



DID YOU KNOW?

SCHOOL: The Story of Public Education paints an unprecedented picture of America's greatest social experiment – the struggle to educate all of its citizens and bond us as a nation. The following statistics reflect public education's growth and evolution over the course of its history.

Average School Attendance

1776: less than 82 days
1950: 9 years
1980: 12.5 years
2001: 14.5 years

School Expenditures

1870: \$63 million
1890: \$141 million
1920: one billion
2001: \$330 billion

Percentage of medical degrees awarded to women

1950: 0.95%
1980-81: 30%
1995-96: 42%

Public School Enrollment

1870: 7.6 million
1890: 12.7 million
2001: 47.8 million

Number of public schools in the U.S.: more than 90,000

Number of charter schools in the U.S. in 2001: 2,063

Charter schools run by for profit companies in 2000: less than 200

African Americans with high school diplomas

1950: 13.7%;
1980: 51.4%;
2001*: 77.6%

*African-American students age 18+

Percentage of students enrolled in public school: 88%

Percentage of children enrolled in private school: 10-11%

Percentage of children who are homeschooled: 2%

Cost of Standardized Testing

1983-84: \$500 million
1993-94*: \$22.7 billion

*Cost includes teacher time, cost of materials, etc.