

UNDERSTANDING E-CAST FORECAST COMPARISON REPORTS

What are E-CAST's Forecast vs. Norm Day Comparison Reports?

Posted on the E-CAST website in the Reference Document section, these two reports provide comparisons between E-CAST enrollment forecasts and corresponding Norm Day actual graded enrollments, for schools with neighborhood attendance areas, for the last two historical years. Comparisons are shown for total enrollment, resident enrollment, optional non-resident enrollment, and District-placed non-resident enrollment.

	1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Cost Center	School	E-CAST Enrollment Forecast	NORM Day Enrollment (Current-Year)	Difference Forecast vs NORM Day	Difference as % under/over NORM Day	Resident Enrollment Forecast	Resident Enrollment NORM Day	Difference Resident Enrollment Forecast vs NORM Day	Permit and Open Enrollment Forecast	Permit and Open Enrollment NORM Day	Difference Permit and Open Enrollment Forecast vs NORM Day	Other Travel-in Enrollment Forecast	Other Travel-in Enrollment NORM Day	Difference Other Travel-in Enrollment Forecast vs NORM Day	Unknown
1	1929201	Seneca El	794	832	-38	-4.6%	741	768	-27	53	13	40	0	0	0	3
2	1929301	Oswego El	454	453	1	0.2%	430	421	9	24	31	-7	0	0	0	1
3	1945601	Evergreen Blvd El	620	662	-42	-6.3%	583	610	-27	37	52	-15	0	0	0	0
4	1852901	Boonton College Chart	1,329	1,534	-205	-13.4%	1,282	1,492	-210	47	41	6	0	0	0	1
5	1556201	Barnard Park El	957	904	53	5.9%	751	715	36	206	189	17	0	0	0	0
6	1231501	Bournecroft El	664	649	15	2.3%	598	585	13	66	64	2	0	0	0	0
7	1232301	Croftwood Ave El	852	848	4	0.5%	841	833	8	11	13	-2	0	0	0	2
8	1232901	Clovis Glen MS	1,552	1,583	-31	-2.0%	1,500	1,518	-18	52	69	-17	0	0	0	0
9	1233501	Atlantic Blvd Chtr	591	607	-16	-2.6%	289	311	-22	300	295	5	2	1	1	0
10	1234201	Hiawatha El	321	334	-13	-3.9%	237	240	-3	84	94	-10	0	0	0	0

What do the different student categories mean?

A resident student is someone attending his or her neighborhood school. An optional non-resident student is someone attending a school other than his or her neighborhood school by means of a Permit or Open Enrollment. A District-placed non-resident student is someone attending a school other than his or her neighborhood school by means of District-managed programs like PWT.

Column 19 is labeled 'Unknown'. What does that mean?

Column 19, 'Unknown', represents the difference in student counts between the date that Norm Day data were delivered to SMS-MPD for making projections, and the date that LAUSD official Norm Day reported enrollments were released. The difference may be due to a time lag between a school's actual Norm Day date and the date of the data used to produce its E-CAST enrollment forecast, or to the elimination of duplicate student records during post-Norm Day data clean-up. Because Norm Day enrollment was provided to School Management Services-Master Planning & Demographics (SMS-MPD) as total counts, it was not possible to identify whether the 'unknowns' were resident or non-resident students. While there is no specific forecast for 'unknown' enrollment, the forecasts for resident and non-resident enrollment are inclusive of all enrollments. The counts are shown only as part of the breakout of the Norm Day enrollment.

What data comparisons are included in the E-CAST Forecast Comparison Reports?

On each report, columns 6 through 9 show the data and comparisons for total graded enrollment (without Special Education counts). The data and comparisons for resident enrollment are shown in columns 10 through 12, for optional non-resident enrollment in columns 13 through 15, and for District-placed non-resident enrollment in columns 16 through 18.

UNDERSTANDING E-CAST FORECAST COMPARISON REPORTS

How do the reports indicate whether a school qualifies for a 'Rationale A' Staffing Appeal?

If a school's total enrollment forecasts (column 6) for both of the last two school years are significantly lower than each corresponding year's official Norm Day total enrollment (column 7), then the school may meet the required criteria for a 'Rationale A' Staffing Appeal. Each Staffing Appeal is evaluated by specialists from SMS-MPD and/or Student Integration Services, and their recommendations are provided to LAUSD Region Administrators. It is the Region Administrators who make the final decisions regarding a school's Staffing Appeal and determination on the allocation of any additional FTEs.

How accurate are Master Planning and Demographics' Forecasts?

For each of the last eleven years, the District's overall E-CAST forecasts, as developed by SMS-MPD, ***have almost always been accurate to within 1%*** of their corresponding total Norm Day actual enrollments.

In recent years, the COVID pandemic has brought on some uncertainties for future student enrollment. For example, for SY 2021-22, there was a difference of 14,882 students between the forecast and actual enrollment. In the years after, as more data has become available, the differences between forecast and actual enrollment have grown smaller, but is still elevated compared to historic trends.

The differences between forecast total graded enrollments and actual Norm Day total graded enrollments were:

- In 2025: ????, or approximately ???%
- In 2024: 1,583, or approximately 0.5%
- In 2023: 7,319, or approximately 2.4%
- In 2022: 8,659, or approximately 2.9%
- In 2021: 14,882, or approximately 4.9%
- In 2020: 1,286, or approximately 0.4%
- In 2019: 5,787, or approximately 1.7%
- in 2018: 3,542, or approximately 0.9%
- in 2017: 2,006, or approximately 0.5%
- in 2016: 702, or approximately 0.2%
- in 2015: 3,244, or approximately 0.8%
- in 2014: 1,779, or approximately 0.4%
- In 2013: 1,930, or approximately 0.4%

The differences for resident enrollment, Permit/Open Enrollment, and Other Travel-In enrollment are shown in the reports to provide additional detail about the enrollment differences at each school. In the process of establishing each school's individual forecast, its Permit/Open Enrollment forecast is generally held equal to the current year count with the expectation that schools will strive to retain and attract their resident students.