

From the desk of
Matthew Farber

TO: Cordelia Twomey

FROM: Matthew Farber

DATE: July 26, 2013

SUBJECT: GROWTH OF THE U.S. POPULATION ENROLLED IN K-12 EDUCATION

U.S. Population Enrolled in K-12 Education in 1985, 1995, and 2005

The U.S. population enrolled in K-12 education increased from 1985 – 2005. These conclusions were based on analyzing data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. The raw data included information categorized by grade level and by school funding, either public or private. When the data was combined to show the total enrollment in K-12 education, findings indicated that there was a positive increase over the twenty-year period analyzed. (See Figure 1.)

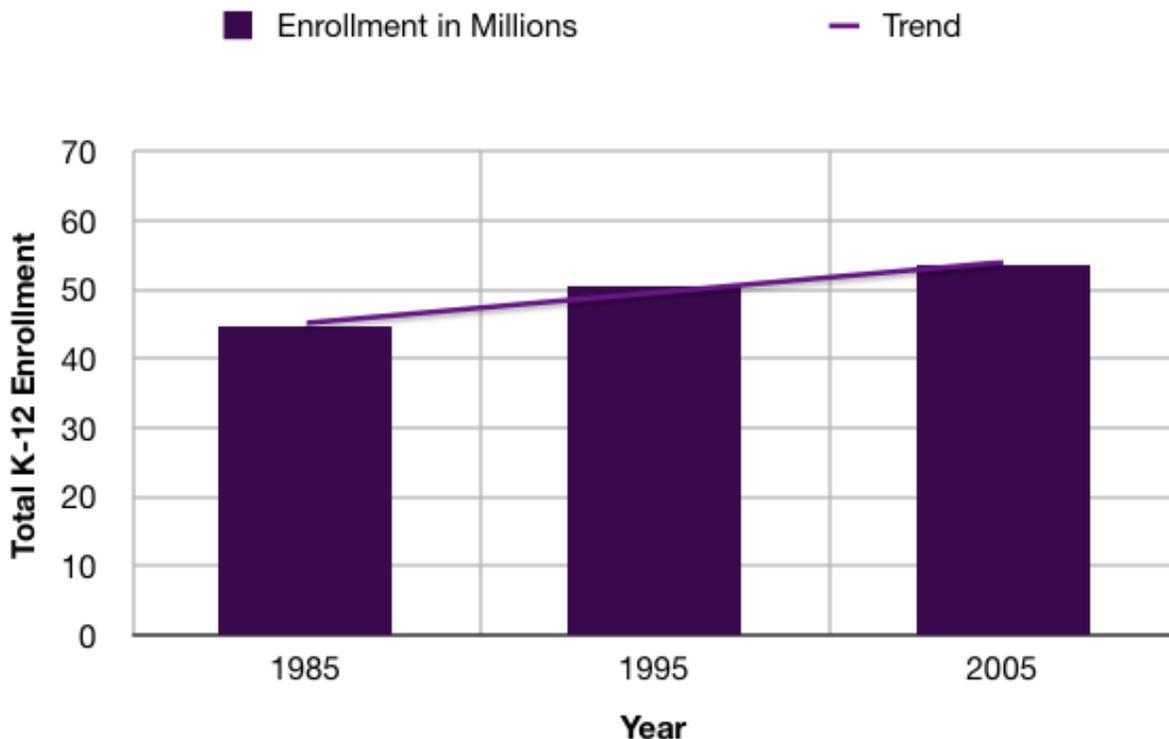


Figure 1. U.S. population enrolled in K-12 education in 1985, 1995, and 2005. Adapted from *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. (2012). Retrieved July 23, 2013, from United States Census Bureau website: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/12statab/educ.pdf>

Discussion and Prediction

Data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau indicated that, over the twenty-year period reported, the U.S. population enrollment in K-12 increased by 8.8 million total students (see Figure 1). From 1985 until 1995, enrollment increased from 44.7 million students to 50.6 million students. Enrollment in 2005 increased to 53.5 million students. The total percentage increase over the entire twenty-year period was 19.69%.

Upon closer analysis, the data trend indicates that enrollment has been slowing. The percentage increase dropped from 13.20% in 1995 to 5.73% by 2005. While total student enrollment went up by 5.9 million from 1985 – 1995, the following ten-year increment rose by about half of that number, or 2.9 million.

The trend suggests a continued slowing of the increase of K-12 enrollment (see Figure 1). While it can be expected that K-12 enrollment should continue to rise, its growth should be about half of the previous decade's increase. Following this course, the 2015 total increase would be approximately 1.45 million more students, or growth of 2.71%. The trend suggests that the total K-12 enrollment in 2015 will be approximately 54.95 million students.

Thank you for considering this proposal to lower K-12 education enrollment estimates for 2015. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 201-519-7676.