

CPS Ends 14-Year Enrollment Slump



For the first time in years, the enrollment decline in Cincinnati Public Schools has come to a virtual halt.

From a high of 84,299 students in the 1970-71 school year, enrollment has dropped over the years in CPS, with steady slides in each of the last 14 years. Recent figures, however, reveal a different trend.

“As of this October, we can say, for all intents and purposes, the decline has ended,” Interim Superintendent Mary Ronan says. “The numbers suggest that more families are choosing to send their children to our schools, and we welcome them with open arms.”

During a presentation at a Cincinnati Board of Education meeting, the district said that total K-12 enrollment in CPS in October 2008 was 33,400 — essentially flat from the 33,505 K-12 students enrolled in October 2007. Preschool through 12th-grade enrollment was 34,687 last October, compared to 34,832 in October 2007.

“We are especially pleased to see enrollment increases at the kindergarten, first and second grades, because we believe that we will be successful in persuading these families to say in our schools,” Ronan says.

According to recent data, charter school enrollment has declined by more than 400 students in the past year, from 6,918 total students a year ago to 6,517 this year. The district also welcomed back several students from failed charter schools that were forced to permanently close their doors mid year. ★