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## Emerging Trends Initiative, Education Update, Focus on Kent County, 2003

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# Emerging Trends Initiative Education Update

Focus on Kent County

December 2003

Grand Rapids Community Foundation

Community Research Institute



# About the Community Research Institute

The Community Research Institute (CRI) at Grand Valley State University, a partnership between the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, serves the Greater Grand Rapids nonprofit and philanthropic community. CRI's mission is to assist nonprofit organizations with acquisition of information and technical skills that will help them to understand the evolving needs of the community, plan programs, solve problems, and measure outcomes.

CRI engages in applied research and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects and is a clearinghouse for community data. The CRI web site provides a comprehensive overview of community indicators at [www.cridata.org](http://www.cridata.org). Research for this report was provided by: Cori Scholtens [scholtco@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholtco@gvsu.edu) and Korrie Ottenwess [ottenwko@gvsu.edu](mailto:ottenwko@gvsu.edu). They may be reached at 616.331.7587.

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# Introduction

## The Emerging Trends Initiative

The Community Research Institute (CRI) has developed a process for systematically scanning the Greater Grand Rapids Area for emerging trends and relevant data to inform the work of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and the larger nonprofit and philanthropic community. More specifically, this project intends to track data on a yearly basis for each of the Foundation's Leadership Agenda areas including:

- Public Education
- Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors
- Civic Engagement
- Community & Economic Development
- Child Welfare

## 2003 Education Update

The *Emerging Trends Education Update: Focus on Kent County 2003* is an update to the 2002 report on the Emerging Trends Initiative in the area of Education. The 2002 report can be read and downloaded from the Community Research Institute's website under Education at [www.cridata.org](http://www.cridata.org).

After researching fifteen different national and state level sources of education indicators, this report focuses on the thirteen most commonly found variables. They are presented within the areas of **Participation in Education, Revenue and Expenditures, and Performance and Learner Outcomes**. The full range of updated education data for public, charter, nonpublic, and home schools for Allegan, Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon Counties will be available on the Community Research Institute's website at [www.cridata.org](http://www.cridata.org).

# Participation in Education

## Preprimary Education

### Variable 1: Enrollment in Pre-kindergarten

- Increasing amounts of evidence point to the importance of a child’s early years in physical, mental, and emotional development. Development of a child’s brain through nurturing relationships during these early years affects lifelong health, learning, and behavior.<sup>i</sup>
- National enrollment rates for children aged 3-5 in early childhood education programs have been on the rise since 1991. Children living at or above poverty and those with more highly educated mothers have higher participation rates in early childhood education programs.<sup>ii</sup>
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 10,890 children in Kent County age 3 years and over were enrolled in some type of nursery school or preschool program. This was an 18% decrease from 1990 levels of 13,339 children.

#### Persons 3 Years and Over Enrolled in Nursery School, Preschool Michigan, Kent County & Grand Rapids 1990-2000

	1990			2000		
	Total	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private
Michigan	199,099	71%	29%	173,083	64%	36%
Kent County	13,339	66%	34%	10,890	60%	40%
City of Grand Rapids	5,109	61%	39%	3,370	63%	37%

**Source: US Census Bureau (2000: SF3 – P36, 1990: STF3 – P054)**

- In the 2002-2003 school year, 1,700 children were enrolled in prekindergarten programs at Kent County’s nonpublic schools. The largest groups of children were enrolled in Christian school programs (43%), Roman Catholic programs (32%), and Lutheran school programs (15%).<sup>iii</sup>

# Participation in Education

## Elementary & Secondary Education

### Variable 2: Headcount Enrollment

- Changes in enrollment for a school district have an effect on the demand for educational resources in that community. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), enrollment in public schools is expected to increase through the first half of this decade before declining slightly starting in 2006.<sup>iv</sup>
- In 2002, 93,522 students were enrolled in Kent County public schools. Overall, the number of children enrolled in Kent County public school districts increased by less than 1% from 2001 to 2002.

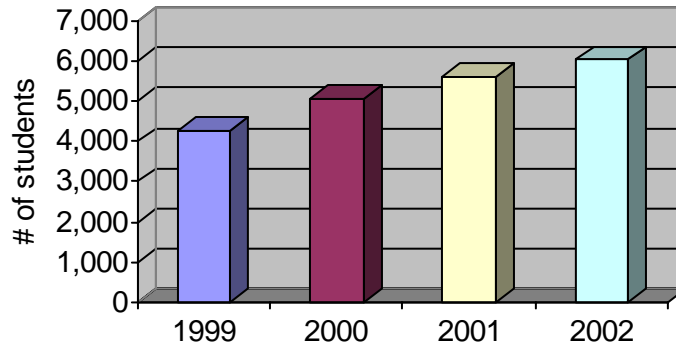
#### Headcount Enrollment & Percent Change in Enrollment Kent County Public School Districts, 2001-2002

Public School Districts	2001 to 2002 Percent Change	2002 Headcount Enrollment
Grand Rapids Public Schools	-5.0%	23,774
Wyoming Public Schools	-3.3%	5,373
Kelloggsville Public Schools	-3.1%	1,899
Sparta Area Schools	-0.6%	2,744
Rockford Public Schools	0.3%	7,460
Caledonia Community Schools	1.3%	3,181
Grandville Public Schools	1.5%	6,004
Lowell Area Schools	1.5%	3,813
Cedar Springs Public Schools	1.8%	3,186
Comstock Park Public Schools	1.8%	2,228
Forest Hills Public Schools	2.1%	8,170
Kent City Community Schools	3.1%	1,476
East Grand Rapids Public School	3.3%	2,783
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	3.7%	1,265
Godwin Heights Public Schools	3.8%	2,195
Northview Public School District	4.4%	3,342
Byron Center Public Schools	4.6%	2,567
Kentwood Public Schools	5.0%	8,621
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	5.4%	3,441

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

- The headcount enrollment at charter schools in Kent County continues to increase. Charter schools in Kent County enrolled 6,044 students in 2002, an increase of 7% from 2001.

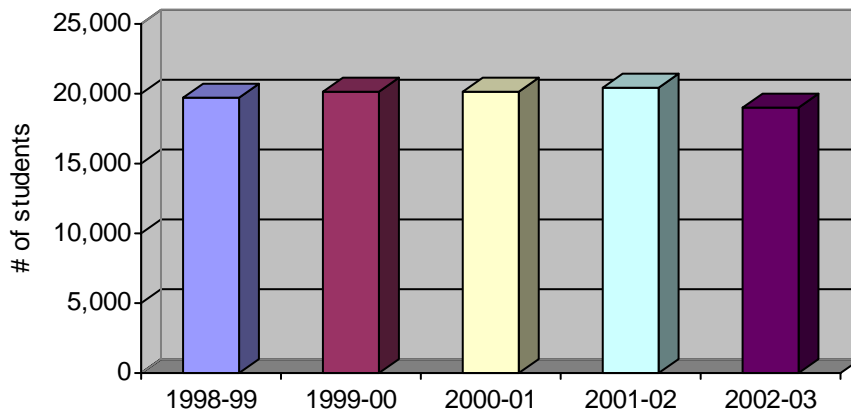
### Charter School Headcount Enrollment Kent County, 1999-2002



Source: Stand & Poor's School Evaluation Services

- Headcount enrollment at Kent County's nonpublic schools in 2002-2003 totalled 18,947. This was a 7% decrease from the previous years total of 20,384. The largest percent of students attended Christian schools (48%) or Roman Catholic schools (35%).<sup>v</sup>

### Nonpublic School Headcount Enrollment Kent County, 1998-2003



Source: Center for Educational Performance and Information

- Students attending home school programs in Kent County increased from 84 in 2001-2002 to 99 in 2002-2003. These numbers may not include all home schooled children in the county because they are not required to report to the state.<sup>vi</sup>



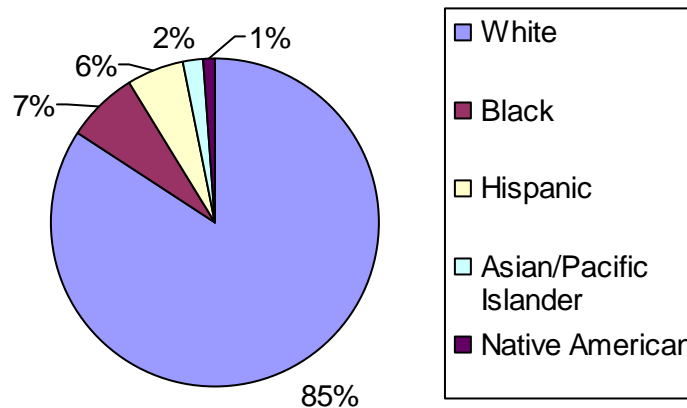
# Participation in Education

## Elementary & Secondary Education

### Variable 3: Enrollment Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

- The fastest growing student group in America's schools are Hispanic students. 17% of United States students enrolled in public schools in 2000 was Hispanic, an 11% increase since 1972. Overall in 2000, 39% of students in America's public schools were from a minority race or ethnic group.<sup>vii</sup>
- The average enrollment distribution of public school districts by race and ethnicity in Kent County in 2002 shows that 85% of students were white. The average distribution for the county as a whole has shown little change over the past year.

**Average Racial/Ethnic Distribution  
Kent County Public School Districts, 2002**



**Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services**

- The enrollment distribution by race/ethnicity from one school district to the next in Kent County indicates greater variation. Twelve of the 19 districts in Kent County are comprised of over 90% white students. Grand Rapids Public Schools and Godfrey-Lee Public Schools are the most racially diverse districts in the county.

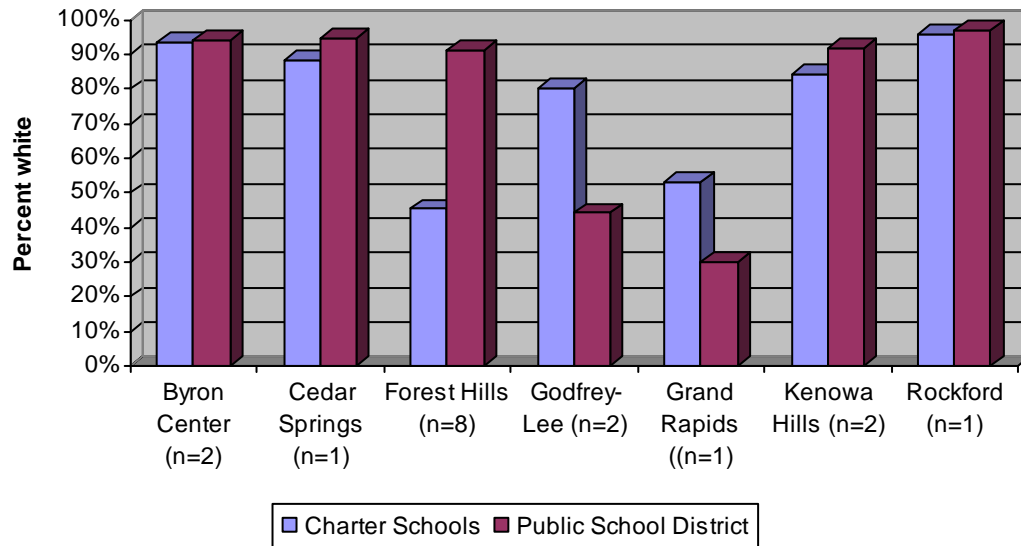
**Average Racial/Ethnic Distribution  
Kent County Public School Districts, 2002**

Public School Districts	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	2001 to 2002 White Percent Change
Rockford Public Schools	97.0%	0.7%	1.2%	1.0%	0.1%	-0.2%
Caledonia Community Schools	96.2	0.6	1.1	1.6	0.5	0.1
Lowell Area Schools	95.9	0.8	2.1	0.9	0.3	-0.2
Sparta Area Schools	95.4	1.2	2.4	0.8	0.2	-0.2
Cedar Springs Public Schools	94.8	0.7	2.9	0.8	0.8	-0.5
East Grand Rapids Public Schools	94.7	1.9	1.5	2.0	0	-0.5
Byron Center Public Schools	94.0	1.6	2.3	1.6	0.5	-1.3
Northview Public School Districts	93.5	3.0	1.9	1.4	0.1	-1.0
Kent City Community Schools	93.0	0.6	6.2	0.3	0	-0.6
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	91.9	2.3	3.9	1.2	0.7	-1.2
Grandville Public Schools	91.6	2.4	3.1	2.5	0.5	0.1
Forest Hills Public Schools	91.2	1.9	1.4	5.4	0.1	-0.8
Comstock Park Public Schools	88.6	5.3	3.5	1.9	0.6	-1.0
Wyoming Public Schools	73.8	8.4	12.9	4.2	0.7	-2.0
Kelloggsville Public Schools	69.2	12.8	11.5	3.9	2.6	-6.7
Kentwood Public Schools	64.4	22.5	5.6	6.4	0.1	-4.2
Godwin Heights Public Schools	62.4	12.9	20	4.0	0.7	-5.9
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	44.2	14.1	39.4	1.9	0.4	-8.5
Grand Rapids Public Schools	30.1	44.3	22.6	1.6	1.4	-6.2

**Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services**

- When comparing the enrollment distribution by race/ethnicity at charter schools in Kent County to their affiliated public school district, some charter schools mirror the race/ethnicity distribution of the district while others do not.

## Comparison of White Student Enrollment in Public & Charter Schools Kent County, 2002



n=Number of charter schools in the district

**Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services**

# Participation in Education

## Elementary & Secondary Education

### Variable 4: Percent Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

- The National School Lunch Program provides meals at low-cost or for free to more than 26 million students at public, nonprofit private and residential child care institutions each day. Children are eligible for free meals if their family's income is at or below 130% of the poverty level. Children from families with income between 130% and 185% are eligible for reduced-price meals. According to the National School Lunch Program, 130% of the poverty level is \$23,920 for a family of four; 185% is \$34,040, through June 2004.<sup>viii</sup>
- Almost 30,000 students in Kent County public schools received free or reduced-price lunch in 2002. The percent of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch ranged from 2.9% at East Grand Rapids Public Schools to 69.5% at Grand Rapids Public Schools. The greatest increase was experienced by Godwin Heights Public Schools, from 46.2% in 2001 to 55.9% in 2002.

**Percent Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch  
Kent County Public School Districts, 2002**

Public School Districts	2002	2001 to 2002 Percent Change
Grand Rapids Public Schools	69.5%	3.0%
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	57.3	3.1
Godwin Heights Public Schools	55.9	9.7
Kelloggsville Public Schools	43.5	-0.4
Wyoming Public Schools	37.5	5.4
Cedar Springs Public Schools	28.6	1.9
Kentwood Public Schools	27.8	2.3
Sparta Area Schools	25.9	-0.2
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	23.1	1.7
Kent City Community Schools	20.4	-4.0
Lowell Area Schools	16.6	2.2
Byron Center Public Schools	15.5	0.3
Northview Public School District	15.1	2.1
Comstock Park Public Schools	12.4	1.3
Grandville Public Schools	11.8	2.3
Caledonia Community Schools	8.2	0.7
Rockford Public Schools	5.4	0.4
Forest Hills Public Schools	3.5	-0.4
East Grand Rapids Public Schools	2.9	0.1

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

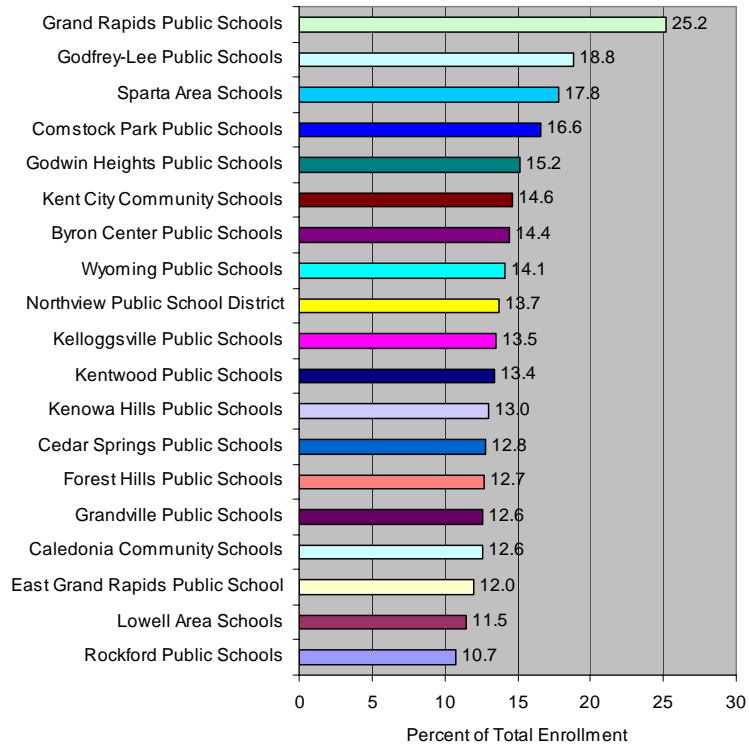
# Participation in Education

## Elementary & Secondary Education

### Variable 5: Special Education Headcount Enrollment

- Public Law 94-142, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was first enacted in 1975 to meet the needs and protect the rights of individuals with disabilities and their families. In the past 28 years, significant progress has been made towards providing special education services. In 1970, a million children with disabilities were not allowed to participate in the public education system at all and the half million that were only received limited access. In 2000, almost 6 million children and youth received special education services.<sup>ix</sup>
- During the 2001-02 school year, approximately 228,000 Michigan students received special education services. This was a 17% increase from 1996-97 and a 30% increase since 1990-91. The largest percentage (42%) of Michigan's special education students (the same percentage as 5 years earlier) were classified as having a learning disability, which includes attention deficit disorder.<sup>x</sup>
- In 2002, the percent of total headcount enrollment that was comprised of special education students in Kent County's public school districts varied from one district to the next, ranging from 10.7% of the total headcount enrollment at Rockford Public Schools to 25.2% in the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

## Special Education Headcount Enrollment (%) Kent County Public School Districts, 2002



**Source: Standard & Poor’s School Evaluation Services**

- On average in 2002, 9.9% of students enrolled in charter schools in Kent County were special education students. Charter school buildings ranged from 4.8% to 16% special education students. This is an increase from the charter school special education enrollment average of 8.1% in 2001.<sup>xi</sup>
- The average special education enrollment in Kent County’s nonpublic schools in 2002-2003 was 2.8%, indicating an increase since 1998.

## Special Education Headcount Enrollment (%) Kent County Nonpublic Schools, 1998-2003

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	20001-02	2002-03
2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.8%

**Source: Center for Educational Performance Indicators**

# Participation in Education

## Elementary & Secondary Education

### Variable 6: Student-Teacher Ratio

- The average student-teacher ratio (# of students:1 teacher) in public elementary and secondary schools across the nation was 16 in the fall of 1999. In Michigan, the average ratio was 18.<sup>xii</sup>
- The average student-teacher ratio in Kent County's public school districts was 17.5 in 2002. Student-teacher ratios ranged from 19.3 at Grandville Public Schools to 14.8 at Godfrey-Lee Public Schools.

#### Student-Teacher Ratio Kent County Public School Districts, 2002

Public School Districts	Student-Teacher Ratio (# of students:1 teacher)
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	14.8
Kelloggsville Public Schools	16.3
Forest Hills Public Schools	16.4
Sparta Area Schools	16.6
Godwin Heights Public Schools	16.8
Wyoming Public Schools	16.8
Grand Rapids Public Schools	16.9
Caledonia Community Schools	17.5
Kent City Community Schools	17.6
Kentwood Public Schools	17.6
East Grand Rapids Public School	17.7
Byron Center Public Schools	17.8
Cedar Springs Public Schools	18.0
Comstock Park Public Schools	18.0
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	18.0
Lowell Area Schools	18.1
Rockford Public Schools	19.0
Northview Public School District	19.1
Grandville Public Schools	19.3

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

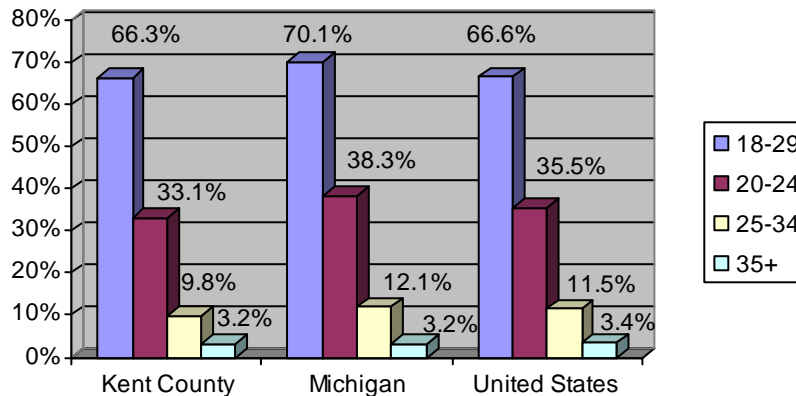
# Participation in Education

## Post-Secondary Education

### Variable 7: Enrollment in Higher Education

- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, over 17 million Americans were enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, or professional school programs across the nation. Three quarters of these students were enrolled in public colleges and universities.
- In 2000, in the state of Michigan, 635,836 residents were enrolled in undergraduate, graduate or professional school programs. In Kent County, 34,031 people were enrolled.
- In the same year, 66.3% of 18-19 year olds in Kent County were enrolled in some type of schooling leading to a high school diploma or college degree while 33.1% of 20-24 years old were enrolled in the same type of school programs. The county's rates by age group were lower than those at the state level.

**Percent of Age Group Enrolled in School  
Leading to a High School Diploma or College Degree  
Kent County, Michigan, U.S.: 2000**



Source: 2000 U.S. Census (SF 3) QT-P19



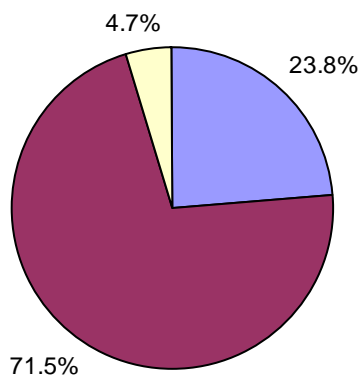
# K-12 Revenue & Expenditures

## Variable 8: Operating Revenue Distribution by Source

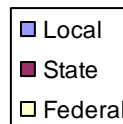
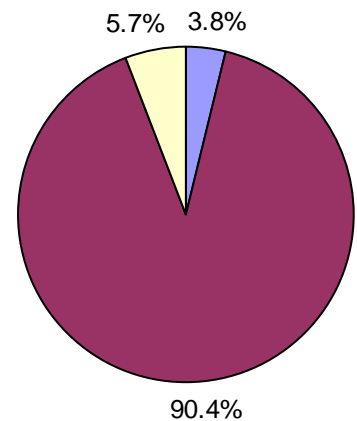
- According to the National Center for Education Statistics, “Local funding and control of public education may be seen as essential to maintaining public commitment to local schools and ensuring that education reflects community values and aspirations. Moreover, the more local funding a school district receives, the less vulnerable it is to funding shortfalls during economic recessions because local property taxes are relatively stable compared with sales and income taxes, which states generally rely upon to fund school districts (Monk and Brent 1997). However, reliance on local funding can lead to inequities in the financing of education because of differences in local wealth. Over the years, these conflicting factors and concerns have resulted in different proportions of state and local funding among the states.”<sup>xiii</sup>
- The 2002 average distribution of revenue sources for Kent County’s public school districts indicated that 23.8% of revenue was coming from local sources.
- Kent County’s charter schools 2002 average distribution of revenue sources indicated that 3.8% of revenue was coming from local sources.

### Average Operating Revenue Distribution by Source Kent County 2002

#### Public School Districts



#### Charter Schools



Source: Standard & Poor’s School Evaluation Services

# K-12 Revenue & Expenditures

## Variable 9: Total Expenditures

- Average total expenditures per student for Kent County public school districts in 2002 ranged from \$8,382 at Grandville Public Schools to \$14,895 at Rockford Public Schools. The average for all public school districts in 2002 was \$10,508.

### Total Expenditures per Student Kent County Public School Districts, 2002

Public School Districts	Total Expenditures	2001-02 % Change
Grandville Public Schools	\$8,382	-0.08
Sparta Area Schools	\$8,405	0.06
Cedar Springs Public Schools	\$8,444	0.08
Northview Public School District	\$8,705	-0.02
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	\$8,808	-0.01
Kentwood Public Schools	\$8,998	-0.04
Lowell Area Schools	\$9,053	0.05
Kent City Community Schools	\$9,169	0.13
Wyoming Public Schools	\$9,184	-0.05
Comstock Park Public Schools	\$9,412	-0.19
Kelloggsville Public Schools	\$9,480	-0.07
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	\$9,512	0.05
Grand Rapids Public Schools	\$9,625	0.03
Byron Center Public Schools	\$12,043	0.27
Godwin Heights Public Schools	\$12,633	-0.11
Caledonia Community Schools	\$13,399	0.18
East Grand Rapids Public Schools	\$14,711	0.08
Forest Hills Public Schools	\$14,797	0.23
Rockford Public Schools	\$14,895	0.47

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

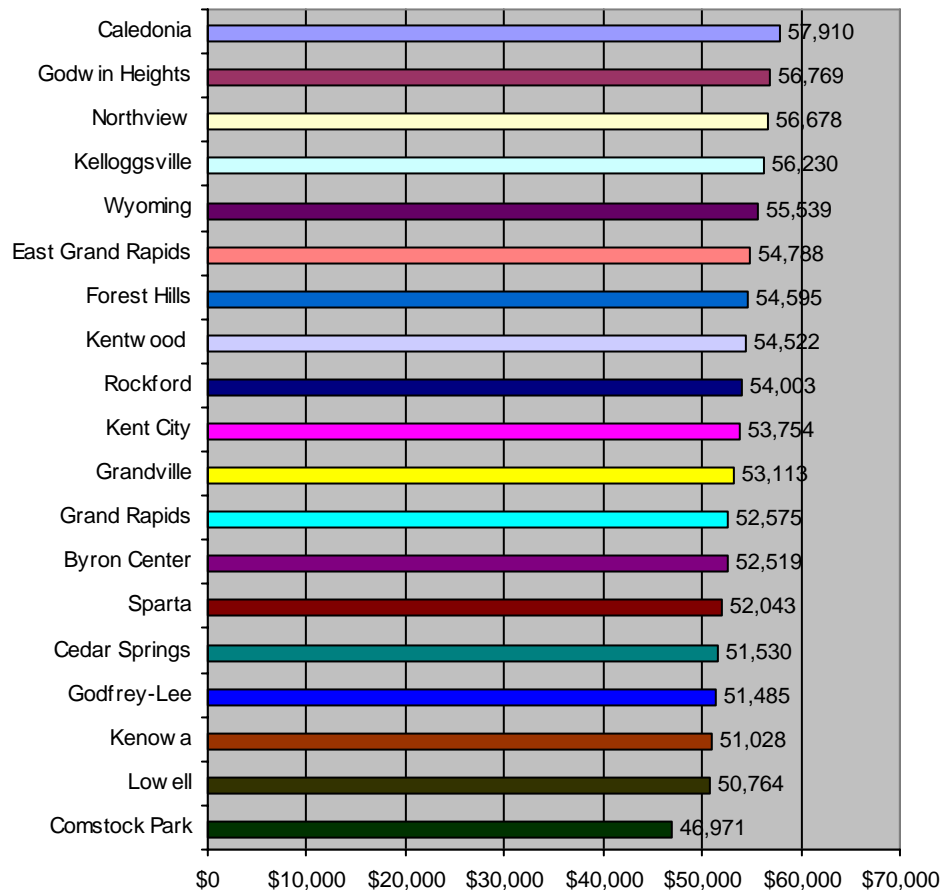
- Average total expenditures per student for Kent County charter schools in 2002 was \$7,517. This was an increase from the 2001 average of \$7,126 per student.<sup>xiv</sup>

# K-12 Revenue & Expenditures

## Variable 10: Average Teacher Salary

- According to the American Federation of Teachers annual survey of state departments of education, “higher pay helps keep experienced teachers in the classroom...and better pay for new teachers helps school districts compete for new college graduates.” (p. 3) The average teacher salary in the United States for 2001-02 was \$44,367. This was a 2.7% increase from the previous school year. The Michigan average teacher salary in 2001-02 was \$52,497. The national average beginning teacher salary in 2001-02 was \$30,719. The Michigan average beginning teacher salary was \$32,649.<sup>xv</sup>
- The average teacher salary in 2002 for Kent County’s public school districts was \$53,517. This was a 0.03% increase in the average from the previous year.

**Average Teacher Salary  
Kent County Public School Districts, 2002**



Source: Standard & Poor’s School Evaluation Services

# Performance & Learner Outcomes

## Variable 11: MEAP Passing Rate

- The MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) was developed to measure what students know and how they are able to perform academically compared to standards established out of the 1977 Michigan Revised School Code and the State School Aid Act of 1979. Students are tested in five content areas including mathematics, reading, science, social studies, and writing.<sup>xvi</sup>
- The average MEAP passing rate for Kent County's public school districts in 2002 was 59.7%. The 2001 average was 63.7%. Average passing rates ranged from 32.2% at Grand Rapids Public Schools to 84.4% at East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

**MEAP Passing Rate  
Kent County Public School Districts, 2002**

Public School Districts	MEAP Passing Rate	Reading Passing Rate (Grade 4)	Math Passing Rate (Grade 4)	Math Passing Rate (Grade 8)
Grand Rapids Public Schools	32.2	31.1	41.1	27.2
Godwin Heights Public Schools	41.5	54.0	61.3	32.3
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools	49.6	52.0	77.3	53.3
Wyoming Public Schools	50.2	42.2	50.2	52.8
Kelloggsville Public Schools	51.5	55.3	62.4	37.7
Comstock Park Public Schools	54.3	70.5	76.7	65.2
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	55.3	66.2	71.2	63.1
Kent City Community Schools	56.8	69.6	74.2	71.9
Sparta Area Schools	59.3	65.1	69.4	66.0
Kentwood Public Schools	59.5	61.0	70.7	57.7
Cedar Springs Public Schools	61.5	63.6	80.8	55.1
Byron Center Public Schools	63.8	78.2	80.1	68.1
Northview Public School District	64.2	75.7	81.2	57.5
Grandville Public Schools	66.0	76.8	85.6	65.8
Caledonia Community Schools	66.5	69.8	84.7	75.9
Lowell Area Schools	66.7	67.5	81.9	71.5
Rockford Public Schools	70.8	82.3	89.5	77.3
Forest Hills Public Schools	79.7	82.5	90.5	88.9
East Grand Rapids Public Schools	84.4	86.8	95.0	91.2

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

- The average reading passing rate in grade 4 for Kent County's public school districts in 2002 was 65.8%. Average math passing rates for grade 4 were 74.9% compared to 62% in grade 8. Average passing rates in these two subject areas varied widely from one district to the next, ranging from 27.2% in grade 8 math to 95% in grade 4 math.
- The average charter school MEAP passing rate for 2002 in Kent County was 42%. This compared to an average of 46.3% in 2001. Passing rates ranged from 67.3% to 6.9% across the county.<sup>xvii</sup>

# Performance & Learner Outcomes

## Variable 12: Graduation & Drop-out Rates

- Youth that do not finish high school are at a disadvantage. They are more likely than their peers who finish school to be unemployed, earn less when employed, and be on public assistance.<sup>xviii</sup>
- The average graduation rate among Kent County public school districts in 2002 was 89.7%. Average rates ranged from 66.3% at Kent City Community Schools to 99% at Forest Hills Public Schools.

### Average Graduation and Drop-Out Rates Kent County Public School Districts, 2002

Public School Districts	Graduation Rate	Drop-Out Rate
Kent City Community Schools	66.3	9.9
Godwin Heights Public Schools	77.0	6.5
Wyoming Public Schools	80.5	5.5
Cedar Springs Public Schools	82.9	4.1
Godfrey-Lee Public School	85.2	4.4
Grand Rapids Public Schools	87.4	3.4
Rockford Public Schools	88.7	2.9
Kelloggsville Public Schools	89.4	2.7
Lowell Area Schools	90.5	2.2
Kentwood Public Schools	91.3	2.1
Comstock Park Public Schools	94.3	1.6
Caledonia Community Schools	94.6	1.4
Sparta Area Schools	95.0	1.2
Grandville Public Schools	95.3	1.1
Kenowa Hills Public Schools	95.4	1.2
Northview public School District	96.4	0.9
Byron Center Public Schools	97.2	0.6
East Grand Rapids Public School	97.8	0.5
Forest Hills Public Schools	99.0	0.3

Source: Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services

- The average drop-out rate in 2002 for Kent County public school districts was 3%. This was a slight increase from the average in 2001 of 2.8% after a steady decrease in the drop-out rate since 1997's average rate of 4.2%.

# Performance & Learner Outcomes

## Variable 13: Educational Attainment

- Tracking educational attainment levels of various population groups over time can become an indicator to monitor the success of those subgroups. Over the past three decades, the percent of 25-29 year olds across the nation who have completed high school, some college, or earned a bachelor's degree or higher has increased.<sup>xix</sup>
- In 2000, 19.6% of the U.S. population did not have a high school diploma. In contrast, close to a quarter of the population in the United States, as well as Michigan, Kent County, and Grand Rapids, had bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees in 2000.

### Educational Attainment for Persons 25 Years and Over, 2000

	United States	Michigan	Kent County, MI	Grand Rapids, MI
No High School Diploma	19.6%	16.6%	15.4%	22%
High School Graduate	28.6%	31.3%	28.3%	26%
Some College, No Degree	21%	23%	22.8%	21%
Associate Degree	6%	7%	7.7%	7%
Bachelor's Degree	15.5%	13.7%	17.5%	15.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	8.9%	8.1%	8.3%	8%

\*Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000: SF 3 - P37)

- In 2000, when comparing educational attainment by race and ethnicity in Kent County, the Hispanic population had the highest rate of persons without a high school diploma (54.2%) while the Asian population had the highest rate of persons with a college degree (39.6%), including associate, bachelor's, graduate, and professional degrees.

### Educational Attainment for Persons 25 Years and Over by Race & Ethnicity Kent County, 2000

	White	Black	AIAN*	Asian	Hispanic
No High School Diploma	12.6%	28%	22.7%	29.6%	54.2%
High School Diploma	28.6%	29.2%	31.9%	18.8%	22%
Some College, No Degree	23.2%	25%	30.4%	11.9%	11.2%
Associate Degree	8%	6.1%	6.8%	6.2%	3.6%
Bachelor's Degree	18.8%	7.3%	6.8%	22.7%	6.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	8.9%	4.4%	1.5%	10.7%	2.3%

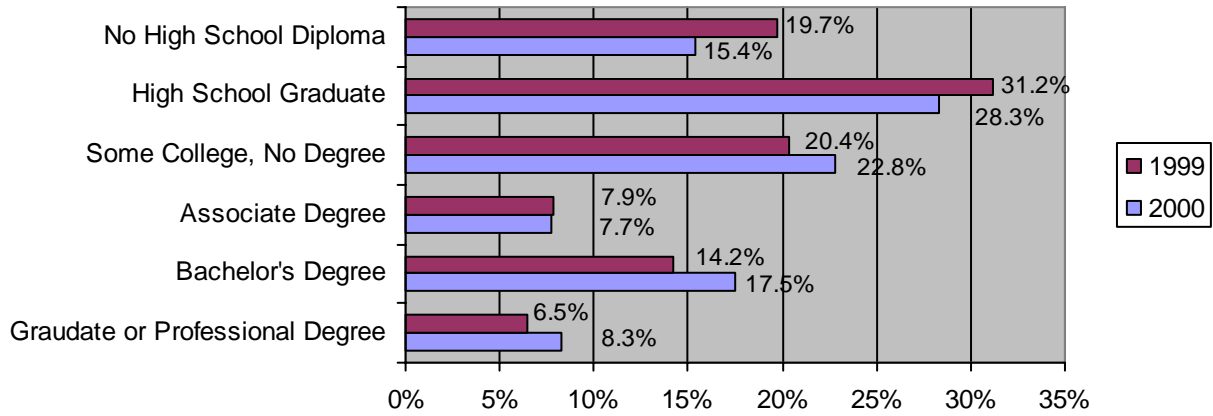
\*AIAN=American Indian and Alaska Native

\*\*Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000: SF 3 - P148a-i)

- The percent of Kent County’s population with college degrees increased between 1990 and 2000 while the percent of those without a high school diploma decreased.

**Educational Attainment for Persons 25 Years and Over  
Kent County, 1990-2000**



**Source: U.S. Census Bureau (1990: STF 3 – P057; 2000: SF 3 - P37)**



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- <sup>i</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>
- <sup>ii</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>
- <sup>iii</sup> Center for Educational Performance and Information <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-21423-72826--,00.html>
- <sup>iv</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>
- <sup>v</sup> Center for Educational Performance and Information <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-21423-72826--,00.html>
- <sup>vi</sup> Center for Educational Performance and Information <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,1607,7-113-21423-72826--,00.html>
- <sup>vii</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>
- <sup>viii</sup> USDA Food and Nutrition Service, National School Lunch Program <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/AboutLunch/NSLPSFactSheet.htm>
- <sup>ix</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osep/index.html>
- <sup>x</sup> Public Sector Consultants, Inc. (2002). *Michigan in Brief 2002-03*. <http://www.michiganinbrief.org/edition07/Chapter5/SpecialEd.htm>
- <sup>xi</sup> Standard and Poor's School Evaluation Services. <http://www.ses.standardandpoors.com/>
- <sup>xii</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP Reading. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/results2002/schsystemchar-c.asp>
- <sup>xiii</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>
- <sup>xiv</sup> Standard and Poor's School Evaluation Services. <http://www.ses.standardandpoors.com/>
- <sup>xv</sup> Nelson, F. Howard and Crown, Rachel. (2003). *Survey and Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends 2002*. American Federation of Teachers. <http://www.aft.org/research/survey02/SalarySurvey02.pdf>
- <sup>xvi</sup> Michigan Merit Award & MEAP Information. <http://treas-secure.state.mi.us/meritaward/meritindex.htm>
- <sup>xvii</sup> Standard and Poor's School Evaluation Services. <http://www.ses.standardandpoors.com/>
- <sup>xviii</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>
- <sup>xix</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2002). *The Condition of Education 2002*. Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/list/index.asp>