Public education in America really began in earnest after the Civil War, when government-funded and -controlled schools supplanted the earlier system of private education.

内战之后，美国的学校教育真正意义上地开始了。那个时候由政府资助和管理的学校也取代了早期的私人教育系统。

According to the U.S. Department of Education, some 57 percent of the 12 million school-aged Americans in 1870 were enrolled in public elementary or secondary schools, though only about 60 percent of those enrolled attended school on any given day and the average school year was 132 days. By the turn of the century, the percentage of school-aged children attending public schools had risen to 72 percent, with almost 70 of enrollees attending on any one of the 150 days in the school year. Most public education still occurred in the early grades—only two percent of the student population were in ninth grade or higher.

根据美国教育部的说法