

**Education Estimating Conference for PreK-12 Enrollment  
Executive Summary  
July 25, 2024**

The Education Estimating Conference met on July 25, 2024, to adopt a PreK-12 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment forecast for FY 2024-25 through FY 2029-30. The adopted forecast incorporates new data for: FY 2023-24 Fourth Calculation FTE, FY 2023-24 scholarships, 2024 Session Impacts, FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) carry forward projections, and births from the July 2024 Demographic Estimating Conference.

***FY 2023-24 Fourth Calculation...***

The FY 2023-24 Fourth Calculation FTE was 4,866.17 higher than the Third Calculation. Traditional school districts (excluding Family Empowerment Scholarships) decreased by 2,303.44 FTE, while FLVS increased by 3,062.61 FTE and Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) increased by 4,107.00 FTE relative the Third Calculation. Overall, Fourth Calculation FTE was -38,123.58 lower than the appropriated level for the year.

***Legislative Changes from the 2024 Session...***

Several legislative actions from the 2024 Session shaped the new forecast. They are:

*Chapter No. 2024-163, Laws of Florida*

- Beginning in FY 2024-25, FTC-PEP students are allowed to enroll in hybrid/part-time private schools. This change may result in insignificant upward pressure on FTC throughout the forecast horizon.
- Hope scholarship students will transfer to the FTC scholarship program beginning in FY 2024-25. This results in a one-time shift of the Hope fund balance but has no impact on the remainder of the forecast.
- Beginning in FY 2025-26, the calculation for maximum participation in FES-UA increases from 3% of Exceptional Student Education FTE (excluding gifted) to 5%, with an initially prescribed maximum of 72,615 in FY 2024-25. This increase in the maximum does not impact the underlying FES-UA forecast.

*Chapter No. 2024-230, Laws of Florida*

- Beginning in FY 2024-25, transportation assistance is limited to one \$750 stipend for each household that has one or more students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 who attend a public school to which they are not assigned. While there is no impact on private versus public school participation, this change is notable as the FTC program funds the administrative fees for this stipend.

*Florida Education Finance Program Conference Report (HB 5001)*

- The Conference report increases the average scholarship value in FY 2024-25 to \$7,937 for FES-EO/FTC scholarships and \$10,799 for FES-UA scholarships. This increase does not impact overall

scholarship participation, although it does impact the number of scholarships that can be funded through the FTC program.

***FY 2024-25 Traditional Public School and Scholarship Forecast...***

The scholarship forecast is dependent upon the inter-relationships between FTC, FTC-PEP, and FES-EO. For FY 2024-25, carry forward projections and expenditures for scholarships were updated to ensure that the forecast reflects the most up-to-date FTC information, including current administration of the scholarship programs (see Scholarship Outlook Statement). Compared to the prior forecast in February 2024, revisions include a one-time prior year Hope balance transfer of \$74.0 million for Step Up for Students (SUFS), an increase of \$14.9 million in transfers from AAA Scholarship Foundation (AAA) to SUFS in June 2024, and an increase of \$6.5 million and \$4.4 million in AAA and SUFS carry forward estimates, respectively. The total amount of carry forward increased by \$99.8 million to \$252,079,228. After adjusting anticipated scholarships by the higher scholarship award amount in FY 2024-25, an additional 5,822 privately funded (FTC) scholarships could be awarded, of which 4,425 were used by the anticipated increase in FTC-PEP scholarships and 538 were used to fund the prior Hope scholarships.

In total, the new forecast assumes 120,409 FTC scholarships and 315,033 publicly funded scholarships (after conversion to FTEs) in FY 2024-25. The lower number of publicly funded scholarships explains the entirety of the difference (-859.00 FTE) between the newly adopted public school forecast for FY 2024-25 and the prior conference results. The total projected FTE is now 3,169,442.01 for FY 2024-25.

***Forecast Extension through FY 2029-30...***

Forecasted growth over the prior year ranges from a high of 112,483.14 (3.7%) in FY 2024-25 to a low of 35,534.83 (1.1%) in FY 2026-27. The final year of the forecast, FY 2029-30, is expected to grow by 51,545.19 (1.5%), reaching 3,411,311.44 FTE.

A number of drivers influence the shape of the forecast. First, the FES-UA program is forecasted to continue to have strong growth in each of the remaining years of the forecast through FY 2029-30, with historical participation rates extended throughout the horizon. Second, private school scholarships (funded through both the FES-EO and FTC programs) are anticipated to grow steadily. Finally, FTC-PEP program participation is expected to remain lower than the statutory cap throughout the forecast horizon.

There are three tables below: Table 1 provides a summary of the forecast by program category, Table 2 displays total FTE enrollment by year, and Table 3 illustrates the differences between the February 2024 and July 2024 forecasts.

**Table 1. July 25, 2024 Forecast Summary**

Program Category	FY 2022-23 Final	FY 2023-24 4th Calc	FY 2024-25 Forecast	FY 2025-26 Forecast	FY 2026-27 Forecast	FY 2027-28 Forecast	FY 2028-29 Forecast	FY 2029-30 Forecast
101 Basic Non-ESE PreK-3	644,450.25	632,170.99	655,607.77	659,650.79	659,565.28	668,581.48	674,522.40	687,834.19
102 Basic Non-ESE 4-8	802,000.89	813,137.31	856,815.75	871,665.95	888,986.08	907,365.72	916,535.35	924,892.47
103 Basic Non-ESE 9-12	639,565.31	658,915.38	680,935.38	691,659.11	689,810.28	689,647.34	699,189.61	706,794.14
111 Basic ESE PreK-3	168,345.73	185,618.05	191,802.81	198,078.43	204,783.26	212,011.71	219,936.92	229,175.40
112 Basic ESE 4-8	264,270.95	271,175.70	281,180.99	291,186.78	303,013.65	315,201.57	324,255.79	330,484.95
113 Basic ESE 9-12	171,504.13	178,992.53	182,858.53	188,220.91	190,603.14	193,239.53	199,620.56	203,997.70
130 ESOL	191,617.67	215,520.48	217,021.72	216,593.59	215,433.88	216,637.01	217,695.79	218,989.53
254 ESE Level IV	23,978.82	25,732.06	26,644.65	27,608.61	28,483.82	29,422.71	30,480.56	31,295.40
255 ESE Level V	4,704.47	5,091.88	5,314.22	5,546.61	5,756.08	5,990.17	6,241.20	6,439.27
300 Career Ed	68,467.35	70,604.49	71,260.19	71,513.61	70,823.75	70,375.18	71,288.07	71,408.39
Group 1 FTE	2,690,137.26	2,740,009.96	2,849,201.23	2,900,461.97	2,936,761.69	2,986,047.35	3,034,060.63	3,083,178.85
Group 2 FTE	288,768.31	316,948.91	320,240.78	321,262.42	320,497.53	322,425.07	325,705.62	328,132.59
ESE FTE	632,804.10	666,610.22	687,801.20	710,641.34	732,639.95	755,865.69	780,535.03	801,392.72
Total FTE	2,978,905.57	3,056,958.87	3,169,442.01	3,221,724.39	3,257,259.22	3,308,472.42	3,359,766.25	3,411,311.44

**Table 2. Historical and Forecasted Total FTE Enrollment**

Fiscal Year	Total PK-12 FTE	Change	% Change
FY 2019-2020	2,860,469.34	28,556.11	1.01%
FY 2020-2021	2,801,507.89	-58,961.45	-2.06%
FY 2021-2022	2,917,321.99	115,814.10	4.13%
FY 2022-2023 Final Calc	2,978,905.57	61,583.58	2.11%
FY 2023-2024 4th Calc	3,056,958.87	78,053.30	2.62%
FY 2024-2025 Forecast	3,169,442.01	112,483.14	3.68%
FY 2025-2026 Forecast	3,221,724.39	52,282.38	1.65%
FY 2026-2027 Forecast	3,257,259.22	35,534.83	1.10%
FY 2027-2028 Forecast	3,308,472.42	51,213.20	1.57%
FY 2028-2029 Forecast	3,359,766.25	51,293.83	1.55%
FY 2029-2030 Forecast	3,411,311.44	51,545.19	1.53%

**Table 3. Forecast Summary**

	February 21, 2024 Conference	July 25, 2024 Conference	Difference	% Diff
FY 2023-24 3rd Calc vs 4th Calc	3,052,092.70	3,056,958.87	4,866.17	0.16%
FY 2024-2025 Forecast	3,170,301.01	3,169,442.01	-859.00	-0.03%
FY 2025-2026 Forecast	3,223,872.39	3,221,724.39	-2,148.00	-0.07%
FY 2026-2027 Forecast	3,259,479.06	3,257,259.22	-2,219.84	-0.07%
FY 2027-2028 Forecast	3,310,532.13	3,308,472.42	-2,059.71	-0.06%
FY 2028-2029 Forecast	3,367,273.56	3,359,766.25	-7,507.31	-0.22%
FY 2029-2030 Forecast		3,411,311.44		

### **General Notes...**

The Education Estimating Conference for PreK-12 Enrollment forecasts full-time equivalent (FTE) students whose educational instruction is funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). There are ten program categories in two groups:

#### Group 1

- Three for basic education students who are not exceptional education students (101: for PreK through Grade 3; 102: for Grades 4 through 8; 103: for Grades 9 through 12) and
- Three for basic education exceptional educational students by grade grouping (111, 112, and 113).

#### Group 2

- One for English Language Learners (130),
- Two for exceptional education students who need higher levels of services (254, 255) and
- One for students taking career education instruction (300).

The funded educational time for a student may be in a single program category or spread through two or more program categories.

The FEFP is calculated five times throughout the year to arrive at each year's final appropriation. Each calculation ("calc") uses the latest information regarding the number of students that is available:

- (1) First Calculation (1<sup>st</sup> Calc) – This calculation is completed immediately after the annual legislative session. FTE student enrollment is the forecast used by the Legislature for the General Appropriations Act.
- (2) Second Calculation (2<sup>nd</sup> Calc) – This calculation is made upon receipt of the certified tax roll from the Department of Revenue. FTE student enrollment is the forecast used by the Legislature for the General Appropriations Act.
- (3) Third Calculation (3<sup>rd</sup> Calc) – This calculation includes the July and October actual FTE student enrollment surveys and the February and June estimated FTE enrollment. It is available in November.
- (4) Fourth Calculation (4<sup>th</sup> Calc) – This calculation includes July, October, and February actual FTE student enrollment surveys and the June estimated FTE enrollment. It is available in March.
- (5) Final Calculation – This calculation includes the actual final FTE student enrollment surveys for all four counts (July, October, February, and June) and is available in September or October of the next fiscal year.

FEFP FTE includes public education settings and a scholarship program for non-public students, the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) program. This program consists of two subtypes: FES-EO (for Educational Options) and FES-UA (for Unique Abilities). Families awarded a private school voucher are either funded through the FES-EO or Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship programs. Families awarded a personalized education program (PEP) voucher are only funded through the FTC program.

The FTC program size is limited to the revenues collected for the scholarship program. Once FTC has reached its statutorily prescribed capacity, the FES-EO program is then used for funding private school vouchers. The FES-UA and FTC-PEP programs have the ability to grow based on statutory requirements. In addition, the FES-UA program has statutorily identified student groups that do not count towards the growth cap.

The Conference principals may adopt forecasts that include FTE enrollment estimates for the current year. For example, the conference held on January 10, 2024, the 2023-24 "MYE" represented preliminary recalibrated survey 2 (October 2023) data, used as a base for the forecast.

'PreK' figures include only pre-school age children with disabilities (ESE) and pre-school age children whose parents are in the Teenage Parent Program. It does not include children participating exclusively in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program who receive those services through the public school system.

**Acronyms**

AAA	AAA Scholarship Foundation
Calc	Calculation
ESE	Exceptional Student Education
ESOL	English Speakers of Other Languages
FEFP	Florida Education Finance Program
FES	Family Empowerment Scholarship
FES-EO	Family Empowerment Scholarship – Educational Options
FES-UA	Family Empowerment Scholarship – Unique Abilities
FTC	Florida Tax Credit
FTC-PEP	Florida Tax Credit - Personalized Education Program
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
MYE	Mid-Year Estimate
PreK	Prekindergarten
SUFS	Step Up For Students
TCC	Tallahassee Community College