



# News Release

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## Another Record Enrollment for South Dakota Public Universities

PIERRE, S.D. – Building on an 11-year trend of increased enrollments, South Dakota’s public universities this fall posted another record-high number, the South Dakota Board of Regents announced Wednesday. Total student enrollment is up nearly 2.5 percent to 32,943.

“Since 1998, headcount at South Dakota’s public universities has grown each and every year,” said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. “This is significant, given that there are actually fewer K-12 students to draw from in the Midwest. We have focused in a major way on better recruitment and retention of the traditional college-age student, as well as drawing more adult learners back into higher education. The enrollment numbers today demonstrate real progress toward those goals,” he said.

Total headcount at the six public universities for the Fall 2008 term is 32,943, an increase of 795 students, or 2.47 percent, over a year ago. The number of full-time equivalent students—based on total credit hours generated by all students within the system—increased by nearly 414 students, or about 1.7 percent.

### South Dakota Public University System: Fall 2008 Enrollments

Institution	Headcount				Full-time Equivalent			
	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Enrollment Difference	Percentage Difference
BHSU	4,004	4,011	+7	+0.17%	2,931.1	2,911.6	-19.5	-0.67%
DSU	2,570	2,780	+210	+8.17%	1,514.1	1,556.6	+42.5	+2.81%
NSU	2,555	2,805	+250	+9.78%	1,802.0	2,020.8	+218.8	+12.14%
SDSMT	2,070	2,061	-9	-0.43%	1,745.6	1,734.3	-11.3	-0.65%
SDSU	11,706	11,995	+289	+2.47%	9,721.8	9,899.8	+178.0	+1.83%
USD	9,243	9,291	+48	+0.52%	6,797.5	6,802.9	+5.4	+0.08%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32,148</b>	<b>32,943</b>	<b>+795</b>	<b>+2.47%</b>	<b>24,512.1</b>	<b>24,926.0</b>	<b>413.9</b>	<b>+1.69%</b>

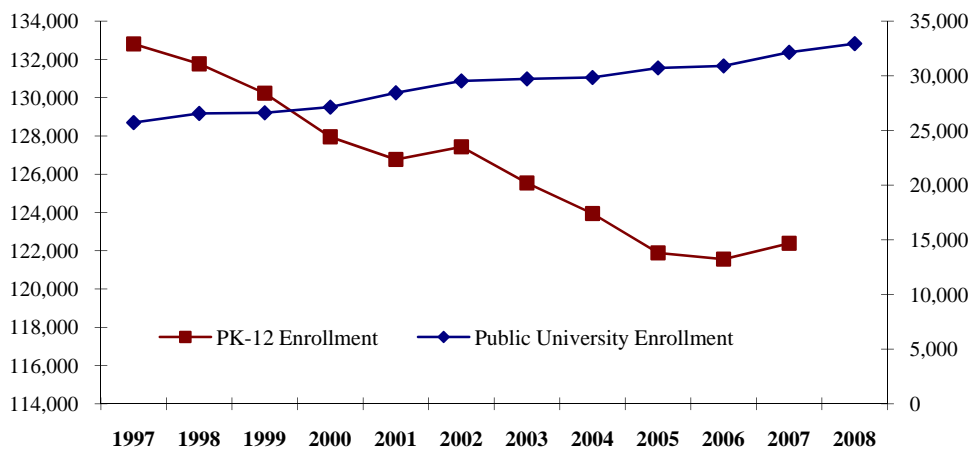
The historical trend of headcount enrollment in South Dakota’s public university system, dating back to 1996, is shown in the following chart:

**South Dakota Public University System  
Headcount Enrollment 1996-2008**

Fall Term	System	% Change
1996	26,508	
1997	25,719	-2.98%
1998	26,560	+3.27%
1999	26,616	+0.21%
2000	27,134	+1.95%
2001	28,446	+4.84%
2002	29,533	+3.82%
2003	29,716	+0.62%
2004	29,844	+0.43%
2005	30,720	+2.94%
2006	30,901	+0.59%
2007	32,148	+4.04%
2008	32,943	+2.47%

Over the past decade, South Dakota’s public university system has been growing and serving more students, even at a time when K-12 public school enrollment generally has been declining. The following chart shows enrollment history for the PK-12 and university systems since 1997:

**Fall Enrollment History  
South Dakota Public PK-12 Schools and University System**



Note: 2008 enrollment figures for PK-12 not yet available from the South Dakota Department of Education.