



A BRIEF STUDY OF  
AVAILABLE STATISTICAL DATA  
ON INDIAN PUPIL ENROLMENT  
1949 - 69

EDUCATION BRANCH  
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# A BRIEF STUDY OF AVAILABLE STATISTICAL DATA ON INDIAN PUPIL ENROLMENT

1949 - 1969

The main objective of this study is to summarize Indian pupil enrolment in schools from 1949-69 as well as to statistically assess age-grade placement of Indian pupils from 1956-57 to 1966-67. The study indicates positive trends in the education of the Indian people and points to new patterns we should expect within the next few years.

This kind of information should be of value to Indian school committees, teachers, principals, administrative personnel, and the public at large who are involved in promoting and supporting educational objectives of Canadian schools.

This statistical report consists of tables in connection with:

1. The total Indian pupil enrolment from 1949-69.
2. The total percentage enrolment by grade intervals derived from a representative grade 2 population continuing on to grade 8.
3. Grade-age distribution of Indian pupils attending federal schools.
4. The percentage of Indian high school students enrolled by grade.
5. Age-grade distribution by regions and by districts.

The sources used in tabulating this report were obtained from the following:

1. The Annual Reports of the Indians Affairs Branch which give Indian pupil enrolment in federal and provincial schools.
2. The compiled annual summary of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics form entitled "Teacher's Annual Age-Grade Report". The original form is filled in by federal teachers who enter the number of children in the class by age, grade, and sex.

The scope of data gives the total enrolment on record of Indian pupils attending Federal and Provincial schools. Indian pupil refers to the legal status of right of registration in the Indian Registry.

The age-grade-sex report was used as information source for the Federal school population only. There was insufficient data on age-grade-sex of Indian pupils attending provincial schools to include these pupils in the age-grade norm distribution.

In considering age-grade distribution we used the 5 to 16 chronological age range. The percentage of students over 16 years enrolled in federal schools is negligible and was included along with the 16 year-old group.

Although some statistical data was available from as early as 1949, most of the tables are based on annual summaries from 1956-57 to 1966-67. This allowed for internal comparisons within the 1956-57 to 1966-67 decade.

In interpreting the data, there are a few significant points which should be kept in mind. These are:

- 1) The kindergarten enrolment by age is not clearly delimited before 1968-69. The term Pre-I formerly used in the early years of establishing kindergartens sometimes included six and seven year-olds in would-be kindergarten classes. Pre-I or Beginner year was commonly used by teachers in referring to youngsters who spent their first year in school learning the instructional language, English or French.
- 2) For some years the grade I enrolment seems unusually high. Presumably those were transition years when Indian parents started sending their children to school at six instead of at the traditional legal age of seven.
- 3) In Table II, reference is made to a grade 2 to 8 continuous promotion pattern. The pattern may not be completely accurate insofar as the data is not based on individual cases who passed all grades with no record of failure. The pattern, however is valid insofar as it reflects the trend of pupil progress in the Federal school system. The same rationale applies for Table II(b) on percentages of high school students for whom we assume 9-12 school years of consecutive grades.
- 4) Slight percentage variations in some tables detailing breakdown as compared with percentages for total enrolment are to be expected.
- 5) No comments are made on tables referring to regional or district age-grade norms. The tables can best be interpreted at the regional and/or at the district level.
- 6) The age-grade norm standard is comparable to the average age-grade norm of Canadian schools.
- 7) The term "grade" is used throughout this study in keeping with the traditional reference to grade as indicated on the data used as source information for this study.

TABLE I

Total Indian Pupil Enrolment by Grade and by School Year

Year	K1	K2	Pre 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12- 13	Grand TOTAL
1949-50				8425	3892	3483	2700	2276	2652	1092	692	447	139	99	46	25943
1954-55				9176	4912	4571	3667	3089	2434	1735	1088	728	433	244	146	32223
1959-60			2687	7253	5908	5323	4826	4128	3389	3652	1751	1115	599	384	183	41198
1960-61			2991	6974	5811	5566	4865	4225	3686	2584	1967	1294	681	417	283	41444
1961-62			3560	6972	6211	5760	5220	4690	3895	3378	2320	1671	817	503	360	45377
1962-63			3759	7016	6447	6098	5357	5079	4038	3334	2438	1827	1065	541	367	47366
1963-64			3897	7505	6651	6342	5763	4858	4352	3557	2604	1959	1140	620	314	49562
1964-65			4027	7626	6737	6345	5905	5313	4406	3884	2874	2309	1212	726	514	51878
1965-66			3660	8483	7256	6643	6055	5715	4777	3967	3140	2474	1423	777	546	54916
1966-67			3830	8902	7468	6916	6182	5807	5133	4242	3211	2590	1520	897	503	57201
1967-68			4531	8786	7292	6744	6520	5844	5002	4504	3422	2733	1739	926	551	58794
1968-69	164	5752		8563	7405	6840	6390	5686	5226	4589	3666	3016	1907	1215	663	61282

- Observations: (a) A vertical reading from 1949-50 to 1968 from grades 2 to 12 shows a steadily increasing enrolment of Indian students.
- (b) The grade 1 figures fluctuate from 1949-50 to 1964-65. This reflects a stage in Indian education when parents were being encouraged to have their children start school at six years of age. It also reflects language needs of non-English speaking youngsters who generally spent a beginner year to familiarize themselves with the new language of instruction.
- (c) The grade 1 enrolment figures from 1964-65 to 1968-69 are fairly constant. The discrepancy between the grade 1 and grade 3 enrolment suggests the non-promotion patterns of former years.

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TABLE II(a) Total Percentage Enrolment by Grade Interval  
Based on the Grade 2 to 8 Continuous Population  
from 1949-55 to 1962-68.

YEARS	GRADE II ENROLMENT	GRADE III PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT	GRADE VI PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT	GRADE VIII PERCENTAGE ENROLMENT
1949-57	3892	97%	60%	40%
1954-62	4912	97%	64%	46%
1959-67	5902	94%	72%	53%
1960-68	5811	99%	77%	55%
1961-69	6211	98%	77%	55%

Observations:-

- (a) The grade 2 population from 1949 to 1962 was interpreted as the core of the first grade population who had overcome the difficulties of home to school transition.
- (b) Whereas few pupils dropped out at the end of grade III, a marked loss of percentage enrolment is indicated at both the grades 6 and 8 respectively.
- (c) The progress for the 1954-60 grade population as compared with that of the 1962-68 pupils leads us to expect a continuing higher percentage enrolment, at grades 6 and 8 respectively.



**TABLE II(b)**

The total Percentage Enrolment of Indian High School Students Based on the 1949 to 1956 Grade One Enrolment and Consecutive School Years.

GRADE	1949-61	1950-62	1957-63	1952-64	1953-65	1954-66	1955-67	1956-68
I	8433	8682	8672	8483	8949	9176	9791	7830
IX	12%	12%	13%	19%	20%	20%	24%	40%
X	7%	7%	8%	12%	12%	13%	14%	24%
XI	5%	5%	6%	7%	8%	8%	9%	15%
XII	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%	6%	9%	9%

**Observations:**

- a) The percentage enrolment for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 respectively is based on the original grade 1 population for each 12 year span.
- b) The grade one population from 1949 to 1956 had no kindergarten training.
- c) The nine percent enrolment at the grade XII level is reassuring. We cannot assume all Grade XII students pass their senior matriculation, nor is it likely that all would go to university if they all passed. However, it is worth noting that in 1966-67 the national, non Indian figures for post senior matriculation students between the ages of 18 to 24 and enrolling at universities was 9.8 percent.
- d) The above percentages do not include students enrolled under manpower training programs.

TABLE II(c)

Percentage Enrolment of the Total Number of Indian Pupils by Consecutive Grade Intervals and Based on the Grade Two Enrolment.

YEARS	GRADE II ENROLMENT	3RD YEAR	6TH YEAR	8TH YEAR	9TH YEAR	10TH YEAR	11TH YEAR	12TH YEAR
1949-60	3892	97%	60%	40%	35%	15%	10%	7%
1954-65	4912	97%	64%	46%	37%	23%	14%	11%
1955-66	5271	96%	64%	42%	37%	20%	14%	10%
1956-67	4497	97%	67%	44%	36%	22%	14%	10%
1960-68	5811	99%	77%	55%	47%	34%	-	-
1961-69	6211	98%	77%	55%	49%	-	-	-
1962-70	6447	98%	79%	57%	-	-	-	-
1963-71	6651	98%	79%	-	-	-	-	-

Observations:

- a) From 1960 on, kindergarten instruction was being promoted in federal schools.
- b) There is a significant increase in percentage of students enrolling at the junior high school level from 1960 to 1963.
- c) Comparing Tables II(b) and II(c), the critical period for dropouts seems to be between grades 6 to 8.

Percentage Number of Failures or Drop-Outs by Grade Distribution Based on the Cumulative Enrolment of the Total Number Indian Pupils For Grades III to VI inclusive.

Grade Transition	SCHOOL YEAR RANGE					
	1959-63	1960-64	1961-65	1962-65	1963-66	1964-67
End III to VI						
Grade III Enrolment	5323	5566	5760	6098	6342	6345
Loss from III to VI inclusive	2666	1682	1793	1866	1838	1746
Percentage Loss by grade transition						
III - IV	8%	6%	7%	5%	7%	5%
IV - V	16%	2%	9%	7%	3%	3%
V - VI	12%	12%	9%	9%	9%	12%
VI - VII	11%	11%	9%	9%	9%	7%
Total Percentage Loss III - end of VI	47%	31%	34%	30%	27%	27%

Observations:

- a) The grade failure and/or dropout rate for the elementary pupil population has decreased from 47% in 1959-63 to 27% in 1964-67.
- b) Seemingly, there are internal factors which are possibly related to curriculum and programs at the grades 5 and 6 levels.

TABLE II(d)



TABLE III

Percentage Distribution by Age of Annual Indian Pupil  
Enrolment in Federal Schools only.

Year	Total Pop. Fed. Schools	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Others
1956-57	26,199	1%	7%	10%	11%	12%	11%	10%	10%	9%	8%	5%	2%	
1957-58	27,895	1%	10%	11%	13%	13%	12%	12%	11%	9%	6%	4%	1%	
1962-63	31,337	2%	10%	12%	12%	11%	10%	9%	8%	8%	8%	5%	2%	
1963-64	31,674	5%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	9%	8%	10%	6%	4%	2%	1%
1964-65	30,980	3%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	9%	8%	7%	5%	4%	2%	1%
1965-66	31,116	9%	11%	12%	11%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	5%	3%	1%	
1966-67	30,488	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	2%	1%	
1967-68	31,800	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	9%	8%	8%	7%	6%	2%	1%	4%

Observations:-

- (a) In 1956-57, only 1% of 5 year olds were enrolled in Federal Schools as compared with 11% in 1967-68 of the total annual enrolment.
- (b) From 1956-57 to 1966-67 the total enrolment of 5 to 9 year old pupils has increased from 40 to 54 percent.
- (c) The most recent figures from the 1967-68 data gives the following percentage distribution by age of pupils attending Federal Schools:
- 55% were in the 5-9 year old group
  - 32% were in the 10-13 age group
  - 9% were in the 14-16 age group
- (d) These data have no comparative validity because pupils are transferred to provincial schools at all levels.

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TABLE IV

Year Comparisons of Grade-Age Percentage Distribution of Pupils Enrolled in Federal Schools. (I-III)

Year	Enrol- ment	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+	12+	13+	Over- age	within or above Norm
Ist grade												
56-57	6307	1%	18%	28%	21%	21%	5%	5%			52%	48%
59-60	5375	1%	26%	32%	21%	11%	5%	4%			41%	59%
62-63	5292	1%	30%	35%	21%	7%	3%	3%			34%	66%
65-66	4861	11%	43%	30%	12%	2%	1%	1%			16%	84%
66-67	5715	14%	48%	27%	8%	2%	.05%	.05%			11%	89%
67-68	5901	12%	48%	28%	9%	2%	.05%	.05%			12%	88%
IIInd grade												
56-57	4001		1%	13%	28%	26%	15%	8%	8%		57%	43%
59-60	4722		1%	17%	31%	25%	14%	6%	6%		51%	49%
62-63	4754		1%	25%	34%	23%	11%	3%	3%		40%	60%
65-66	4747		8%	35%	31%	15%	4%	3%	3%		25%	75%
66-67	4676		8%	40%	30%	15%	5%	1%	1%		22%	78%
67-68	4683		9%	37%	32%	14%	5%	1%	1%		22%	78%
IIIrd grade												
56-57	3760			1%	10%	27%	24%	18%	10%	10%	62%	38%
59-60	4320			1%	13%	27%	27%	16%	8%	8%	59%	41%
62-63	4445			1%	17%	33%	23%	14%	7%	5%	49%	51%
65-66	4234			5%	27%	32%	20%	10%	3%	3%	36%	64%
66-67	4323			7%	32%	31%	16%	8%	3%	3%	30%	70%
67-68	4277			8%	35%	32%	16%	7%	2%		25%	75%

Observations:-

- There is evidence of age-grade acceleration within the 1965-68 period.
- The over-age factor has been lowered considerably for the primary pupils from 1956-57 to 1966-67.
- Comparing the grade enrolment figures with those of Table I it is evident that an increasing number of primary grade pupils are integrating into the Provincial Schools.
- It seems valid to assume from Table IV, that Indian pupils are meeting age grade norms of Canadian Schools.

TABLE V

Percentage Number of Pupils at Age-Grade Norm and One Year Above Age Grade Norm - Federal Schools Only.

GRADE	I		II		III		IV		V		VI		VIII		VIII	
CHRONOLOGICAL AGE	6-7	8	7-8	9	8-9	10	9-10	11	10-11	12	11-12	13	12-13	14	13-14	15
<u>School Year</u>																
1956-57	48%	21%	43%	26%	38%	24%	31%	25%	35%	24%	36%	24%	41%	31%	53%	27%
1966-67	89%	8%	78%	15%	70%	16%	53%	20%	53%	22%	53%	24%	52%	26%	82%	13%
1967-68	88%	9%	78%	14%	75%	16%	63%	19%	54%	22%	54%	19%	53%	27%	58%	24%
<u>Actual Grade Enrolment</u>																
1956-57	6307		4001		3760		3432		1556		1309		811		544	
1966-67	5715		4667		4223		3688		3387		2716		2043		1155	
1967-68	5901		4683		4277		3903		3341		2703		1907		1051	

- OBSERVATIONS:
1. The percentages are based on actual grade enrolment reported by years.
  2. Actual enrolment figures show considerable variation from one grade to the next. In view of the age-grade distribution actual enrolment varies as more pupils attend provincial schools.
  3. There is marked improvement in age-grade distribution between 1956-57 and 1966-67 particularly at the primary level.
  4. The 1967-68 and 1966-67 percentages are fairly constant.

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Percentage Number of Pupils at Age - Grade Norm 1967-68.

AGE NORM	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12
GRADE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Antigonish	87%	67%	48%	53%	42%	50%
Fredericton	97%	79%	75%	68%	47%	53%
Regional	91%	74%	63%	61%	44%	50%
Federal Schools <u>only</u> across Canada	88%	78%	75%	61%	55%	53%

Percentage Number of Pupils at Age - Grade Norm 1967-68.

AGE NORM	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12
GRADE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Abitibi	79%	75%	57%	50%	38%	38%
Bersimis	97%	89%	88%	86%	64%	
Caughnawaga	100%	100%	92%	95%	95%	92%
Pointe Bleue	88%	65%	72%	67%	64%	
Regional	91%	82%	77%	74%	65%	65%
Federal Schools <u>only</u> across Canada	88%	78%	75%	61%	55%	53%

TABLE VI - (B)  
QUEBEC REGION

Percentage Number of Pupils at Age - Grade Norm 1967-68.

AGE NORM	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12
GRADE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Georgian Bay	100%	93%	93%	88%	91%	86%
Six Nations	90%	90%	87%	82%	88%	79%
London	97%	95%	88%	95%	98%	99%
Manitoulin	95%	90%	82%	82%	60%	64%
Sudbury	52%	51%	40%	34%	34%	
Sioux Lookout	77%	64%	46%	52%	50%	51%
Kenora/Fort Frances	70%	55%	43%	40%	41%	
Lakehead	90%	75%	50%	43%	36%	38%
Regional	85%	76%	66%	64%	63%	69%
Federal Schools <u>only</u> across Canada	88%	78%	75%	61%	55%	53%

TABLE VI - (C) ONTARIO REGION



Percentage Number of Pupils at Age - Grade Norm 1967-68.

AGE NORM	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12
GRADE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Clandeboye	89%	80%	68%	71%	62%	64%
Portage/Dauphin	88%	77%	66%	50%	43%	33%
Fisher	96%	89%	82%	77%	68%	56%
Pas Nelson	97%	90%	83%	73%	50%	40%
Island Lake	100%	100%	92%	84%	68%	57%
Norway House	91%	84%	76%	51%	49%	39%
Regional	93%	87%	77%	67%	55%	46%
Federal Schools <u>only</u> across Canada	88%	78%	75%	61%	55%	53%

Percentage Number of Pupils at Age - Grade Norm 1967-68.

AGE NORM	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12
GRADE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Prince Albert	83%	60%	56%	34%	36%	31%
Fort Qu'Appelle	87%	84%	75%	75%	61%	60%
Saskatoon	84%	80%	80%	57%	34%	73%
North Battleford	79%	57%	47%	40%	23%	31%
Regional	82%	70%	64%	51%	40%	48%
Federal Schools <u>only</u> across Canada	88%	78%	75%	61%	55%	53%

Percentage Number of Pupils at Age - Grade Norm 1967-68.

AGE NORM	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12
GRADE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
South Central	87%	79%	61%	51%	50%	70%
Elwood Peigan	97%	95%	78%	68%	50%	66%
Edmonton/Hobbema	87%	73%	70%	63%	51%	41%
Northern Alberta	60%	49%	48%	72%	44%	38%
Saddle-Lake/Athabasca	97%	77%	78%	64%	70%	70%
Regional	88%	75%	67%	63%	51%	56%
Federal Schools <u>only</u> across Canada	88%	78%	75%	61%	55%	53%

TABLE VI - (F) ALBERTA REGION