

E-CAST 2026 - ENROLLMENT PROJECTION BRIEF

The Districtwide and School-by-School enrollment forecasts developed for E-CAST were guided by current demographic best practices and methodologies, responding to trends specific to LAUSD. The enrollment projection methodology considers that all 4-year olds are eligible for TK enrollment as of SY 25-26, the actual TK-12 enrollment choices made by students, birth trends in LAUSD, and ongoing population shifts effecting the 5-17 year-old population.

Enrollments continue to decline throughout California, including Southern California. Enrollments continue to decline Districtwide in the LAUSD. Districtwide general education TK-12 enrollment has been declining annually with enrollments from SY 24-25 to SY 25-26 having experienced a larger decline than in recent years.

School-Level Enrollment

LAUSD's SMS-MPD (School Management Services and Master Planning Demographics) Unit closely monitors the latest population and enrollment information and stays abreast of current demographic research. As annual enrollment becomes available from schools, a top priority for SMS-MPD is to apply the data trends to forecasts. E-CAST 2026 enrollment forecasts reflect a continuation of decline among most schools, with most forecasted to decline by some degree. School-level projections remain sensitive to individual school enrollment patterns using data specific to each school.

Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Eligibility

E-CAST's TK enrollment projections incorporate the fact that as of SY 25-26 all 4-year olds are eligible for TK and the multiple years of expanded TK eligibility is now complete. Whereas expansion of TK eligibility had offset some of the past enrollment decline from declining birth rates and declines in the rate of birth-to-TK participation, forecasted TK enrollment will not have that same offsetting effect in SY 26-27 Districtwide .

In order to forecast for schools without any historical TK enrollments, either at the host program or at the DLE program, a minimal amount of place holder enrollments were used to generate one TK class.

SMS-MPD's Ongoing Commitment

E-CAST 2026's methodology incorporates recent enrollment patterns into the development of its enrollment forecasts and responds to the particular enrollment patterns of each school. SMS-MPD will continue to monitor and respond to the long-term impacts of localized events on student enrollments.

For E-CAST 2026 and beyond, the SMS-MPD unit remains committed to delivering the most accurate and realistic school enrollment forecasts possible using demographic best practices and methodologies. At the same time, SMS-MPD will continue to incorporate into its enrollment forecasts the appropriate practical and effective responses to any changes in District policies and programming that affect school enrollments, ensuring that E-CAST will continue to serve as a robust, well-founded planning tool for LAUSD schools well into the future.