



Coalition for
Jewish Learning
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

2017-2018 Census of Milwaukee Area Jewish School Enrollment: An Overview

This year's census was conducted by the Coalition for Jewish Learning (CJL), the Education Department of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The census is based on responses from local schools.

CJL's annual census documents that the number of children enrolled in Milwaukee Area Jewish schools rose from 1606 to 1611. This slight rise is because this year for the first time, the census included students getting an individualized education (tutoring). Without including the students learning individually, there were 1587 students, a 1% drop (19 students) in enrollment from last year's total. While this is a very small decrease, it does represent the continuation of a downward trend which has continued for 18 years.

Analysis of these figures is limited by the absence of a full census of school age Jewish children. A decline in attendance could be attributed to a number of factors, but some educators cite a decline in the number of Jewish children which is reflected in their enrollment numbers. Lower rates of synagogue affiliation also impact the number of children in supplementary schools.

Pre-School Enrollment

There was a 4% increase (20 students) at the preschool level, from 417 last year to 437 this year.

Day School Population

Day school enrollment decreased by 2 students from 602 to 600. Just like last year, there is considerable variance on a school by school basis. Some schools grew bigger and some became smaller.

Religious School Trend Continues

There was a decrease of 37 students in religious school enrollment from 587 to 550. This 6% decrease is smaller than the decrease last year.

New

For the first time this year, we decided to add not only students getting individualized education, but also informal education to the census. The Coalition for Jewish Learning recognizes that students learn in many settings and the second page of the census reflects learning through Jewish Youth Groups and PJ Library. It should be noted that since students may belong to multiple youth groups and/or be counted in the school census, the total number of students participating in programs does not represent the total number of children.

Youth Group Enrollment

There are 544 children (2nd-12th grade) who participate in 5 local youth groups.

PJ Library

There are 696 local children (birth-age 11) who get books from PJ Library.

I wish to thank the schools for their cooperation which allows us to provide this important information to the community.