

# Start times, social-emotional learning, teacher absenteeism and other great back-to-school stories



Linda Shaw, Education Lab editor, The Seattle Times

# School start times



The research keeps adding up, and now there's an American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation: Middle- and high-school students shouldn't start school before 8:30 am. But that's no easy adjustment for school districts. What's happening in your area?

# Social-emotional learning



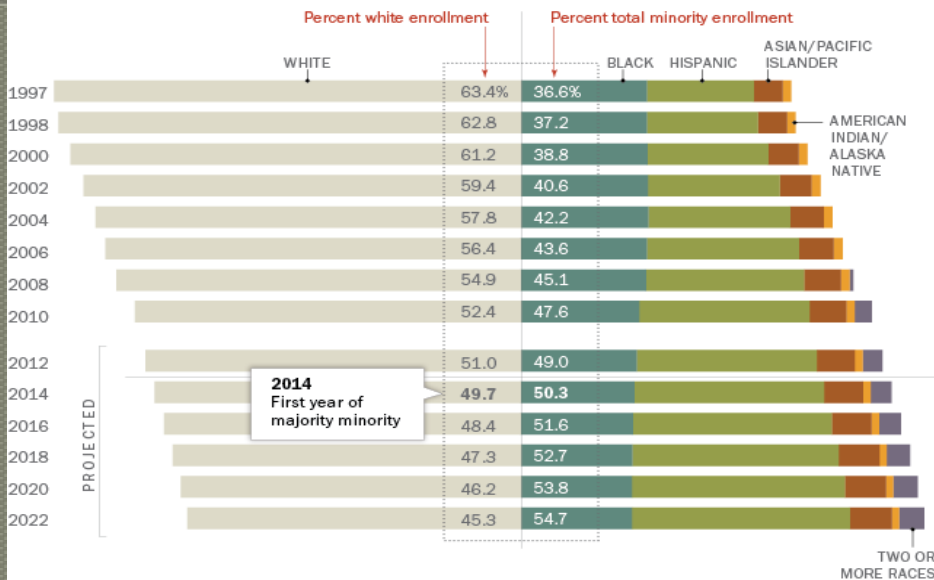
Eight states are working on plans to nurture students' social and emotional skills. Many individual schools and districts are doing the same. Why – and what's the benefit?

<http://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/bellevue-schools-teach-emotional-smarts-to-help-boost-academic-success-2/>

# What does the data say: Enrollment

## Public Schools in the United States Projected to Be Majority-Minority in 2014

Actual and projected share of enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by race/ethnicity



Note: Whites, blacks, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Prior to 2008, "two or more races" was not an available category. In 2008 and 2009, some students of both Asian origin and Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island origin were included in the two or more races category. In 2010 and 2011, all students of both Asian origin and Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island origin were included in the two or more races category. In 2008, five states reported enrollment counts for students of two or more races. In 2009, 14 states reported enrollment counts for students of two or more races.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Demographics shifts across the nation are affecting schools, changing the balance racially and economically. Are any districts becoming majority-minority districts for the first time? And what are districts doing about the changes?



# What does the data say? Lots of other possibilities

The new OCR data can be a source of many great stories:

- Kindergarten absenteeism
- Teacher absenteeism
- Who's taking Advanced Placement courses and who has access to them, by race?
- Disparities in discipline, especially in preschool?

# New ways to judge schools



**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outstanding Level of Achievement (Performance far exceeds expected standards and/or objectives, either in quality or quantity).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commendable Level of Achievement (Performance meets more than the expected standards and/or objectives, either in quality or quantity).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory Level of Achievement (Performance is meeting the expected standards and/or objectives set).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requires Improvement (Performance is not meeting the expected standards and/or objectives set).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsatisfactory Performance (Performance is unsatisfactory).

Getty Images/Mario Ragma

Under the new federal education act (ESSA), each state will have a lot of leeway in deciding how to judge the performance of schools. Who is deciding, and what are they thinking?

# Are back-to-school supply lists getting shorter?



Officials in one Washington district are dropping the list all together, saying they want to ease parents' pocketbooks. Are lists in your areas getting shorter or longer?

# Ask readers about their most burning questions

EDUCATION LAB IQ



**What does it mean  
to fully fund education?**

With Education Lab IQ (for “interesting questions”) we solicited, then answered questions from readers. Readers submitted questions, then voted on the finalists.

Examples:

<http://projects.seattletimes.com/2016/education-funding/>

<http://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/where-are-the-fines-ordered-in-mcclearly-school-funding-case/>