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## **News Release**

### ***Statewide Enrollment Jumps Nearly 2 Percent***

The Colorado Department of Education announced today the statewide pupil count for the 2008-2009 school year increased by 15,804 over the previous year, bringing the total to 818,443 students.

The change represents an increase of 1.97 percent, the largest rate of growth since the 2001-2002 school year when student enrollment jumped by 2.4 percent.

In the 1998-1999 school year, statewide student enrollment stood at 699,135.

Most of the growth from the 2007-2008 school year to the 2008-2009 school year occurred in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, where student count totals surged by 13,408.

Among the 818,443 students, 60.9 percent (498,713) are white; 28.4 percent (232,226) are Hispanic; 6 percent are black (48,757); 3.6 percent are Asian (29,253) and 1.2 percent are American Indian (9,494).

The number of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches (a common indicator of poverty) in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade increased from 34.84 percent of students (270,651) to 35.78 percent (282,733). To qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, income for a family of four must be below \$39,220.

The districts with the largest student enrollment increases since 2004 include Douglas County School District (up 13,962), Adams 12 Five

Star Schools (up 4,458), Brighton School District 27J (up 4,455), St. Vrain Valley School District (up 3,571), Falcon School District 49 (up 3,544), Aurora Public Schools (up 3,272), Cherry Creek Schools (up 3,247) Academy School District 20 (up 2,092) and Mesa County Valley School District 51 (2,029).

The 15 largest school districts in the 2008-2009 school year are Jefferson County Schools (85,887), Denver Public Schools (74,176), Douglas County Schools (58,723), Cherry Creek Schools (51,115), Adams 12 Five Star Schools (40,818), Aurora Public Schools (35,523), Colorado Springs School District 11 (29,271), Boulder Valley Schools (28,875), Poudre School District (25,960), St. Vrain Valley Schools (25,751), Mesa County Valley 51 (22,159), Academy School District 20 (21,917), Greeley-Evans School District 6 (18,870), Pueblo School District 60 (18,504) and Littleton Public Schools (15,869).

Statewide enrollment has grown every year since 1989, when the total stood at 562,755.

For access to the complete 2008-2009 school year student count information, click "2008 Pupil Membership" on [http://www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_stats.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_stats.htm).

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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