding grade for the preceding year}}$

TABLE 1: Actual and projected enrolment figures for Manitoba public schools as of September 30, 1971 to 1986. The percentage change on enrolments for each year is also indicated.

Year	School Divisions and Remote School Districts	% Change from Previous Year	Special Revenue and Special Schools	% Change from Previous Year
1971	242,062		2,605	
1972	236,157	-2.4%	3,330	+27.8%
1973	231,392	-2.0%	3,177	- 4.6%
1974	227,519	-1.7%	2,828	-11.0%
1975	225,638	-0.8%	2,739	- 3.1%
1976	223,169	-1.1%	2,604	- 4.9%
1977	219,258	-1.8%	2,145	-17.6%
1978	213,633	-2.6%	2,028	- 5.4%
1979	206,837	-3.2%	1,933	- 4.7%
1980	202,555	-2.1%	1,849	- 4.3%
1981	199,054	-1.7%	1,754	- 5.1%
1982	194,339	-2.4%	1,675	- 4.5%
1983	191,172	-1.6%	1,612	- 3.8%
1984	189,271	-1.0%	1,587	- 1.6%
1985	187,817	-0.8%	1,565	- 1.4%
1986	186,598	-0.6%	1,545	- 1.3%

Note: Above figures include Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as Nursery and Special Education enrolments.

Source: 1971-81 - Superintendents' Report available from Administration Branch, Department of Education.

1982-86 - Enrolment projections - Public Schools Finance Board, Department of Education.

FIGURE 1: ACTUAL AND PROJECTED ENROLMENT FIGURES FOR MANITOBA SCHOOL DIVISIONS, AND REMOTE SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 1971 TO 1986

