

Michigan school enrollment: Who won big, who lost big?



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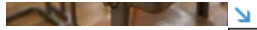


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Excuse David Eichberg for what he says may sound like a cliched response to a big question: How did his Berrien Springs Public Schools district increase its



(Photo: maroke, Getty Images/iStockphoto)

enrollment by 97% in the last decade?

"We really looked at how do we meet the needs of all learners," Eichberg said Monday.

And they did that in a number of ways — creating "multiple pathways for students to progress through our K-12 learning system."

While many districts across Michigan are struggling with enrollment declines, the growth in Berrien Springs was the biggest for a traditional Michigan district in the last decade. Enrollment has stabilized in recent years, Eichberg said.

One big way they grew: The district has multiple partnerships with nearby districts to provide alternative virtual learning for students who need a different kind of environment for school.

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"We realized we were meeting the needs of students who were largely unserved and unmet," Eichberg. "Other districts heard what we were doing and came to us and asked if there was any way they could partner with us."

The smallest program enrolls about 60 students. The largest enrolls 300. Even though the students reside in the other districts, they count toward Berrien Spring's enrollment.

Below, we highlight the 25 school districts with the biggest enrollment gains and the 25 with the biggest losses. The data is based on enrollment counts taken in 2016.

Wednesday is Count Day in Michigan, one of two days during the year when the enrollment helps determine how much state aid school districts receive.

25 Michigan districts with the biggest enrollment losses

Intermediate School District	District	Total enrollment '06-'07	Total enroll '17
Wayne RESA	Highland Park Public School Academy System	3,403	
Ionia ISD	Berlin Township S/D #3	36	
Genesee ISD	Flint, School District of the City of	16,636	
Marquette-Alger RESA	Wells Township School District	19	
Bay-Arenac ISD	Arenac Eastern School District	346	
Marquette-Alger RESA	Burt Township School District	76	
Muskegon Area ISD	Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System	2,016	

Wayne RESA	Detroit Public Schools Community District	114,401	
Macomb ISD	Mount Clemens Community School District	2,413	
Cheb-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD	Vanderbilt Area Schools	228	
Genesee ISD	Beecher Community School District	1,880	
Oakland Schools	Pontiac City School District	8,800	
Hillsdale ISD	Litchfield Community Schools	482	
Hillsdale ISD	North Adams-Jerome Public Schools	538	
Van Buren ISD	Covert Public Schools	681	
Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD	Ontonagon Area School District	597	
Newaygo County RESA	Big Jackson School District	38	
Traverse Bay Area ISD	Alba Public Schools	239	
Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD	DeTour Area Schools	226	
Charlevoix-Emmet ISD	Boyne Falls Public School District	316	
Hillsdale ISD	Waldron Area Schools	369	
Macomb ISD	East Detroit Public Schools	5,321	
Iosco RESA	Hale Area Schools	693	
Traverse Bay Area ISD	Forest Area Community Schools	866	
Tuscola ISD	Mayville Community School District	1,089	

Source: [Michigan Department of Education](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

25 Michigan districts with the biggest enrollment gains

Intermediate School District	District	Total enrollment '06-'07	Total enrollment '17
Berrien RESA	Berrien Springs Public Schools	1,749	
Ionia ISD	Ionia Township S/D #2	8	
Wayne RESA	Harper Woods, The School District of the City of	1,246	
Macomb ISD	Lakeview Public Schools (Macomb)	2,956	
Wayne RESA	River Rouge, School District of the City of	1,431	
Copper Country ISD	Stanton Township Public Schools	135	
Copper Country ISD	Grant Township S/D #2	3	
Genesee ISD	Westwood Heights Schools	1,142	
Ottawa Area ISD	Hudsonville Public School District	5,251	
Huron ISD	Sigel Township S/D #4F	23	
Kent ISD	Byron Center Public Schools	3,133	
Kent ISD	Caledonia Community Schools	3,771	
Kent ISD	Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	1,576	
Ottawa Area ISD	Allendale Public Schools	2,115	
Oakland Schools	Oxford Community Schools	4,291	
Genesee ISD	Lake Fenton Community Schools	1,747	
Oakland Schools	South Lyon Community Schools	7,004	
Berrien RESA	Sodus Township S/D #5	64	
Huron ISD	Sigel Township S/D #3F	11	
West Shore Educational Service District	Pentwater Public School District	242	

Oakland Schools	Oak Park, School District of the City of	4,265	
Muskegon Area ISD	North Muskegon Public Schools	892	
Clinton County RESA	Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools	556	
Wayne RESA	Dearborn City School District	18,038	
Copper Country ISD	Adams Township School District	406	

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