

A tale of two Seattles

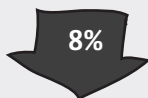
Although the city of Seattle and its school district share a geographic boundary, the numbers show stark differences. The district now faces challenges that include maintaining enrollment while cutting services.



HOUSING PRICES VS. ENROLLMENT



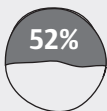
Seattle home prices rose by 126 percent from 1996 to 2006.



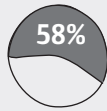
Enrollment in Seattle public schools declined by 8 percent during the same period.

EDUCATION

Fifty-two percent of Seattle residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.



The Seattle School District has an on-time graduation rate of 58 percent.



DEMOGRAPHICS*

Other/multiracial 3.8%

White 66.4%

American Indian 0.8%

Hispanic 6.3%

Asian/
Pacific Islander 14.5%

African American 8.1%

American Indian 2.2%

Hispanic 11.3%

Asian/
Pacific Islander 22.3%

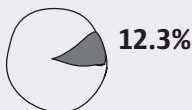
White 42.1%

African American 22%

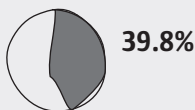
* Totals do not add up to 100 percent because of rounding

POVERTY

In Seattle, 12.3 percent live below poverty (\$20,000 annual income for family of four)



In the Seattle School District, 39.8 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch (\$35,798 annual income for family of four).



Sources: Research by Seattle Times news researcher Gene Balk from 2005 Census Bureau data; Seattle Public Schools data, 2005-06, state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Northwest Multiple Listing Service.