

# **U.S. SCHOOLS FACE RECORD ENROLLMENT IN THE FALL**

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## **Body**

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Second-generation baby boomers and immigrants will pack America's s **schools** in **record** numbers this **fall**, surpassing the surge of postwar babies that filled **U.S.** classrooms in the 1970s.

The estimated 51.7 million young people studying in public and private elementary and secondary **schools** this **fall** will bring further stress to districts coping with tight budgets.

They will have to build **schools**, use more portable classrooms, buy more books and schedule extra lunch periods.

This anticipated autumn **enrollment** will eclipse the 51.3 million baby boomers who were in class in 1971. And **U.S. school enrollment** is expected to keep climbing - to 55.9 million by 2005.

"It's a rather dramatic increase in **enrollment** that we see coming. Some of it is immigration. Some of it is the baby boom echo - the children of baby boomers," Education Secretary Richard Riley said Thursday.

Elementary **schools** began seeing rising numbers of students in the mid-1980s as the children of about 76 million baby boomers - born between World War II's end and 1964 - headed to **school**, according to Tom Snyder, an Education Department statistician.

That second generation of baby boomers is now moving through high **school**. However, elementary **schools** have continued to feel **enrollment** pressure because the number of births in America, bolstered by immigration, has remained steady during the past four or five years, Snyder said.

To meet the need for space, **school** districts are building **schools** and additions or making do with portable classrooms while keeping a close eye on teacher-student ratio requirements in their states. Some districts are shifting students by drawing new boundaries. Others are experimenting with holding **school** year-round.

## **Classification**

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