

## Studies Reveal Changing Enrollment Trends Across The District

Changing enrollment trends within RSCCD are generating intense interest as the District considers the significance of these changes and how to adjust budget, curricula and services to accommodate them.

The RSCCD Research Department has responded to a variety of enrollment-related questions and conducted several *ad hoc* studies over the past few months.

This summarizes key points from those studies that we believe may provide useful insights and suggest some appropriate responses.

Because the two college service areas within RSCCD differ in many ways, separate summaries will be prepared.

## Santa Ana Unified School District Enrollment Facts

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While total enrollment at **SAUSD** has declined slightly in the last year, enrollments in **grades 9 through 12** have continued to grow, and the number of graduates has continually increased.

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Current projections indicate **continued growth** in the number of graduates for the remainder of the decade.

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The proportion of **high school graduates** matriculating to SAC has remained stable at **32% to 38%** in the last four years.

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New high school graduates from SAUSD comprise only **5%** of SAC on-campus enrollment; however, these students are typically **full-time and persisting**, generating more FTES.

## SAC Enrollment Trends

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Between Fall 1998 and Fall 2004, total SAC enrollment actually increased **13%**. Enrollment **peaked at 25,972** in Fall 2001 and then **declined to 22,223** in Fall 2004, however. (Statewide CCC enrollment increased 13% at the same rate during this time period.)

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**On-campus** enrollment has **remained level** since Fall 1998, fluctuating between a low of **16,883** for Fall 2004 and a high of **18,393** for Fall 2002. In conclusion, most of the **increase** in SAC enrollment since 1998 was in **non-campus programs**.

51%

of the total enrollment currently resides within the RSCCD service area, and **59%** of the on-campus enrollment resides within the RSCCD service area.

SA

Of all students living in Santa Ana zip codes and attending **any** community college, **68%** of the **Latinos** attend SAC and **23%** of the **Asians** attend SAC. The proportion of Latino has remained stable over the last five years, but the proportion of Asian has declined five percentage points in the last five years.

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The proportion of **day-only** students has **increased 24%** in the last four years, but the number is not as high as it has been in some past years.

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Of students who live in **Santa Ana and Garden Grove**, **7%** fewer are attending **on-campus** programs at SAC than in Fall 2002.

## Student Persistence

AA

Of all new first-time freshmen who have a goal of transferring or obtaining an A.A. degree, **72%** persist to a second semester.

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About **21%** of all course enrollments result in a “drop” before the third week of the semester.

Generally speaking, for **each student** that drops a typical **three-unit class** prior to census week (or for each seat that is permanently vacated), the college loses approximately **\$400** in potential FTES income.

W/F

Another **19%** of all enrollments result in non-successful course completion, either from a drop or failing grade.

## Service Area Enrollment Facts

26%

of the homes in the SAC service area are “linguistically isolated”, i.e., no one in the home over **14** speaks English well. In **80%** of the houses, English is not the primary language spoken.

57%

of the SAC service area population **does not** have a high school diploma.

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While the service area population increased at high rates since **1990**, there is no recent evidence to indicate whether this rate of increase has continued or changed.

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Additionally, **19%** of the population lives below poverty level, and **52%** are foreign born (one of the highest percentages of all U.S. cities).

## Our findings suggest some questions for consideration:

How can we use these facts to enhance a solid core of enrollment?

Is there more we can do to attract the varieties of students within our service area of Santa Ana and Garden Grove--Asian students and those academically under prepared?

Is there more we can do to encourage students to persist in courses?

How can we continue to ensure that SAUSD graduates attend SAC at higher rates?

How can we further maximize use of existing facilities during the day, as well as use the facilities during other times to more fully address the needs of our students and enhance enrollment?