

Teacher Counts in Detroit, 2012-2013 through 2016-2017

I. Teacher Count

	Teacher Count				
Governance Structure	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
DPSCD-LEA	3042	3172	2918	2710	2504
DPSCD-PSA	213	196	187	196	191
EAA-LEA	267	227	372	344	281
EAA-PSA	88	89	68	68	54
Other PSA	2777	2866	2881	2851	2802

Generally, in the last five years, the teacher counts for school governance structures in Detroit have been declining except for Other PSAs, which have been holding relatively steady and the EAA-LEA, in which there was a net increase in teacher count.

II. Student Count

It's important to consider how the decline in teacher count compares to the decline in student count over the same period.

	Student Count				
DPSCD-LEA Enrollment	50172	49870	47959	46912	45720
EAA-LEA Enrollment	8682	6517	6556	5748	5089

In the DPSCD-LEA, the total number of teachers decreased by 18% between 2012-2013 and 2016-2017. The total number of students decreased by 9% between 2012-2013 and 2016-2017.

In the EAA-LEA, the total number of teachers increased by 5% between 2012-2013 and 2016-2017, while the total number of students decreased by 42%.

III. Student Count to Teacher Count Ratio

Comparing trends in teacher count and student count would be most meaningful if there were a.) an ideal student to teacher ratio against which to make comparisons that account for various student needs and settings, and b.) a clear way to determine a measure of student to teacher ratio that reflects this ideal class size (there's not). As it is, a **very** rough way of looking at it is to simply divide the number of students by the number of teachers:

	Students per Teacher				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
DPSCD-LEA	16	16	16	17	18
EAA-LEA	33	29	18	17	18

As the decrease in number of teachers in the DPSCD-LEA has outpaced the decrease in number of students enrolled, the count of students to teachers has increased over the last five years.

It appears that the increase in number of teachers in the EAA-LEA compared to the decrease in student enrollment in the EAA-LEA may be explained as a correction to a very high student to teacher count in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 rather than a case of over-supply of teachers.

It's extremely important to use caution in using these ratios as an indicator of class size and required teacher supply based thereupon. These counts, both teacher and student, group together all grades, content areas, instructional settings, and services. While a student to teacher ratio of 18:1 seems ideal for a 3rd grade self-contained general elementary classroom, it's rather high for a specialized special education program.

Notes on the Data:

- *Teacher counts were pulled from the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP).*
- *Student counts were pulled from MiSchoolData.*
- *It is certainly possible to pull student counts for the other governance structures, but that will take a little more time.*