

Demographics of Gifted Students In Florida

Demographics from the recent 2000 U.S. Census has confirmed what many educators already know, that our society is changing and becoming much more diverse. In the past 50 years, the demographics of the United States have changed dramatically and Florida is a prime example of that demographic shift. Currently in Florida, according to the 2000 Census, there are 16,396,515 people living in the state. Of these, 22.6% are under 18, 17.6% are over 65 and 51.2% are female. In addition, the ethnic make up is 65.4% white, 14.6% black or African American, 16.8% Hispanic, 1.7% Asian, 0.3% Native American or Alaska Native, 1.2% other.

School populations are reflective of the diversity within the broader population of the state. Gifted programs within our schools should also reflect the diversity that exists within the school environment and the broader population of the state. What are the demographics of the gifted students served in your county? Who is unrepresented and underserved? What are the demographics for the state of Florida?

The following table indicates the diversity of gifted students in the state of Florida and a selection of two school districts. You can obtain current statistics from your own school district and discuss their implications.

Diversity	Florida State		Miami-Dade County		Volusia County	
	All	Gifted	All	Gifted	All	Gifted
Free/Reduced Lunch	46%	24%	59%	41%	42%	17%
LEP	12%	3%	24%	7%	6%	<1%
White	46%	59%	9%	19%	64%	81%
Black	23%	10%	26%	16%	15%	6%
Hispanic	25%	23%	62%	59%	16%	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	5%	1%	3%	2%	3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Multiracial	4%	4%	1%	3%	4%	4%

Florida Department of Education: Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services: 2007 Gifted Membership Compared to PK-12 by Racial/Ethnic Category, October 2007 (Survey 2)