

# Enrollment drops

Public school enrollment has dropped for the fourth consecutive year, according to preliminary fall 1975 statistics for elementary-secondary education released today by HEW's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Marie D. Eldridge, administrator of NCES, said public school enrollment declined from 46,081,000 in 1971 to 44,816,000 in 1975, a 2.7% drop.

The preliminary data for all public elementary-secondary schools in the United States also indicate that:

- although total enrollment has decreased, the division between elementary and secondary enrollments has been shifting: elementary enrollment decreased by 5.9% while secondary enrollment increased by 2.0% between 1971 and 1975;

- the full-time equivalent number of classroom teachers rose from 2,063,000 in 1971 to 2,194,000 in 1975, an increase of 6.3%;

- the ratio of pupils to teachers in turn dropped from 22.3-1 in 1971 to 20.4-1 in 1975;

- the number of local public school districts also continued to drop; from 17,289 in 1971 to 16,383 in 1975, a decrease of 5.2%;

- the number of high school graduates continued to increase, from 2,699,000 in 1972 to 2,816,000 in 1975, a 4.3% rise;

- an increasing percentage of those high school graduates are female. In 1972 50.2% of the graduates were girls; by 1975, this percentage had risen to 50.8%;

- it is estimated that 66.829 billion dollars will be spent for public elementary-secondary education during the 1975-76 school year. Of this amount \$57.202 billion will be spent to operate elementary and secondary day schools, \$1.72 billion for other educational programs. An estimated \$5.954 billion will be spent for land, construction and equipment with \$1.953 billion to be spent for interest on school debt;

- the estimated average cost per pupil in average daily membership for current operations is \$1,290;

- the estimated average salary for classroom teachers is \$12,465.

These data and others will be included in a comprehensive statistical report, "Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary Day Schools, Fall 1975," soon to be published by the

center. All of the data are furnished by the State Education Agencies based upon reports collected from local school districts by the state agencies.