



Rancho Santiago Community College District Enrollment Trends and Projections RSCCD and Feeder School Districts

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California experienced a high population growth during the 1980s which, in turn, impacted our K-12 schools. This growth would also later impact the higher education systems, a phenomenon known as Tidal Wave II. Did Tidal Wave II impact Orange County and its schools and, if so, how great was the impact and how far did the “ripples” carry? This analysis is for RSCCD based on data reported by our feeder unified school districts and our own colleges’ credit headcount.

Local Trends

- Anaheim City USD, Garden Grove USD, Orange USD, and Santa Ana USD experienced increases in enrollment from 1993-1994 to around 2002-2003 and then began a gradual decline. The declines may be attributed to the affordability of housing in the Inland Empire and a significant shift from public to private school enrollments.
- It is projected that the steady decline in birthrates in Orange County since 1990 (21.23 births per 1,000 population vs. 13.48 births/1,000 in 2009) will begin to turn around by the end of 2010. However, public school enrollments at all levels will experience similar declines for about 20 years as a result.
- Since 2003-2004 Orange County high schools have, in general, graduated about 1% to 3% fewer students each year; K-12 enrollments, overall, have decreased about 1 percentage point each year during the same period. While there have been isolated exceptions to that trend, it is projected that these decreases will continue through 2018-2019.
- From 1995 to 2000, migration to Orange County (domestic and international) exceeded migration from Orange County.
- Orange County population continues to increase due to its attractive residential location, immigration (estimated at 128,204 from 1995 to 2000), and natural increases (births exceeding deaths). At the same time, the County is always approaching build-out of available residential land and will cause the growth to slow in coming years.
- Historically, economic downturns affect enrollment increases at the community colleges (i.e. for purposes of retraining and enrollments of university-bound students who cannot afford tuition increases); however, the magnitude of California’s crisis and its effects on our colleges’ budgets severely restricts our ability to serve the increased need.

Impact to RSCCD

Generally, RSCCD trends mirror those of our feeder unified school districts. The current economic downturn will also severely impact our ability to serve the community. Historically, the path to recovery is a long stretch. It is projected that our colleges' enrollments will continue to decline for at least another ten years forward.

Enrollment Trends and Projections RSCCD and Feeder School Districts

School Year	Feeder Unified School Districts				Orange County K-12 Enrollment**	RSCCD Credit Enrollment***
	Anaheim USD*	Garden Grove USD*	Orange USD*	Santa Ana USD*		
1993-94	17,017	41,664	26,387	48,407	402,314	47,481
1994-95	17,537	42,423	26,711	48,870	412,266	48,451
1995-96	18,356	43,413	27,432	50,268	424,862	50,422
1996-97	19,471	44,661	28,294	52,107	442,927	51,892
1997-98	20,128	45,776	29,249	53,806	458,489	53,362
1998-99	20,927	46,916	29,927	56,071	471,404	51,586
1999-00	21,820	48,031	30,858	58,043	483,360	57,263
2000-01	22,275	48,742	31,097	60,643	494,178	61,451
2001-02	22,426	49,809	31,689	61,909	503,351	66,782
2002-03	22,375	50,066	31,823	63,610	512,105	60,328
2003-04	21,963	50,172	32,032	62,874	515,464	55,109
2004-05	21,383	50,030	31,351	61,693	513,744	58,549
2005-06	20,690	49,574	30,901	59,310	510,114	63,878
2006-07	19,958	48,798	30,327	57,346	503,955	66,389
2007-08	19,332	48,669	30,127	57,061	503,225	71,950
2008-09	19,278	48,574	30,170	57,439	502,773	70,737
2009-10	18,868	48,261	29,812	56,478	503,299	69,542
2010-11	18,466	47,951	29,458	55,532	499,584	68,366
2011-12	18,073	47,642	29,108	54,602	495,837	67,211
2012-13	17,688	47,335	28,763	53,688	491,921	66,075
2013-14	17,311	47,030	28,421	52,790	487,455	64,958
2014-15	16,943	46,727	28,084	51,906	483,185	63,861
2015-16	16,582	46,427	27,751	51,037	479,177	62,781
2016-17	16,229	46,128	27,421	50,183	475,826	61,720
2017-18	15,883	45,831	27,096	49,343	472,684	60,677
2018-19	15,545	45,535	26,774	48,517	469,027	59,652

* 1993-1994 through 2008-2009 are actual enrollments, California Department of Education
2009-2010 through 2018-2019 are projected enrollment, RSCCD Research Department

** 1993-1994 through 2007-2008 are actual enrollments, California Department of Education
2008-2009 through 2018-2019 are projected enrollments, California Department of Finance

*** 1993-1994 through 2008-2009 are actual unduplicated district wide headcount by school year
(summer/fall/spring), RSCCD Research Department
2009-2010 through 2018-2019 are projected headcount, RSCCD Research Department