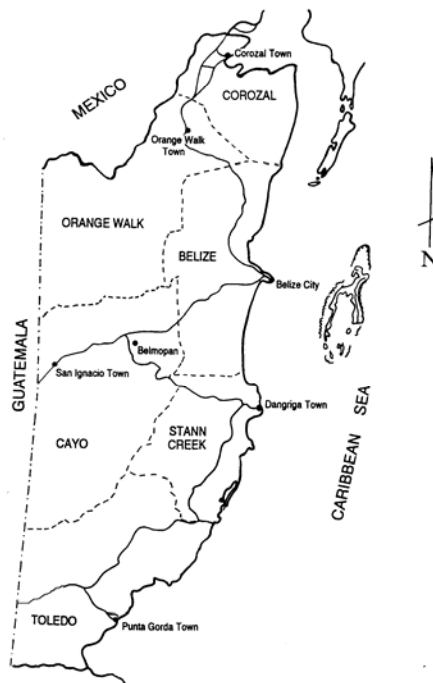


Belize:

Education Statistical Digest

1998-99



Planning Unit
Ministry of Education and Sports

Map of Belize

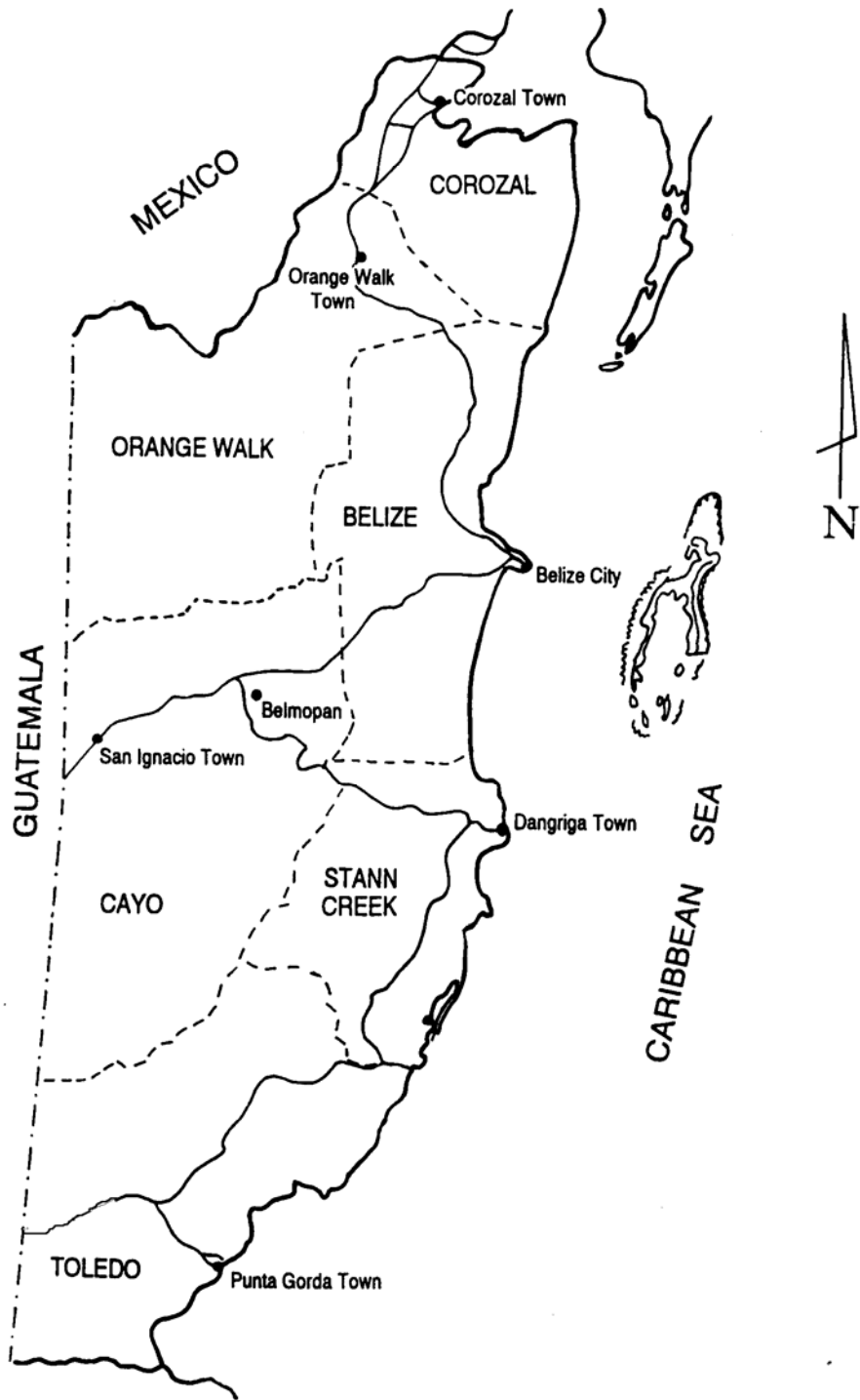


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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BNSE	Belize National Selection Examination
Beg.	Beginners
Com	Community
EMIS	Education Management Information System
F	Female
FT	Fully Trained
FY	Fiscal Year
G	Government
GA	Government-Aided
GoB	Government of Belize
Gov't-Aided Comm.	Government-Aided Community
Gov't-Aided Denom.	Government-Aided Denominational
GT	Graduate Trained
Gr	Graduate
Lev. 1	Level 1
Lev. 2	Level 2
M	Male
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
N/A	Not Available
NFT	Not Fully Trained
No.	Number
O	Other
P	Private
Part Rate	Participation Rate
Pre-Sch	Pre-School
P/SA	Private/Specially Assisted
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio
R	Rural
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
Seventh Day Adven.	Seventh Day Adventist
Sp Ed	Special Education
T	Trained
U	Urban
U/R	Urban/Rural

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Education Statistical Digest 1998-99

This issue of the Education Statistical Digest is the fifth to be produced by the Ministry of Education and Sports' Planning Unit. This official document presents a comprehensive statistical overview of the Education System of Belize together with concise analysis to assist in the proper interpretation of the figures.

The Digest includes detailed information on students attending pre-primary, primary and secondary institutions in Belize for academic years 1997-98 and 1998-99. In addition, it gives information on the composition of the teaching force for the same levels of education. Included also is brief information on BNSE results and educational financial analysis for 1998-99 fiscal year. An added feature in this issue is the inclusion of the fourteen educational indicators prepared for the Social Indicator Committee, which can serve to monitor and evaluate the performance of the education system.

Many people have contributed time and expertise in the development of the Digest. To these people the MoES expresses its helpful gratitude; particularly to the Principals, Teachers, Managers and District Education Officers who were key in submitting the data from their schools or district.

The publication of this Digest was made possible with the assistance of the Government Printer.

Once again thank you all.

Dr. Cecil Reneau
Chief Education Officer
Ministry of Education and Sports

EDUCATION STATISTICAL DIGEST 1998-99

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is generally accepted that informed decisions can be made only if the information is: available, timely, reliable, accurate and the proper training is instituted for the end users. Ever mindful of the need for reliable data for proper planning the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) has over the years sought to improve its Education Management Information System (EMIS) processes and infrastructure.

The purpose of the Digest is threefold: present an overview of education in Belize; inform MoES personnel and researchers about the type of educational data available at the Planning Unit and highlight key educational issues through concise analysis. It is hoped that the information in the Digest would play a major role in initiating a data based decision making culture.

This is the fifth issue of the Belize Education Statistical Digest. The Digest sets the stage by presenting key population and vital statistics figures. It goes on to briefly describe the education structure of Belize. Next it looks at detailed information on schools, enrolment, repetition, dropout and participation. Enrolment trends have over the years been a major feature of the Digest. The Statistical Digest also presents detailed information on teachers. The next section gives brief information on recurrent and capital expenditure on education plus results on the Belize National Selection Examination. The last part of the Digest concentrates on the fourteen key educational indicators prepared for the Social Indicators Committee.

It is important to note that we have only been successful in collecting data for pre-schools, government and government-aided primary and secondary schools.

Suggestions on how this Digest can be improved would be welcome and can be forwarded to:

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1.1 BELIZE IN FIGURES 1998

Table 1: Population and Vital Statistics

	1996	1997	1998
Total Population (thousands)	222	230	238.5
District: Belize	66.4	68.0	70.4
Cayo	47.4	47.9	49.4
Orange Walk	36.8	38.1	39.6
Corozal	29.4	31.2	32.5
Toledo	20.1	21.7	22.7
Stann Creek	21.8	23.2	24.0
Sex: Male	111.0	114.5	118.5
Female	111.0	115.5	120.0
Percentage of Population:			
Age 14 years and under	41.9	42.3	41.2
Between 15 and 64 years	52.8	52.7	54.1
65 and over	5.3	4.9	4.7
Population Density (per sq. mile)	25.0	25.9	26.9
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	30.1	31.9	25.1p
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	4.3	5.1	5.7p
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	26.0	24.0	21.5p
Marriages (numbers)	1,274	1,543	1,374p
Households (thousands)	48.8	49.6	52.5
Persons per households (average)	4.5	4.6	4.5

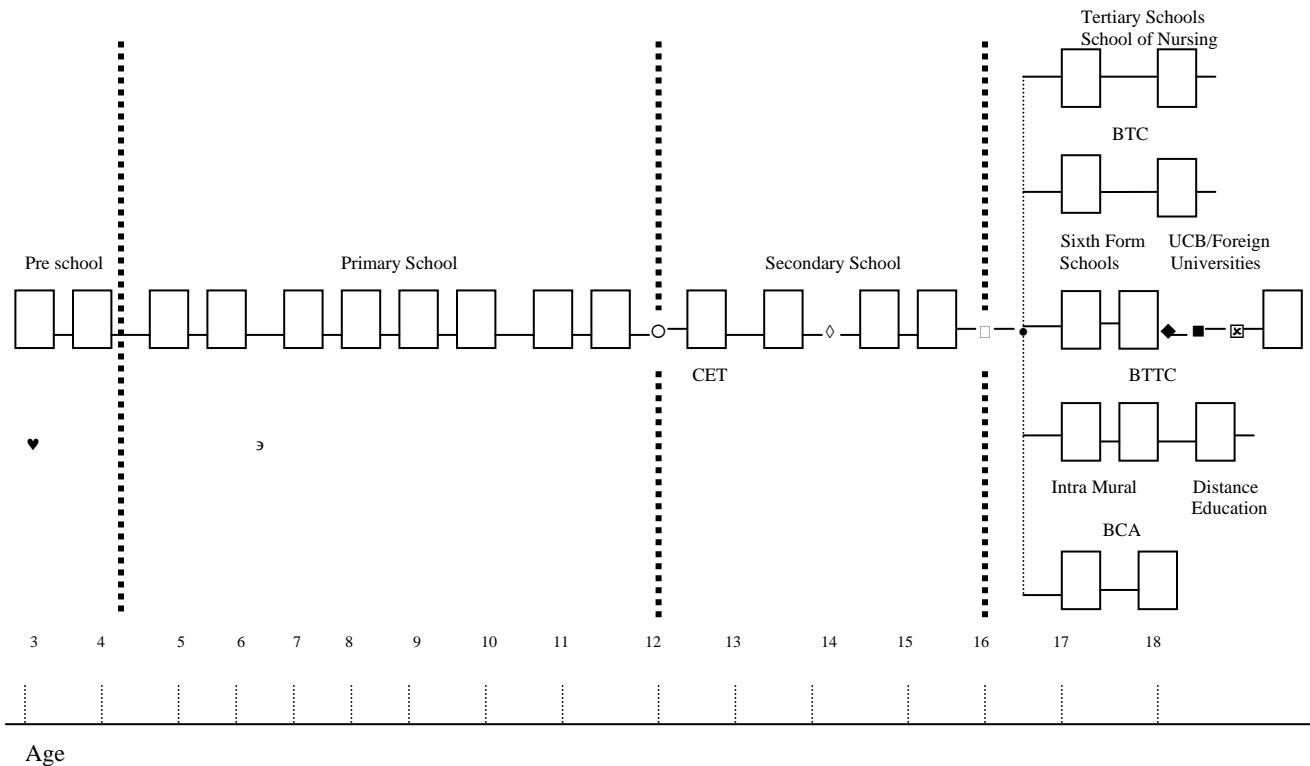
Source: Abstract of Statistics, Central Statistical Office - 1997-1999

* p – provisional figures, all others are revised figures

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

2.1 STRUCTURE OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF BELIZE - 1998-99

Chart 1



NOTES:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| BCA: | Belize College of Agriculture | BTTC: | Belize Teachers Training College |
| GCE: | General Certificate of Education | BTC: | Belize Technical College |
| UCB: | University College of Belize | CET: | Center for Employment Training |

- Belize National Selection Examination – BNSE
- ◊ National Diagnostic Tests – Secondary school level – (BJAT) started in 1990
- | Secondary school leaving examination and Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate(CSEC)
- λ American College Tests (ACT) and Sixth Form Placement Examinations
- υ Sixth Forms – Associate Degree Examinations
- ν General Certificate of Education (GCE) ‘A ‘ Level examinations
- ♥ Teacher’s Training College Entrance Examination
- ⊘ Teacher’s College and Jamaica Joint Board of Teacher Education Examination
- ⊠ University Entrance Examination

2.1.1 ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of Education is responsible for managing the national education system, although with regard to primary and secondary education it shares responsibilities with various denominations in a unique partnership. The Ministry has a small staff of professional officers in Belmopan, Belize City and the districts.

Policy decisions are made by the Minister with the support of the National Council for Education whose membership is representative of groups concerned with education. The role of the churches in education and their relationship with government was first formalised in the Education Ordinance of 1962. Under the partnership the Government establishes education objectives, provides funds to pay teachers' salaries, contributes half the costs of facilities and their maintenance, develops curricula and administrative standards, trains teachers and administers examinations. The church organisations are responsible for management and maintenance of their schools and personnel matters.

The church-state partnership in the provision of education has generally been fruitful. The arrangement has saved resources in the public sector by leveraging government spending in education and has promoted pluralism and diversity in a sociologically complex society.

3.0 MAJOR FINDINGS (1998-99)

- 3.1 There were 284 primary schools in 1998-99. Of this number 249 were either government or government aided denominational schools. There were, in addition, 35 private schools of which 8 were classified as specially assisted schools, receiving some form of government subsidy.
- 3.2 There were 54,616 pupils enrolled in government and government aided primary schools. An estimated 51.5 percent of the total enrolment were boys; 50.0 percent went to urban schools and 56.7 percent went to schools run by the Roman Catholic management.
- 3.3 The primary school enrolment was 2.8 percent up from the previous year's figure and 23.6 percent higher than a decade ago.
- 3.4 Of the 2,064 teachers in primary schools, 285 were in Government Primary Schools and 1,156 in Roman Catholic Schools. 60.6 percent of the teaching force were certified as trained representing 70.9 percent of all urban teachers and 50.8 percent of all rural teachers.
- 3.5 The overall pupil:teacher ratio was 26.5:1.
- 3.6 About 81.6 percent of all primary school leavers continued their education at secondary level.
- 3.7 There were 33 secondary schools which enrolled 5,532 male and 6,188 female students in 1998-99 an increased enrolment of 4.1 percent over the 1997-98 figures.
- 3.8 Of the 754 teachers employed at the secondary schools 55.7 percent were university graduates and 44.4 percent had professional teacher training.
- 3.9 The Ministry of Education's recurrent expenditure on primary schools averaged out at BZ\$726 per pupil.

4.0 EDUCATION SUPPLY

4.1 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

Table 2A: Number of Schools by District, Level and Management – 1998-99

District	Level and Management											All				Total
	Pre-School		Primary			Secondary			Post-Secondary			Com	G	GA	P/SA	
	Com	P	G	GA	P/SA	G	GA	P	G	GA	P					
Belize	13	25	5	54	11	3	11	2	3	3	0	13	11	68	38	130
Cayo	7	9	12	39	6	2	3	1	1	1	0	7	15	43	16	81
Corozal	10	9	6	28	8	1	2	0	0	1	0	10	7	31	17	65
Orange Walk	1	7	11	22	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	13	24	10	48
Stann Creek	10	4	0	27	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	10	2	29	7	48
Toledo	0	3	8	37	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	39	8	55
All	41	57	42	207	35	10	19	4	4	8	0	41	56	234	96	427

Table 2B: Number of Schools by District, Level and Management – 1997-98

District	Level and Management											All				Total
	Pre-School		Primary			Secondary			Post-Secondary			Com	G	GA	P/SA	
	Com	P	G	GA	P/SA	G	GA	P/SA	G	GA	P					
Belize	12	24	5	54	11	3	11	2	3	3	0	12	11	68	37	128
Cayo	7	8	12	37	6	2	2	1	1	1	0	7	15	40	15	77
Corozal	9	8	6	28	8	1	2	0	0	1	0	9	7	31	16	63
Orange Walk	1	8	11	22	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	13	24	11	49
Stann Creek	5	3	0	27	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	1	29	6	41
Toledo	0	3	8	37	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8	39	8	55
All	34	54	42	205	35	9	18	4	4	8	0	34	55	231	93	413

The total number of registered schools in Belize for the academic year 1998-99 was 427 of which 56 (13.1%) were completely funded by the Government of Belize and run by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

In 1998-99 there were 98 pre-schools of which 57 were private institutions. There were 249 primary, 29 secondary and 12 post-secondary institutions partially or entirely funded by government.

The increment in the total number of schools from 413 in the 1997-98 school year to 427 in the 1998-99 school year was due to the establishment of 6 new pre-schools in the Stann Creek District, 2 in both Corozal and the Belize District, 1 in the Cayo District along with the addition of 2 new Government-Aided primary in the Cayo District. It is important to note the closure of 1 private pre-school in the Orange Walk District.

At the secondary school level a school under the Ministry of Natural Resources was included under government school for the 1998-99 school year. Also 2 schools changed status from specially-assisted to government-aided. In addition, a private secondary school also became government-aided.

Post-secondary educational institutions have remained the same for the past two years.

4.2 NUMBER OF PRE-SCHOOLS

Table 3A: Number of Pre-Schools by District, Management and U/R Location – 1998-99

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Community	4	9	4	3	4	6	0	1	2	8	0	0	14	27
Private	22	3	5	4	3	6	5	2	2	2	2	1	39	18
All	26	12	9	7	7	12	5	3	4	10	2	1	53	45

Table 3B: Number of Pre-Schools by District, Management and U/R Location – 1997-98

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Community	4	8	4	3	2	7	0	1	2	3	0	0	12	22
Private	21	3	5	3	6	2	6	2	1	2	2	1	41	13
All	25	11	9	6	8	9	6	3	3	5	2	1	53	35

There were 15 new pre-schools established during the period 1997-98 to 1998-99, but due to the closure of 5 pre-schools then the actual increment was of 10 pre-schools only.

Private pre-schools still continue to outnumber the community pre-schools. Generally, a positive growth in the number of rural pre-schools is evident especially as it relates to the opening of 5 new pre-schools in the Stann Creek District along with 1 in the Belize Rural, 1 in Cayo Rural and 3 in Corozal Rural.

Nevertheless, statistics for the past four school years shows that the majority of the pre-schools continue to be concentrated in the urban areas of Belize.

4.3 NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Table 4A: Number of Primary Schools by District, Management & U/R Location – 1998-99

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	0	5	3	9	0	6	2	9	0	0	0	8	5	37
Roman Catholic	12	7	8	21	3	17	4	13	4	10	2	30	33	98
Anglican	8	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	12	10
Methodist	7	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	1	2	10	11
Seventh Day Adven.	2	2	1	2	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	7	9
Nazarene	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Assemblies of God	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Other	11	6	2	4	1	4	1	4	0	2	0	4	15	24
All	42	28	17	40	8	34	9	27	7	22	4	46	87	197

Table 4B: Number of Primary Schools by District, Management & U/R Location – 1997-98

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	0	5	3	9	0	6	2	9	0	0	0	8	5	37
Roman Catholic	12	7	7	20	3	17	4	13	4	10	2	30	32	97
Anglican	8	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	12	10
Methodist	7	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	1	2	10	11
Seventh Day Adven.	2	2	1	2	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	7	9
Nazarene	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Assemblies of God	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
Community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
Other	11	6	2	4	1	4	1	4	0	2	0	4	15	24
All	42	28	16	39	8	34	9	27	7	22	4	46	87	195

For the 1998-99 school year, 24.6% (70) of all primary schools were found in the Belize District. For the same period Stann Creek District recorded the lowest number of primary schools with only 29 schools (10.2%).

The Roman Catholic management is responsible for 46.1% (131) of all primary schools. 69.4% (197) primary schools are in the rural areas. The majority of the rural schools were concentrated in the Toledo District with 46 schools or 92.0% of their total schools. Belize District is the most urbanised with 60.0% (42) of its schools while Toledo has only 8.0% (4) schools in the urban areas.

Two new schools began functioning for the 1998-99 school year in the Cayo District namely Our Lady of Guadalupe (urban) and Our Lady of Lourdes (rural) under the Roman Catholic management.

Private primary schools remained constant for both school years in question.

4.4 NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Table 5A: Number of Secondary Schools by District, Management & U/R Location – 1998-99

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	5	5
Gov't-Aided Comm.	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	0
Gov't-Aided Denom.	8	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2
Specially Assisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
All	12	4	6	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	24	9

Table 5B: Number of Secondary Schools by District, Management & U/R Location – 1997-98

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	4
Gov't-Aided Comm.	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	5	0
Gov't-Aided Denom.	7	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	2
Specially Assisted	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Private	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
All	12	4	5	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	23	8

During the 1998-99 school year, secondary school education was offered by 33 institutions. Mount Carmel and Eden SDA in the Cayo District changed from private and specially-assisted status respectively to government-aided institutions during the 1998-99 school year.

Of the 33 high schools, 10 were completely managed and funded by the Government of Belize, 5 were government aided managed by a Board of Management or Governors, 14 were denominational schools administered by religious groups and 4 were considered private high schools.

5.0 PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION

5.1 ENROLMENT

Table 6A: Enrolment by District, Level and Gender – 1998-99

District	Level and Gender						All	
	Pre-School		Primary		Secondary			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	947	961	7,596	7,219	1,951	2,586	10,494	10,766
Cayo	297	255	6,566	5,895	1,192	1,338	8,055	7,488
Corozal	173	167	3,514	3,532	814	753	4,501	4,452
Orange Walk	138	140	4,326	4,159	679	622	5,143	4,921
Stann Creek	225	254	3,173	3,000	523	557	3,921	3,811
Toledo	38	39	2,929	2,707	373	332	3,340	3,078
All	1,818	1,816	28,104	26,512	5,532	6,188	35,454	34,516

Table 6B: Enrolment by District, Level and Gender – 1997-98

District	Level and Gender						All	
	Pre-School		Primary		Secondary			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	906	888	7,504	7,112	1,927	2,520	10,337	10,520
Cayo	273	226	6,304	5,689	1,130	1,267	7,707	7,182
Corozal	195	172	3,386	3,333	754	740	4,335	4,245
Orange Walk	125	134	4,237	3,989	676	672	5,038	4,795
Stann Creek	167	156	3,107	2,927	425	467	3,699	3,550
Toledo	36	35	2,827	2,703	376	306	3,239	3,044
All	1,702	1,611	27,365	25,753	5,288	5,972	34,355	33,336

Overall both the 1997-98 and the 1998-99 school years showed more male students enrolled in the education system, representing 51% of the total student population in both school years.

Nonetheless, at the secondary level the male population continues to be lower than that of the females. The 1997-98 period indicated 684 more females than males whereas in the 1998-99 school year it was 656.

In general, the period 1997-98 to 1998-99 registered positive increment throughout the pre-school, primary and secondary levels. The total increase is reflected with an additional 2,279 students enrolled in the levels mentioned. This represented a 3.4% increase over the previous year.

5.2 PRE SCHOOLS ENROLMENT

Table 7A: Pre-Schools Enrolment by District, Management and Gender – 1998-99

Management	District and Gender												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Community	291	308	152	142	101	90	7	10	166	178	0	0	717	728
Private	656	653	145	113	72	77	131	130	59	76	38	39	1,101	1,088
All	947	961	297	255	173	167	138	140	225	254	38	39	1,818	1,816

Table 7B: Pre-Schools Enrolment by District, Management and Gender – 1997-98

Management	District and Gender												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Community	326	334	140	122	103	116	8	8	87	85	4	5	668	670
Private	580	554	133	104	92	56	117	126	80	71	32	30	1,034	941
All	906	888	273	226	195	172	125	134	167	156	36	35	1,702	1,611

Total enrolment figures for pre-schools for the 1998-99 school year indicated an increase of 9.7% over the previous year (321 additional students enrolled in pre-school education). During the period 1997-98 to 1998-99 all the districts except the Corozal District showed positive increment in the pre-school enrolment.

The gender ratio for the year 1997-98 was recorded as 51% males to 49% females. On the other hand, in 1998-99 the ratio was even at 50% for males and females.

The private pre-school enrolment increased by 10.8% from 1997-98 to the 1998-99 period.

Table 8A: Pre-Schools Enrolment by District, Management and U/R location – 1998-99

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Community	337	226	236	58	94	97	0	17	153	191	0	0	856	589
Private	1,262	47	196	62	71	78	232	29	107	28	66	11	1,934	255
All	1,635	273	432	120	165	175	232	46	260	219	66	11	2,790	844

Table 8B: Pre-Schools Enrolment by District, Management and U/R location – 1997-98

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Community	451	209	212	50	55	164	0	16	112	60	0	9	830	508
Private	1,083	51	168	69	122	26	192	51	77	74	62	0	1,704	271
All	1,534	260	380	119	177	190	192	67	189	134	62	9	2,534	779

A total enrolment of 3,634 pre-school students were registered for the 1998-99 school year. This represented an increase of 9.7% over the previous year.

Enrolment in urban pre-schools continued to exceed that of rural schools. Corozal District experienced a dramatic decrease in both the urban and rural areas. There was a 42% enrolment decrease in the private pre-schools of the Corozal urban area and a 41% in the rural community pre-schools.

Private urban pre-schools continued to show a dominant presence in pre-school education with 53% of the total pre-school enrolment for the 1998-99 school year.

5.3 PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENROLMENT

Table 9A: Primary Schools Enrolment by District, Grade & Gender – 1998-99

District	Sp Ed		Pre-Sch		Beginners		Infant I		Infant II		Standard I		Standard II		Standard III		Standard IV		Standard V		Standard VI		All	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	0	0	1	3	248	253	1,191	1,062	1,028	964	1,002	854	810	893	850	836	898	839	839	794	729	721	7,596	7,219
Cayo	0	0	0	0	106	101	1,028	911	835	772	899	784	903	798	829	760	735	671	684	564	547	534	6,566	5,895
Corozal	3	3	30	32	8	20	525	503	489	473	451	496	453	464	421	465	436	386	375	367	323	323	3,514	3,532
Orange Walk	15	7	0	0	14	18	645	641	540	531	606	571	615	588	566	515	527	496	466	415	332	377	4,326	4,159
Stann Creek	0	0	13	11	85	75	550	482	450	414	444	422	440	366	346	330	335	340	245	286	265	274	3,173	3,000
Toledo	0	0	14	12	2	0	496	460	429	411	396	352	352	383	367	335	338	313	267	232	268	209	2,929	2,707
All	18	10	58	58	463	467	4,435	4,059	3,771	3,565	3,798	3,479	3,573	3,492	3,379	3,241	3,269	3,045	2,876	2,658	2,464	2,438	28,104	26,512

Table 9B: Primary Schools Enrolment by District, Grade & Gender – 1997-98

District	Sp Ed		Pre-Sch		Beginners		Infant I		Infant II		Standard I		Standard II		Standard III		Standard IV		Standard V		Standard VI		All	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	0	0	0	0	347	335	1,036	941	910	861	890	921	958	859	889	864	905	819	833	763	736	749	7,504	7,112
Cayo	0	0	0	0	112	95	940	851	913	750	823	814	893	752	777	729	711	604	613	544	522	550	6,304	5,689
Corozal	13	12	39	37	3	0	555	494	435	466	423	486	431	437	393	414	418	370	340	321	336	296	3,386	3,333
Orange Walk	16	5	3	2	0	0	640	628	567	538	643	591	593	528	520	490	500	455	388	379	367	373	4,237	3,989
Stann Creek	0	0	10	7	84	88	544	456	446	429	450	371	357	347	375	366	313	322	266	246	262	295	3,107	2,927
Toledo	0	0	7	16	13	16	473	462	383	350	402	401	342	369	381	339	314	272	298	266	214	212	2,827	2,703
All	29	17	59	62	559	534	4,188	3,832	3,654	3,394	3,631	3,584	3,574	3,292	3,335	3,202	3,161	2,842	2,738	2,519	2,437	2,475	27,365	25,753

Total enrolment for 1998-99 increased by 1,498 students or 2.8% over the 1997-98 school year. In 1998-99, 28 pupils (0.2%) were Special Education students in the Corozal and Orange Walk District. While 116 (0.2%) of the total enrolment population were pre-school children attached to primary schools, 930 children (1.7%) accounted for 'Beginners' where 5 year olds children received 'unofficial' preparatory education attached to some primary schools. In both 1997-98 and 1998-99 school year, the majority of the student population was concentrated in Infant I. In 1997-98 there were 4,188 males accounting for 7.9% of the total enrolment and 3,832 females accounting for 7.3% of total enrolment. In 1998-99 a total of 4,435 males representing 8.1% of the population while 4,059 females accounted for 7.6% of the total population of that school year. Hence, there was a total increase of 129 students (0.2%) in the total Infant I enrolment during the 1997-98 to 1998-99 period and the gender distribution for that school grade continued favouring the males.

Table 10A: Enrolment in G & GA Primary Schools by Management, District and U/R Location – 1998-99

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	0	721	1,313	1,002	0	844	1,580	1,082	0	0	0	453	2,893	4,102
Roman Catholic	5,412	1,252	3,413	4,091	1,067	3,801	1,898	2,859	1,355	2,050	897	3,793	14,042	17,846
Anglican	2,392	198	352	322	184	0	332	0	220	464	0	60	3,480	1,044
Methodist	1,984	425	0	0	246	214	0	0	369	350	276	157	2,875	1,146
Seventh Day Adven.	232	20	250	0	93	180	202	0	211	0	0	0	988	200
Nazarene	95	0	765	276	172	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,032	401
Assemblies of God	202	0	0	152	0	120	0	0	0	316	0	0	202	588
Other	1,488	394	0	525	0	0	282	250	0	838	0	0	1,770	2,007
All	11,805	3,010	6,093	6,368	1,762	5,284	4,294	4,191	2,155	4,018	1,173	4,463	27,282	27,334

Table 10B: Enrolment in G & GA Primary Schools by Management, District and U/R Location – 1997-98

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	0	705	1,344	986	0	822	1,408	1,020	0	0	0	461	2,752	3,994
Roman Catholic	5,284	1,224	3,261	3,924	1,096	3,481	1,909	2,829	1,432	1,890	912	3,706	13,894	17,054
Anglican	2,343	196	345	274	178	0	302	0	210	436	0	52	3,378	958
Methodist	1,983	406	0	0	246	232	0	0	381	356	246	153	2,856	1,147
Seventh Day Adven.	228	23	250	0	91	194	209	0	211	0	0	0	989	217
Nazarene	101	0	655	279	157	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	913	403
Assemblies of God	215	0	0	158	0	98	0	0	0	306	0	0	215	562
Other	1,445	463	0	517	0	0	436	113	0	812	0	0	1,881	1,905
All	11,599	3,017	5,855	6,138	1,768	4,951	4,264	3,962	2,234	3,800	1,158	4,372	26,878	26,240

From the 1997-98 to 1998-99 school period, total enrolment increased in both the urban by 404 (0.8%) and rural 1,094 (4.2%) students.

All districts with the exception of Belize rural, Corozal urban and Stann Creek urban experienced a positive increase in student enrolment.

The Roman Catholic Management still continued to account for the main concentration of the student enrolment in primary education. In addition, there was an increase of 148 students (1.1%) in urban enrolment and 792 (4.6%) in rural enrolment in the Roman Catholic schools.

For the 1998-99 school year a total of 6,995 students were enrolled in government primary schools throughout the country.

5.4 SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENROLMENT

Table 11A: Secondary Schools Enrolment by District, Grade and Gender – 1998-99

District	Grade and Gender								All	
	Form I		Form II		Form III		Form IV			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	708	831	536	689	405	577	302	489	1,951	2,586
Cayo	388	422	308	354	286	304	210	258	1,192	1,338
Corozal	297	215	192	184	192	191	133	163	814	753
Orange Walk	277	216	166	173	137	147	99	86	679	622
Stann Creek	168	183	139	130	137	160	79	84	523	557
Toledo	103	89	98	91	98	73	74	79	373	332
All	1,941	1,956	1,439	1,621	1,255	1,452	897	1,159	5,532	6,188

Table 11B: Secondary Schools Enrolment by District, Grade and Gender – 1997-98

District	Grade and Gender								All	
	Form I		Form II		Form III		Form IV			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	733	861	493	637	392	548	309	474	1,927	2,520
Cayo	341	369	320	335	273	318	196	245	1,130	1,267
Corozal	268	222	191	209	165	181	130	128	754	740
Orange Walk	246	254	165	179	147	132	118	107	676	672
Stann Creek	136	141	132	156	69	98	88	72	425	467
Toledo	159	107	80	94	81	49	56	56	376	306
All	1,883	1,954	1,381	1,610	1,127	1,326	897	1,082	5,288	5,972

Secondary school enrolment for 1998-99 (11,720 students) registered an increase of 4.1% (460 students) over the 1997-98 (11,260 students) school year. This increase is attributed to the opening of one private school in the Cayo District and the inclusion of Lynam Natural Resources College of Belize, a secondary school under the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Overall enrolment favoured the male population with an additional 28 male students over the females. Nonetheless, the male to female distribution for the 1998-99 school year was 47.2% to 52.8%. Since the 1993-94 school year, overall secondary schools enrolment and by Form continued to be dominated by females.

For the two school years in question, Belize, Cayo and Stann Creek Districts showed a high incidence of female enrolment. The Belize District, with the highest number of secondary schools, continued to cater for the main concentration of total secondary school enrolment, which registered 38.7% in 1998-99 and 39.5% in 1997-98.

The figures for Form I for 1998-99 include 153 students in the Preparatory grade found in Belize and Stann Creek District. Similarly, in 1997-98, 146 students were enrolled in Preparatory grade for the same districts plus the Toledo District.

**Table 12A: Enrolment in Secondary Schools by Management, District and U/R Location
1998-99**

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	726	101	1,078	0	0	404	561	172	0	378	0	0	2,365	1,055
Gov't-Aided Comm.	575	0	0	0	668	0	0	0	590	0	705	0	2,538	0
Gov't-Aided Denom.	2,964	156	1,440	0	0	495	568	0	0	0	0	0	4,972	651
Specially Assisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private	0	15	12	0	0	0	0	0	112	0	0	0	124	15
All	4,265	272	2,530	0	668	899	1,129	172	702	378	705	0	9,999	1,721

**Table 12B: Enrolment in Secondary Schools by Management, District and U/R Location
1997-98**

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	677	103	1,043	0	0	369	589	193	0	240	0	0	2,309	905
Gov't-Aided Comm.	517	0	0	0	672	0	0	0	575	0	682	0	2,446	0
Gov't-Aided Denom.	2,801	142	621	0	0	453	566	0	0	0	0	0	3,988	595
Specially Assisted	190	0	283	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	473	0
Private	0	17	450	0	0	0	0	0	77	0	0	0	527	17
All	4,185	262	2,397	0	672	822	1,155	193	652	240	682	0	9,743	1,517

Enrolment by urban/rural location showed that 85.3% of secondary school enrolment was concentrated in urban schools during the 1998-99 school year, as compared to 86.5% in the previous year. Overall, there was positive increment in the total enrolment of secondary schools under the various managements.

Some 48.0% (5,623 students) of the total enrolment for 1998-99 attended Government-Aided Denominational secondary schools and 40.7% (4,583 students) in 1997-98. The reason for the dramatic increase in enrolment is that two Specially Assisted secondary schools and one Private school were designated Government-Aided Denominational.

Government secondary schools were the main secondary level institutions attended by students in the rural areas. For 1998-99, 61.3% (1,055 students) of the total rural enrolment attended Government rural secondary schools while for 1997-98 it was 59.7% (905 students). Toledo is the only district without a Government secondary school.

5.5 REPETITION AND DROPOUT RATES

5.5.1 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Table 13A: Primary Schools Repetition Rate by District and Grade – 1997-98

District	Beginners		Infant I		Infant II		Standard I		Standard II		Standard III		Standard IV		Standard V		Standard VI		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	80	12	231	12	113	6	119	7	107	6	113	6	175	10	172	11	107	7	1,217	8.3
Cayo	11	5	238	13	117	7	121	7	135	8	109	7	114	9	98	8	133	12	1,076	9.0
Corozal	0	0	170	16	90	10	98	11	87	10	85	11	83	11	51	8	65	10	729	10.8
Orange Walk	7	22	194	15	89	8	151	12	121	11	133	13	79	8	71	9	98	13	943	11.5
Stann Creek	5	3	127	13	64	7	97	12	82	12	74	10	102	16	64	13	111	20	726	12.0
Toledo	0	0	200	21	99	14	126	16	82	12	83	12	74	13	59	10	78	18	801	14.5
All	103	9	1,160	14	572	8	712	10	614	9	597	9	627	10	515	10	592	12	5,492	10.3

Table 13B: Primary Schools Repetition Rate by District and Grade – 1996-97

District	Beginners		Infant I		Infant II		Standard I		Standard II		Standard III		Standard IV		Standard V		Standard VI		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	41	9	172	10	82	5	75	5	98	6	91	6	138	9	105	7	55	4	857	6.9
Cayo	0	0	218	13	151	9	112	7	126	8	102	7	80	6	66	6	108	11	963	8.4
Corozal	1	7	185	19	99	11	118	13	103	12	96	12	106	15	79	12	83	15	870	13.6
Orange Walk	3	4	237	19	115	10	170	14	140	13	120	12	94	11	79	9	73	10	1,031	12.4
Stann Creek	0	0	133	15	54	7	93	14	87	12	137	21	61	11	59	11	95	20	719	13.0
Toledo	0	0	122	17	70	11	78	12	70	14	81	18	68	17	65	22	80	26	634	16.0
All	45	5	1,067	15	571	9	646	10	624	10	627	11	547	10	453	9	494	11	5,074	10.6

The 1997-98 primary school records showed a repetition rate of 10.3% (5,492 repeaters) compared to 10.6% (5,074 repeaters) in 1996-97. For the 1997-98 school year Toledo District exhibited the highest repetition rate with 14.5%, followed by Stann Creek 12.0%, Orange Walk 11.5%, Corozal 10.8%, Cayo 9.0% and Belize 8.3%. Of the total enrolment 3,143 male students (11.5%) repeated a grade as compared to 2,349 females (9.1%) in 1997-98.

Analysing repetition rate by grades, Infant I showed the highest incidence of repeaters with 1,160 (14.0%) for the 1997-98 school year and 1,067 (15.0%) in 1996-97. This could be attributed to the fact that many primary schools retain the students for two years in Infant I.

Table 14A: Primary Schools Dropout Rate by District and Grade – 1997-98

District	Beginners		Infant I		Infant II		Standard I		Standard II		Standard III		Standard IV		Standard V		Standard VI		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	0	0	7	0	4	0	3	0	3	0	7	0	7	0	29	2	14	1	74	0.5
Cayo	1	0	10	1	12	1	9	1	18	1	23	2	30	2	49	4	19	2	171	1.4
Corozal	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	14	2	19	2	25	4	16	3	81	1.2
Orange Walk	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	7	1	13	1	24	3	11	1	60	0.7
Stann Creek	0	0	7	1	1	0	7	1	9	1	10	1	12	2	21	4	14	3	81	1.3
Toledo	0	0	5	1	1	0	3	0	6	1	7	1	19	3	52	9	36	8	129	2.3
All	2	0	32	0	22	0	23	0	39	1	68	1	100	2	200	4	110	2	596	1.1

Table 14B: Primary Schools Dropout Rate by District and Grade – 1996-97

District	Beginners		Infant I		Infant II		Standard I		Standard II		Standard III		Standard IV		Standard V		Standard VI		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	7	0	14	1	19	1	0	0	49	0.4
Cayo	0	0	14	1	12	1	16	1	18	1	15	1	57	5	40	4	0	0	172	1.5
Corozal	0	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	5	1	12	1	31	4	29	4	4	1	93	1.5
Orange Walk	0	0	5	0	6	1	3	0	11	1	18	2	44	5	57	7	7	1	151	1.8
Stann Creek	2	1	10	1	7	1	8	1	13	2	8	1	18	3	15	3	0	0	81	1.5
Toledo	0	0	7	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	11	3	25	6	15	5	0	0	63	1.6
All	2	0	40	1	30	0	42	1	49	1	71	1	189	4	175	4	11	0	609	1.3

In general, figures for 1996-97 and 1997-98 school year showed a very low dropout rate. In 1997-98 the dropout rate was 1.1% whereas the previous year it was 1.3%.

The dropout rate ranged from 0.5% in Belize to 2.3% in Toledo for 1997-98 and 0.4% in Belize to 1.8% in Orange Walk for 1996-97.

These figures do not necessarily present a fair picture of the dropout situation in primary schools in Belize. The main reason for inaccurate statistics is due to poor record keeping at the school level and the improper definition of dropout.

Table 15A: Children of Age 12 & 13+ Years Enrolled in Primary Schools by Grade, Gender and Age – 1998-99

Grade	Enrolment			12 yrs						13+ yrs					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Infant I	4,435	4,059	8,494	3	0.1	1	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Infant II	3,771	3,565	7,336	7	0.2	1	0.0	8	0.1	3	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.1
Standard I	3,798	3,479	7,277	23	0.6	14	0.4	37	0.5	10	0.3	4	0.1	14	0.2
Standard II	3,573	3,492	7,065	73	2.0	67	1.9	140	2.0	23	0.6	14	0.4	37	0.5
Standard III	3,379	3,241	6,620	293	8.7	191	5.9	484	7.3	131	3.9	67	2.1	198	3.0
Standard IV	3,269	3,045	6,314	666	20.4	526	17.3	1,192	18.9	415	12.7	227	7.5	642	10.2
Standard V	2,876	2,658	5,534	895	31.1	873	32.8	1,768	31.9	968	33.7	617	23.2	1,585	28.6
Standard VI	2,464	2,438	4,902	703	28.5	861	35.3	1,564	31.9	1,570	63.7	1,311	53.8	2,881	58.8
Total	27,565	25,977	53,542	2,663	9.7	2,534	9.8	5,197	9.7	3,120	11.3	2,243	8.6	5,363	10.0

Table 15B: Children of Age 12 & 13+ Years Enrolled in Primary Schools by Grade, Gender and Age – 1997-98

Grade	Enrolment			12 yrs						13+ yrs					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Infant I	4,188	3,832	8,020	2	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Infant II	3,654	3,394	7,048	3	0.1	3	0.1	6	0.1	3	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.0
Standard I	3,631	3,584	7,215	16	0.4	11	0.3	27	0.4	6	0.2	4	0.1	10	0.1
Standard II	3,574	3,292	6,866	74	2.1	54	1.6	128	1.9	25	0.7	19	0.6	44	0.6
Standard III	3,335	3,202	6,537	279	8.4	179	5.6	458	7.0	103	3.1	60	1.9	163	2.5
Standard IV	3,161	2,842	6,003	655	20.7	467	16.4	1,122	18.7	390	12.3	227	8.0	617	10.3
Standard V	2,738	2,519	5,257	869	31.7	812	32.2	1,681	32.0	973	35.5	615	24.4	1,588	30.2
Standard VI	2,437	2,475	4,912	668	27.4	845	34.1	1,513	30.8	1,583	65.0	1,370	55.4	2,953	60.1
Total	26,718	25,140	51,858	2,566	9.6	2,371	9.4	4,937	9.5	3,083	11.5	2,295	9.1	5,378	10.4

Given an 8 year education cycle and compulsory entry age of 5 years it is to be expected that children of 13 years would have completed this cycle if an automatic promotion policy were in place.

For the 1997-98 school year 5,383 or 10.1% of the total enrolment were overage for the class they were in. 1998-99 figures showed a slight decrease of 9.8% or 5,369 students. This translates into 0.3% points lower than the previous year. There were in 1998-99 2,482 children of age 13 years and older in classes ranging from Infant II to Standard V compared to 2,425 in the 1997-98 school year.

Overall overage enrolment was higher for the 1997-98 school year compared to 1998-99 (5,378 to 5,363). But further analysis shows that female overage enrolment was higher for the 1997-98 school year (2,295 to 2,243) while male overage enrolment was higher for the 1998-99 school year (3,120 to 3,083).

5.5.2 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Table 16A: Secondary Schools Repetition* and Dropout* Rate by District and Gender – 1997-98

District	Enrolment			Repetition						Dropout					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Belize	1,927	2,520	4,447	224	11.62	247	9.80	471	10.59	222	11.52	222	8.81	444	9.98
Cayo	1,130	1,267	2,397	85	7.52	78	6.16	163	6.80	159	14.07	114	9.00	273	11.39
Corozal	754	740	1,494	48	6.37	32	4.32	80	5.35	91	12.07	54	7.30	145	9.71
Orange Walk	676	672	1,348	89	13.17	99	14.73	188	13.95	70	10.36	45	6.70	115	8.53
Stann Creek	425	467	892	32	7.53	35	7.49	67	7.51	21	4.94	21	4.50	42	4.71
Toledo	376	306	682	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	5,288	5,972	11,260	478	9.04	491	8.22	969	8.61	563	10.65	456	7.64	1,019	9.05

*No repeater data for Pine Ridge, Belmopan Baptist, Corozal Community College & Toledo Community College; No dropout data for Belmopan Baptist & Toledo Community College

Table 16B: Secondary Schools Repetition* and Dropout* Rate by District and Gender – 1996-97

District	Enrolment			Repetition						Dropout					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Belize	1,874	2,447	4,321	165	8.80	162	6.62	327	7.57	202	10.78	195	7.97	397	9.19
Cayo	1,167	1,229	2,396	109	9.34	86	7.00	195	8.14	126	10.80	88	7.16	214	8.93
Corozal	768	674	1,442	104	13.54	59	8.75	163	11.30	112	14.58	72	10.68	184	12.76
Orange Walk	691	639	1,330	116	16.79	121	18.94	237	17.82	184	26.63	139	21.75	323	24.29
Stann Creek	377	438	815	48	12.73	50	11.42	98	12.02	23	6.10	34	7.76	57	6.99
Toledo	334	274	608	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	5,211	5,701	10,912	542	10.40	478	8.38	1,020	9.35	647	12.42	528	9.26	1,175	10.77

* No data was reported for Isabella, Mopan Technical & Toledo Community College

Secondary school repetition and dropout rates decreased for the period 1996-97 to 1997-98 school year from 9.35% to 8.61% and 10.77% 9.05% respectively. For the 1997-98 school year the highest repetition rate was registered in the Orange Walk District and the lowest in the Corozal District with 13.95% and 5.35% respectively. The dropout rate ranged from 11.39% in the Cayo District to 4.71% in the Stann Creek District in 1997-98. Statistics show that for both school years repetition and dropout rates were higher among the male population.

Table 17A: Secondary Schools Repetition* and Dropout* Rate by Grade and Gender – 1997-98

District	Enrolment			Repetition						Dropout					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Preparatory	86	60	146	0	0.00	1	1.67	1	0.68	24	27.91	4	6.67	28	19.18
Form I	1,797	1,894	3,691	193	10.74	176	9.29	369	10.00	243	13.52	173	9.13	416	11.27
Form II	1,381	1,610	2,991	129	9.34	137	8.51	266	8.89	141	10.21	121	7.52	262	8.76
Form III	1,127	1,326	2,453	127	11.27	124	9.35	251	10.23	117	10.38	100	7.54	217	8.85
Form IV	897	1,082	1,979	29	3.23	53	4.90	82	4.14	38	4.24	58	5.36	96	4.85
Total	5,288	5,972	11,260	478	9.04	491	8.22	969	8.61	563	10.65	456	7.64	1,019	9.05

*No repeater data for Pine Ridge, Belmopan Baptist, Corozal Community College & Toledo Community College; No dropout data for Belmopan Baptist & Toledo Community College

Table 17B: Secondary Schools Repetition* and Dropout* Rate by Grade and Gender – 1996-97

District	Enrolment			Repetition						Dropout					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Preparatory	87	74	161	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	20	22.99	22	29.73	42	26.09
Form I	1,829	1,823	3,652	203	11.10	148	8.12	351	9.61	292	15.97	208	11.41	500	13.69
Form II	1,347	1,542	2,889	154	11.43	160	10.38	314	10.87	169	12.55	146	9.47	315	10.90
Form III	1,121	1,320	2,441	139	12.40	129	9.77	268	10.98	117	10.44	98	7.42	215	8.81
Form IV	827	942	1,769	46	5.56	41	4.35	87	4.92	49	5.93	54	5.73	103	5.82
Total	5,211	5,701	10,912	542	10.40	478	8.38	1,020	9.35	647	12.42	528	9.26	1,175	10.77

* No data was reported for Isabella, Mopan Technical & Toledo Community College

For the 1997-98 school year the highest incidence of repetition by grade occurred in Form III with 10.23% followed by Form I with 10.00%, Form II with 8.89%, Form IV with 4.14% and Preparatory with 0.68%. Total repetition rate indicated a decline of 0.7 percentage points for the two years.

On the other hand, for the same year dropout rate was higher for the Preparatory grade with 19.18% followed by Form I with 11.27%, Form III with 8.85%, Form II with 8.76% and Form IV with 4.85%. Dropout figures clearly signal at a positive decline from 1996-97 to 1997-98 of approximately 1.7 percentage points.

Table 18A: Children of Age 16 & 17+ Years Enrolled in Secondary Schools by Grade, Gender and Age – 1998-99

Grade	Enrolment			16 yrs						17+ yrs					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Preparatory	89	64	153	7	7.9	11	17.2	18	11.8	4	4.5	2	3.1	6	3.9
Form I	1,852	1,892	3,744	185	10.0	181	9.6	366	9.8	84	4.5	71	3.8	155	4.1
Form II	1,439	1,621	3,060	362	25.2	315	19.4	677	22.1	205	14.2	139	8.9	344	11.2
Form III	1,255	1,452	2,707	348	27.7	431	29.7	779	28.8	523	41.7	445	30.6	968	35.8
Form IV	897	1,159	2,056	185	20.6	337	29.1	522	25.4	655	73.0	682	58.8	1,337	65.0
Total	5,532	6,188	11,720	1,087	19.6	1,275	20.6	2,362	20.2	1,471	26.6	1,339	21.6	2,810	24.0

Table 18B: Children of Age 16 & 17+ Years Enrolled in Secondary Schools by Grade, Gender and Age – 1997-98

Grade	Enrolment			16 yrs						17+ yrs					
	M	F	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%
Preparatory	86	60	146	4	4.7	2	3.3	6	4.1	4	4.7	0	0.0	4	2.7
Form I	1,797	1,894	3,691	142	7.9	104	5.5	246	6.7	64	3.4	49	2.6	113	3.1
Form II	1,381	1,610	2,991	298	21.6	269	16.7	567	19.0	174	12.6	141	8.8	315	10.5
Form III	1,127	1,326	2,453	348	30.9	408	30.0	756	30.8	403	35.8	354	26.0	757	30.9
Form IV	897	1,082	1,979	237	26.4	347	32.1	584	29.5	577	64.3	607	56.1	1,184	59.8
Total	5,288	5,972	11,260	1,029	19.5	1,130	18.9	2,159	19.2	1,222	23.1	1,151	19.3	2,373	21.1

Enrolment figures by grade and gender indicated that a significant number of students were overaged for the class they were in. It is important to note that 17+ year olds could be found across grade levels from Preparatory to Form IV.

Considering the 8 year primary and 4 year secondary school cycles, students should complete secondary school at the age of 17. The 1998-99 figures indicated that 24.0% of the students were overaged for the form they were in while for 1997-98 it was 21.1%. Of major significance is the fact that for both school years there were more overaged males than females (26.6% to 21.6% in 1998-99 and 23.1% to 19.3% in 1997-98 respectively).

5.6 PARTICIPATION RATE PRIMARY

Table 19A: Percentage of Primary School Age Population Enrolled in G & GA Primary Schools by District and Gender – 1998-99

Age	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	Total	Part
Boys	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	853	81.2	841	83.5	852	84.6	880	92.0	865	93.0	771	80.9	811	88.5	723	88.2	504	56.4	231	29.3	7,331	78.6
Cayo	723	94.0	723	98.1	751	101.9	755	107.8	738	108.4	708	101.4	662	98.7	611	101.8	415	63.5	224	38.8	6,310	92.4
Corozal	405	78.3	394	79.5	378	76.3	417	88.6	397	86.7	377	80.3	358	79.4	329	81.6	201	45.7	108	27.8	3,364	73.3
Orange Walk	458	71.9	442	72.3	517	84.6	504	86.8	535	94.8	498	86.1	471	84.7	401	80.6	257	47.4	122	25.5	4,205	74.3
Stann Creek	311	81.7	350	95.9	341	93.4	349	100.6	348	103.2	316	91.4	293	88.2	302	101.7	226	69.8	142	49.6	2,978	88.1
Toledo	304	83.0	299	85.2	340	96.8	313	93.8	288	88.8	322	96.9	292	91.4	299	104.6	252	80.9	111	40.3	2,820	86.7
Country	3,054	82.1	3,049	85.5	3,179	89.1	3,218	95.0	3,171	96.3	2,992	88.6	2,887	88.9	2,665	91.8	1,855	58.6	938	33.5	27,008	81.8
Girls																						
Belize	823	73.6	836	74.8	897	80.8	883	78.7	821	78.9	712	72.3	743	76.9	714	75.9	379	39.1	143	15.9	6,951	67.7
Cayo	710	93.9	649	85.8	672	89.5	704	92.8	704	100.1	645	96.8	594	90.9	538	84.6	329	50.1	132	21.8	5,677	81.8
Corozal	412	84.7	437	89.9	410	84.9	421	86.3	393	86.9	374	87.3	353	84.0	315	77.0	185	43.8	65	16.7	3,365	75.4
Orange Walk	470	80.5	471	80.7	516	89.0	522	89.1	462	85.0	482	93.7	430	85.2	405	82.4	196	38.7	70	14.9	4,024	75.0
Stann Creek	321	89.5	326	90.9	351	98.5	316	87.8	324	97.0	298	94.3	319	102.8	294	97.4	196	62.9	108	37.5	2,853	86.6
Toledo	263	78.9	298	89.4	337	101.8	301	90.1	302	97.4	285	97.1	322	1,11.8	271	96.7	191	66.1	57	21.3	2,627	85.9
Country	2,999	82.5	3,017	83.0	3,183	88.1	3,147	86.3	3,006	88.8	2,796	87.3	2,761	87.8	2,537	82.9	1,476	46.8	575	19.7	25,497	76.3
All																						
Belize	1,676	77.3	1,677	78.9	1,749	82.6	1,763	84.8	1,686	85.6	1,483	76.5	1,554	82.5	1,437	81.6	883	47.4	374	22.2	14,282	72.9
Cayo	1,433	94.0	1,372	91.9	1,423	95.6	1,459	100.0	1,442	104.2	1,353	99.2	1,256	94.8	1,149	92.9	744	56.8	356	30.1	11,987	87.1
Corozal	817	81.4	831	84.6	788	80.5	838	87.4	790	86.8	751	83.7	711	81.6	644	79.3	386	44.8	173	22.2	6,729	74.3
Orange Walk	928	76.0	913	76.4	1,033	86.7	1,026	88.0	997	90.0	980	89.7	901	84.9	806	81.5	453	43.2	192	20.3	8,229	74.7
Stann Creek	632	85.5	676	93.4	692	95.9	665	94.1	672	100.2	614	92.8	612	95.3	596	99.5	422	66.4	250	43.6	5,831	87.4
Toledo	567	81.1	597	87.2	677	99.3	614	91.9	590	93.0	607	97.0	614	101.0	570	100.7	443	73.8	168	31.0	5,447	86.3
Country	6,053	82.3	6,066	84.2	6,362	88.6	6,365	90.4	6,177	92.5	5,788	87.9	5,648	88.4	5,202	87.2	3,331	52.7	1,513	26.5	52,505	79.0

This table presents the proportion of children of a given age group enrolled in primary schools for the 1998-99 school year. The above 100% figures reflect inaccuracies in the current population at each level and/or migration of children both among districts and from neighbouring villages outside the country.

During the 1998-99 school year 79.0% of the school age population of 5-14 year olds were participating in primary education in government and government-aided schools. Approximately, an additional 2% were enrolled in private and specially assisted schools.

For schools years 1998-99 and 1997-98 Stann Creek District demonstrated the highest participation rates (87.4% in 1998-99 and 89.0% in 1997-98). Moreover, participation rates for 5 year olds increased from 79.7% in 1997-98 to 82.3% in 1998-99.

Table 19B: Percentage of Primary School Age Population Enrolled in G & GA Primary Schools by District and Gender – 1997-98

Age	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	Total	Part Rate
Boys	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	816	79.4	837	84.9	831	84.3	849	90.7	838	92.1	757	81.1	837	93.3	737	91.9	501	57.3	228	29.5	7,231	79.2
Cayo	672	91.5	768	109.1	759	107.9	710	106.2	715	110.0	652	97.8	612	95.5	585	102.1	393	63.0	219	39.7	6,085	93.4
Corozal	399	79.1	372	76.9	359	74.2	391	85.1	369	82.6	324	70.8	330	75.0	310	78.8	230	53.6	105	27.7	3,189	71.2
Orange Walk	402	66.2	495	85.0	506	86.9	547	98.9	486	90.4	458	83.1	411	77.5	411	86.7	291	56.3	115	25.2	4,122	76.5
Stann Creek	301	80.8	364	102.0	346	96.9	351	103.5	306	92.8	307	90.8	315	96.9	270	92.9	233	73.6	138	49.3	2,931	88.7
Toledo	285	81.7	309	92.4	325	97.2	309	97.2	313	101.3	310	97.9	290	95.3	257	94.4	223	75.2	101	38.5	2,722	87.9
Country	2,875	80.0	3,145	91.3	3,126	90.7	3,157	96.4	3,027	95.1	2,808	86.0	2,795	89.1	2,570	91.6	1,871	61.2	906	33.5	26,280	82.4
Girls																						
Belize	799	74.8	759	71.1	747	70.4	908	84.7	867	87.2	775	82.3	783	84.8	660	73.4	403	43.5	152	17.7	6,853	69.9
Cayo	604	81.3	669	90.0	688	93.2	681	91.4	689	99.6	583	89.1	566	88.1	542	86.7	323	50.1	147	24.7	5,492	80.5
Corozal	384	83.9	394	86.1	408	89.7	400	87.1	352	82.6	349	86.5	317	80.1	280	72.7	198	49.8	61	16.6	3,143	74.8
Orange Walk	408	71.8	480	84.5	544	96.4	462	81.1	473	89.5	444	88.7	401	81.6	344	71.9	235	47.7	73	16.0	3,864	74.0
Stann Creek	303	88.2	337	98.1	329	96.4	306	88.8	318	99.5	312	103.1	306	103.0	289	100.0	200	67.1	116	42.1	2,816	89.3
Toledo	281	88.0	312	97.7	328	103.4	328	102.4	298	100.3	318	113.0	278	100.7	256	95.2	175	63.1	55	21.5	2,629	89.6
Country	2,779	79.4	2,951	84.3	3,044	87.6	3,085	87.9	2,997	92.0	2,781	90.2	2,651	87.6	2,371	80.5	1,534	50.5	604	21.5	24,797	77.1
All																						
Belize	1,615	77.0	1,596	77.7	1,578	77.1	1,757	87.5	1,705	89.5	1,532	81.7	1,620	89.0	1,397	82.1	904	50.2	380	23.3	14,084	74.4
Cayo	1,276	86.4	1,437	99.3	1,447	100.4	1,391	98.4	1,404	104.7	1,235	93.5	1,178	91.8	1,127	94.1	716	56.4	366	31.9	11,577	86.8
Corozal	783	81.4	766	81.4	767	81.8	791	86.1	721	82.6	673	78.2	647	77.4	590	75.8	428	51.8	166	22.2	6,332	72.9
Orange Walk	810	68.9	975	84.8	1,050	91.6	1,009	89.8	959	89.9	902	85.7	812	79.5	755	79.3	526	52.1	188	20.6	7,986	75.3
Stann Creek	604	84.4	701	100.1	675	96.7	657	96.1	624	96.1	619	96.6	621	99.8	559	96.4	433	70.4	254	45.7	5,747	89.0
Toledo	566	84.7	621	95.0	653	100.2	637	99.8	611	100.8	628	105.0	568	97.8	513	94.8	398	69.4	156	30.1	5,351	88.7
Country	5,654	79.7	6,096	87.8	6,170	89.1	6,242	92.0	6,024	93.5	5,589	88.1	5,446	88.4	4,941	85.9	3,405	55.9	1,510	27.4	51,077	79.7

This table presents the proportion of children of a given age group enrolled in primary schools for the 1998-99 school year. The above 100% figures reflect inaccuracies in the current population at each level and/or migration of children both among districts and from neighbouring villages outside the country.

5.7 PARTICIPATION RATE SECONDARY

Table 20A: Percentage of Population Age 11-20 Enrolled in Secondary Schools by District – 1998-99

Age	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18	19	19	20	20	Part Rate
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Belize	5	0.3	129	7.9	537	40.5	933	123.9	1,081	70.1	899	56.5	524	35.1	289	19.3	110	7.5	30	2.1	31.1
Cayo	3	0.2	43	3.6	295	29.1	488	70.1	536	51.0	537	48.1	327	31.1	188	17.9	70	6.8	43	4.3	24.1
Corozal	0	0.0	46	6.0	170	24.6	303	63.7	342	46.6	304	41.4	216	31.3	108	15.6	52	7.7	26	4.0	22.4
Orange Walk	1	0.1	50	5.3	152	16.9	294	45.0	250	28.2	257	28.7	172	20.5	80	9.5	29	3.5	16	2.0	15.1
Stann Creek	10	1.6	29	5.1	92	16.9	166	40.7	242	57.8	245	45.2	163	32.0	81	15.9	36	7.3	16	3.3	21.1
Toledo	0	0.0	16	2.9	69	13.0	124	29.6	142	28.8	120	23.4	110	22.8	82	17.0	33	7.0	9	2.0	14.1
Country	19	0.3	313	5.5	1,315	26.3	2,308	67.8	2,593	50.6	2,362	43.8	1,512	29.8	828	16.3	330	6.7	140	2.9	23.1

Table 20B: Percentage of Population Age 11-20 Enrolled in Secondary Schools by District – 1997-98

Age	11	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18	19	19	20	20	Part Rate
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
Belize	5	0.3	136	8.7	631	53.9	982	151.7	1,035	67.7	817	53.2	516	35.7	230	15.9	64	4.5	31	2.3	31.9
Cayo	2	0.2	80	7.2	309	32.2	477	71.1	533	52.4	474	43.8	306	30.1	144	14.1	38	3.8	34	3.5	23.7
Corozal	3	0.4	26	3.5	136	19.7	265	55.1	320	46.1	304	43.2	218	32.9	132	19.9	57	8.8	33	5.3	22.1
Orange Walk	3	0.3	57	6.4	198	24.4	303	49.7	284	33.3	218	25.3	166	20.5	75	9.3	32	4.1	12	1.6	16.4
Stann Creek	2	0.3	44	8.2	108	21.3	188	51.2	197	46.7	182	34.7	107	21.7	40	8.1	18	3.8	6	1.3	18.2
Toledo	0	0.0	9	1.7	63	12.3	147	39.6	185	39.5	164	33.5	65	14.1	36	7.8	9	2.0	4	0.9	14.3
Country	15	0.2	352	6.5	1,445	31.1	2,362	75.1	2,554	51.2	2,159	41.5	1,378	28.2	657	13.4	218	4.6	120	2.6	23.1

For both 1998-99 and 1997-98 school year 23.1% of the 11-20 year old population were participating in secondary education.

Statistics showed that a significant number of 11-14 year olds were attending secondary school in 1998-99: 2,308 14-year olds, 1,315 13-year olds, 313 12-year olds and 19 11-year olds. This represents 3,955 (33.7% of total enrolment) 11-14 year olds for 1998-99 compared to 4,174 (37.1% of total enrolment) in 1997-98.

Both tables suggest that the majority of students in secondary schools were between the ages of 13-16 (73.2% in 1998-99 and 75.7% in 1997-98). Given the 8 year primary school cycle and 4 years at secondary school it seems quite normal for the high percentage of 13–16 year old students enrolled.

6.0 ENROLMENT TRENDS

Table 21: Pre-School Enrolment Trends – 1980 to 1998-99

Year	No. of Pre-Sch.	Official Age Group Population		Enrolment			Annual %		Gross Enrolment Ratio %	
		M	F	M	F	Total	Increase	Coverage	M	F
1980	-	4,631	4,519	610	564	1,174	N/A	12.8	13.2	12.5
1985	-	5,292	5,171	1,058	1,161	2,219	N/A	21.2	20.0	22.5
1989-90	73	5,838	5,694	0	0	2,695	N/A	23.4	23.1	24.6
1990-91	76	6,038	5,859	0	0	2,748	2.0	30.9	N/A	N/A
1991-92	82	6,165	6,050	1,426	1,488	2,914	6.0	23.9	23.1	24.6
1992-93	83	6,352	6,174	1,596	1,566	3,162	8.7	25.2	25.1	25.4
1993-94	83	6,542	6,363	1,596	1,566	3,162	8.7	24.5	24.4	24.6
1994-95	90	6,667	6,489	1,607	1,704	3,311	4.7	25.2	24.1	26.3
1995-96	88	6,762	6,867	1,606	1,700	3,306	-0.2	24.3	23.8	24.8
1996-97	94	6,937	7,034	1,639	1,716	3,355	1.5	24.0	23.6	24.4
1997-98	88	6,589	6,643	1,702	1,611	3,313	-1.3	25.0	25.8	24.3
1998-99	98	6,330	6,335	1,818	1,816	3,634	9.7	28.7	28.7	28.7

Pre-school enrolment for the 1997-98 school year showed a slight decrease of 1.3% but the following year it again continued on an upward trend to 9.7%. This had in turn increased the participation rate to 28.7%, which had remained constant at an average of 24.0% for the past seven years. In general, pre-school participation rate of the 3-4 year olds has been very low remaining at less than 30.0% for the past 20 years.

Table 22: G & GA Primary School Enrolment Trends – 1981-82 to 1998-99

Year	Pre-Sch	Beg.	Infant		Standard						Annual % Increase	
			I	II	I	II	III	IV	V	VI		All
1981-82	N/A	N/A	6,477	4,697	4,710	4,444	4,322	3,896	3,285	3,250	35,018	-
1982-83	N/A	N/A	6,560	4,848	4,774	4,677	4,193	4,068	3,391	3,469	35,980	2.6
1983-84	N/A	N/A	6,991	5,125	4,875	4,832	4,599	4,230	3,628	3,473	37,753	4.9
1984-85	N/A	N/A	7,158	5,168	4,992	4,764	4,588	4,324	3,809	3,709	38,512	2.0
1985-86	2,219	N/A	7,357	5,155	5,218	4,831	4,493	4,364	3,996	3,798	39,212	1.8
1986-87	N/A	N/A	7,449	5,376	5,049	4,841	4,667	4,409	4,074	3,914	39,779	1.4
1987-88	N/A	N/A	7,835	5,643	5,375	5,088	4,859	4,570	4,206	4,010	41,586	4.5
1988-89	N/A	N/A	8,035	5,775	5,579	5,214	4,933	4,619	4,234	4,005	42,394	1.9
1989-90	2,695	N/A	8,427	6,045	5,920	5,466	5,122	4,774	4,358	4,089	44,201	4.3
1990-91	2,748	1,378	7,449	6,319	6,271	5,721	5,311	4,928	4,479	4,167	46,023	4.1
1991-92	2,914	1,842	7,240	6,658	6,201	5,789	5,459	5,231	4,542	4,248	47,210	2.6
1992-93	3,162	1,980	7,345	6,609	6,521	5,995	5,596	5,389	4,883	4,294	48,612	3.0
1993-94	3,162	1,953	7,692	6,694	6,521	6,439	5,779	5,506	5,117	4,590	50,291	3.5
1994-95	3,311	1,899	7,895	6,965	6,611	6,370	6,061	5,622	5,190	4,764	51,377	2.2
1995-96	3,306	1,738	8,244	7,193	6,863	6,671	6,040	6,038	5,282	4,925	52,994	3.1
1996-97	3,355	1,366	8,035	7,336	7,126	6,775	6,388	5,837	5,385	4,862	53,110	0.2
1997-98	3,313	1,260	8,020	7,048	7,215	6,866	6,537	6,003	5,257	4,912	53,118	0.0
1998-99	3,634	1,074	8,494	7,336	7,277	7,065	6,620	6,314	5,534	4,902	54,616	2.8

Since the early 1980's primary school enrolment averaged an increase of 2.6%. The 1997-98 figures indicated a 0.0% annual increment, but by the 1998-99 school statistics showed a 2.8% increment. This increment could be attributed to a high intake of 5 year olds in 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98 (82.3% in 1998-99 to 79.7% in 1997-98).

Also of particular interest is the gradual decrease in the number of 'Beginners' from 1993-94 onwards (1,980 in 1993-94 to 1,074 in 1998-99).

Table 23: Secondary School Enrolment Trends – 1982-83 to 1998-99

Year	Admission Number		Total Admission First Form	Total Enrolment All Forms	Total % Annual Increase
	M	F			
1982-83	-	-	-	5,522	-
1983-84	783	1,024	1,807	5,611	1.6
1984-85	1,054	1,163	2,217	6,532	16.4
1985-86	940	1,116	2,056	6,676	2.2
1986-87	993	1,099	2,092	6,853	2.7
1987-88	1,093	1,137	2,230	7,326	6.9
1988-89	1,100	1,217	2,317	7,592	3.6
1989-90	1,165	1,269	2,434	7,743	2.0
1990-91	1,335	1,368	2,703	7,904	2.1
1991-92	1,403	1,500	2,903	8,710	10.2
1992-93	1,526	1,653	3,179	9,457	8.6
1993-94	1,689	1,649	3,338	9,886	4.5
1994-95	1,652	1,787	3,439	10,147	2.6
1995-96	1,848	1,846	3,694	10,648	4.9
1996-97	1,916	1,897	3,813	10,912	2.5
1997-98	1,883	1,954	3,837	11,260	3.2
1998-99	1,941	1,956	3,897	11,720	4.1

Secondary school enrolment has increased dramatically since 1982-83 to the point where it has more than doubled in 1998-99 school year. Likewise the total admission rate has increased but rather slowly. For the past three school years, the total admission in Form I has not had a significant increment. This could be attributed to the limited space for new students which is further compounded by the high repetition rate in Form I. In other words promotion and graduates practices influences on the size of the admission numbers.

Note that enrolment figures for 1998-99 school year takes into account a secondary school managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

6.1 TRANSITION RATE

Table 24: Transition Rate from Primary to Secondary School

District	Males		Females		Total	
	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98	1998-99	1997-98
Belize	92.0%	92.2%	104.3%	108.6%	98.3%	100.5%
Cayo	77.5%	69.0%	84.3%	67.5%	80.9%	68.2%
Corozal	90.5%	81.9%	79.0%	76.7%	85.2%	79.3%
Orange Walk	74.1%	62.3%	54.5%	62.8%	64.2%	62.6%
Stann Creek	73.9%	61.6%	72.4%	67.0%	73.1%	64.3%
Toledo	62.8%	92.4%	48.4%	59.1%	55.2%	75.4%
All	82.0%	78.8%	81.3%	80.8%	81.6%	79.8%

Notes: For 1997-98 no repeater data for Isabella, Mopan Technical & Toledo Community College was recorded whereas for 1998-99 no repeater data for Pine Ridge, Belmopan Baptist, Corozal Community College & Toledo Community College was recorded.

The above 100% figures indicated migration from other districts to schools in Belize City.

Entrance to secondary schools is in the main, dictated by performance in the Belize National Selection Examination (BNSE) which serves as a selection mechanism for the limited secondary school spaces available.

The table shows student movement from primary to secondary schools during the 1998-99 and 1998-97 school year. 81.6% of primary school students gained access to secondary schools as compared to 79.8% in 1997-98. For 1998-99 more males than females gained entrance to secondary schools (82.0% males to 81.3% females) while for 1997-98 it was more females than males (80.8% females to 78.8% males).

Belize District with 98.3% had the highest Transition Rate for 1998-99 and 100.5% for 1997-98. On the other hand Toledo reported the lowest Transition Rate in 1998-97 with 55.2% and Orange Walk with 62.6% in 1997-98.

Female Transition Rate for the Belize District for both years was above 100%. This was mainly due to migration of pupils from other districts especially Orange Walk to Belize City secondary schools.

7.0 RESOURCES

7.1 TOTAL TEACHING FORCE

Table 25A: Number of Teachers by District, Level and Gender – 1998-99

District	Level and Gender						All	
	Pre-School		Primary		Secondary			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	2	86	83	484	141	181	226	751
Cayo	1	34	138	311	81	68	220	413
Corozal	0	25	104	173	49	37	153	235
Orange Walk	0	16	116	212	41	28	157	256
Stann Creek	0	28	68	156	49	34	117	218
Toledo	0	4	110	109	30	15	140	128
All	3	193	619	1,445	391	363	1,013	2,001

Table 25B: Number of Teachers by District, Level and Gender – 1997-98

District	Level and Gender						All	
	Pre-School		Primary		Secondary			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Belize	2	82	80	483	146	173	228	738
Cayo	1	34	133	290	77	68	211	392
Corozal	0	24	110	170	48	36	158	230
Orange Walk	0	19	108	204	40	28	148	251
Stann Creek	1	14	67	152	37	30	105	196
Toledo	0	5	109	109	28	14	137	128
All	4	178	607	1,408	376	349	987	1,935

In 1998-99 there were 3,014 teachers in Pre, Primary and Secondary schools compared to 2,922 in 1997-98 found in the education system of Belize. This represented a 3.1% increase over the previous year's figures.

During the 1998-99 school year 196 teachers were in pre-school, an increase of 14 teachers or 7.7% over the previous year. Primary schools had the bulk of teachers with 2,064 up by 49 (or a 2.4% increase) for 1998-99. Secondary schools showed an increment in the number of teachers from 725 in 1997-98 to 754 in 1998-99 an increase of 4.0%.

For both school years the total teaching force was made up of 66.0% females. In pre and primary schools the predominance of females was apparent and exceeded males by far. On the other hand at the secondary level it was more or less evenly distributed with males slightly outnumbering females.

Although the percentage of female teachers has been on the rise, females are not yet proportionally represented as administrators. During the 1998-99 school year there were 130 males to 119 females in government and government-aided primary schools. At the secondary school level 25 males functioned as principals compared to 8 females.

7.2 PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

Table 26A: Number of Pre-School Teachers by District and Management - 1998-99

District	Management		All
	Community	Private	
Belize	26	62	88
Cayo	16	19	35
Corozal	13	12	25
Orange Walk	1	15	16
Stann Creek	21	7	28
Toledo	0	4	4
All	77	119	196

Table 26B: Number of Pre-School Teachers by District and Management – 1997-98

District	Management		All
	Community	Private	
Belize	26	58	84
Cayo	17	18	35
Corozal	14	10	24
Orange Walk	1	18	19
Stann Creek	8	7	15
Toledo	1	4	5
All	67	115	182

The 1998-99 teachers count indicated an additional 14 teachers in the pre-school teaching force up from 182 in 1997-98 to 196 in 1998-99. This increase can be attributed to a growth in enrolment from 3,313 in 1997-98 to 3,634 in 1998-99.

Stann Creek district exhibited a drastic increase of 13 teachers followed by Belize with 4 and Corozal with 1. The number of teachers remained constant for the Cayo district while Orange Walk and Toledo lost 3 and 1 teachers respectively.

7.3 PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Table 27A: Number of G & GA Primary School Teachers by Level of Training and District – 1998-99

District	Qualification								All	% Trained
	Trained.....		Incomplete Training.....		First Class	High Sch. or Higher	Second Class	Other		
	Fully	Lev. 1	Lev. 2	Lev. 1						
Belize	356	42	11	34	49	62	7	6	567	70.2
Cayo	187	60	12	30	82	74	4	0	449	55.0
Corozal	164	29	11	17	26	27	1	2	277	69.7
Orange Walk	172	50	7	18	29	49	2	1	328	67.7
Stann Creek	85	20	9	11	22	63	13	1	224	46.9
Toledo	64	21	6	22	44	55	7	0	219	38.8
All	1,028	222	56	132	252	330	34	10	2,064	60.6
% of Total	49.8	10.8	2.7	6.4	12.2	16.0	1.6	0.5	100.0	

Table 27B: Number of G & GA Primary School Teachers by Level of Training and District – 1997-98

District	Qualification								All	% Trained
	Trained.....		Incomplete Training.....		First Class	High Sch. or Higher	Second Class	Other		
	Fully	Lev. 1	Lev. 2	Lev. 1						
Belize	338	36	32	41	45	63	5	3	563	66.4
Cayo	173	26	11	49	73	86	5	0	423	47.0
Corozal	168	21	11	24	23	29	2	2	280	67.5
Orange Walk	166	43	9	30	27	34	1	2	312	67.0
Stann Creek	83	21	15	15	23	45	13	4	219	47.5
Toledo	54	11	9	24	44	71	5	0	218	29.8
All	982	158	87	183	235	328	31	11	2,015	56.6
% of Total	48.7	7.8	4.3	9.1	11.7	16.3	1.5	0.5	100.0	

During the 1998-99 school year there was an increase of 49 teachers in the primary school system, 2.4% up from the 1997-98 figures. The figures showed a slight increase of 4 percentage points in the number of trained teachers for 1998-99 over the 1997-98 school year, i.e. 60.6% to 56.6% respectively.

For 1998-99 Belize district had the highest number of trained teachers with 70.2% followed by Corozal with 69.7%, Orange Walk with 67.7%, Cayo with 55.0%, Stann Creek with 46.9% and Toledo reporting the lowest number of trained teachers with 38.8%.

In 1998-99, 49.8% of the primary school teaching force was fully trained (Level 2 or the former 2+1) with an additional 10.7% having completed the Level 1 programme.

For the past four school years the Toledo district has lagged behind the rest of the districts with the lowest number of trained teachers and principals.

Table 28A: Number of G & GA Primary School Teachers by Level of Training and U/R Location – 1998-99

Region	Qualification								1998-99		1997-98	
	Trained.....		Incomplete Training.....		First Class	High Sch. or Higher	Second Class	Other	All	% Trained	All	% Trained
	Fully	Lev. 1	Lev. 2	Lev. 1								
Urban	608	102	20	42	87	123	13	6	1,001	70.9	975	66.1
*Rural of which	420	120	36	90	165	207	21	4	1,063	50.8	1,040	47.7
No allowance	305	81	22	49	92	92	8	4	653	59.1	634	54.9
III (least remote)	26	5	3	9	5	23	4	0	75	41.3	72	33.3
II	38	11	3	12	27	34	3	0	128	38.3	127	41.7
I (most remote)	51	23	8	20	41	58	6	0	207	35.7	207	34.3
All	1,028	222	56	132	252	330	34	10	2,064	60.6	2,015	56.6
% of total	49.8	4.9	2.7	6.4	12.2	16.0	1.6	0.5	100.0		100.0	

Table 28B: Number of G & GA Primary School Teachers by Level of Training and U/R Location – 1997-98

Region	Qualification								1997-98		1996-97	
	Trained		Incomplete Training.....		First Class	High Sch. Or Higher	Second Class	Other	All	% Trained	All	% Trained
	Fully	Lev. 1	Lev. 2	Lev. 1								
Urban	581	63	35	83	79	119	8	7	975	66.1	963	65.9
*Rural of which	401	95	52	100	156	209	23	4	1,040	47.7	1,031	46.8
No allowance	285	63	31	59	89	94	10	3	634	54.9	627	54.1
III (least remote)	22	2	8	7	9	21	3	0	72	33.3	70	37.1
II	38	15	9	15	20	27	3	0	127	41.7	128	39.8
I (most remote)	56	15	4	19	38	67	7	1	207	34.3	206	32.0
All	982	158	87	183	235	328	31	11	2,015	56.6	1,994	56.0
% of total	48.7	7.9	4.3	9.1	11.7	16.3	1.5	0.5	100.0		100.0	

* There are 3 categories of rural schools where teachers are given a rural allowance as incentive to work in the rural areas. Rural allowance I, II and III (with Rural Allowance I being the most remote area and Rural Allowance III the least remote).

The 1998-99 teachers' figures showed a slight increase in the number of fully trained teachers. Absolute figures for 1998-99 and 1997-98 showed 1,028 and 982 fully trained teachers respectively or an increase of 46 teachers (4.7%). This increase has been reflected in rural growth of 19 fully trained teachers whereas urban demonstrated an increase of 27 teachers for 1998-99. Overall fully trained teachers stood at 50.0%.

For 1998-99 among urban teachers 70.9% were trained compared to 50.8% of all rural teachers.

Within the rural sector, the decline across the different 'allowance areas' was not uniform. Schools in the Category III (least remote) were the least trained with 33.3% in 1998-99 while for 1997-98 Category I schools (most remote) had the lowest number of trained teachers with 32.0%.

Table 29A: Number of Primary School Teachers by Gender, District, Management and Qualification – 1998-99

Males	District and Qualification												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
Management	FT*	NFT**	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT
Government	1	4	4	17	5	6	20	20	0	0	2	12	32	59
Roman Catholic	22	16	45	47	52	26	39	21	18	25	19	72	195	207
Anglican	6	4	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	10	11
Methodist	6	4	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2	2	2	14	10
Seventh Day Adventist	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	7	7
Nazarene	2	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4
Assemblies of God	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	7	0	0	3	11
Other	8	8	3	6	0	0	4	7	4	4	0	0	19	25
All	46	37	58	80	66	38	66	50	26	42	23	87	285	334
Females														
Government	12	14	31	34	18	7	29	41	0	0	2	6	92	102
Roman Catholic	115	82	74	106	59	40	65	48	33	49	30	53	376	378
Anglican	74	23	7	10	3	5	5	8	9	11	0	2	98	59
Methodist	62	24	0	0	10	5	0	0	13	9	9	7	94	45
Seventh Day Adventist	4	4	3	3	5	7	3	2	2	6	0	0	17	22
Nazarene	1	1	8	22	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	30
Assemblies of God	5	4	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	13
Other	37	22	6	4	0	0	4	7	2	20	0	0	49	53
All	310	174	129	182	98	75	106	106	59	97	41	68	743	702
Males & Females														
Government	13	18	35	51	23	13	49	61	0	0	4	18	124	161
Roman Catholic	137	98	119	153	111	66	104	69	51	74	49	125	571	585
Anglican	80	27	10	12	3	5	6	9	9	14	0	3	108	70
Methodist	68	28	0	0	13	7	0	0	16	11	11	9	108	55
Seventh Day Adventist	5	5	4	6	8	8	5	3	2	7	0	0	24	29
Nazarene	3	1	9	25	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	34
Assemblies of God	5	4	1	5	1	6	0	0	1	9	0	0	8	24
Other	45	30	9	10	0	0	8	14	6	24	0	0	68	78
All	356	211	187	262	164	113	172	156	85	139	64	155	1,028	1,036

* FT - Fully Trained teachers includes those who have completed the Level 2 programme and those who did the 2+1 programme offered previously.

** NFT - Not Fully Trained teachers includes those who have completed the Level 1 programme and those who have no pedagogical training, e.g., high school diploma, sixth form etc.

Table 29B: Number of Primary School Teachers by Gender, District, Management and Qualification – 1997-98

Males	District and Qualification												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
Management	FT*	NFT**	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT	FT	NFT
Government	3	3	5	13	6	5	15	24	0	0	4	8	33	53
Roman Catholic	21	14	47	43	56	27	34	19	16	26	15	77	189	206
Anglican	5	5	1	4	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	7	13
Methodist	6	5	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	2	1	4	12	14
Seventh Day Adventist	0	3	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	4	8
Nazarene	1	1	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7
Assemblies of God	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	0	2	6	0	0	4	11
Other	6	7	1	7	0	0	5	8	4	4	0	0	16	26
All	42	38	58	75	69	41	56	52	24	43	20	89	269	338
Females														
Government	12	13	32	29	17	7	28	34	0	0	1	9	90	92
Roman Catholic	117	79	61	104	62	36	70	42	36	46	24	56	370	363
Anglican	69	25	7	10	4	4	5	8	8	11	1	2	94	60
Methodist	57	28	0	0	9	6	0	0	10	12	8	8	84	54
Seventh Day Adventist	4	3	3	3	4	8	4	2	3	4	0	0	18	20
Nazarene	1	2	9	18	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	26
Assemblies of God	5	4	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	12
Other	31	33	3	8	0	0	3	8	2	19	0	0	39	68
All	296	187	115	175	99	71	110	94	59	93	34	75	713	695
Males & Females														
Government	15	16	37	42	23	12	43	58	0	0	5	17	123	145
Roman Catholic	138	93	108	147	118	63	104	61	52	72	39	133	559	569
Anglican	74	30	8	14	4	4	6	9	8	14	1	2	101	73
Methodist	63	33	0	0	12	9	0	0	12	14	9	12	96	68
Seventh Day Adventist	4	6	4	6	6	8	5	2	3	6	0	0	22	28
Nazarene	2	3	11	21	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	33
Assemblies of God	5	4	1	5	1	7	0	0	2	7	0	0	9	23
Other	37	40	4	15	0	0	8	16	6	23	0	0	55	94
All	338	225	173	250	168	112	166	146	83	136	54	164	982	1,033

* FT - Fully Trained teachers includes those who have completed the Level 2 programme and those who did the 2+1 programme offered previously.

** NFT - Not Fully Trained teachers includes those who have completed the Level 1 programme and those who have no pedagogical training, e.g., high school diploma, sixth form etc.

For 1998-99 school year teachers' figures indicated that in relation to the total number of teachers per district the Belize district had the highest percent of fully trained teachers with 62.8% followed by Corozal with 59.2%, Orange Walk with 52.4%, Cayo with 41.6%, Stann Creek with 37.9% and lastly Toledo with 29.2%.

Whereas for the 1997-98 school year Belize and Corozal had the highest percent of fully trained teachers with 60.0% a piece followed by Orange Walk with 53.2%, Cayo with 40.9%, Stann Creek with 37.9% and Toledo with 24.8%.

7.4 SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Table 30A: Number of Secondary School Teachers by Gender, District, Management and Qualification – 1998-99

Males																									
District	Government				Gov't-Comm				Gov't-Denom				Specially-Assisted				Private				All				All
	GT*	Gr*	T*	O*	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	
Belize	12	2	3	9	2	7	4	7	72	22	7	33	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	86	32	14	49	181
Cayo	9	3	3	12	0	0	0	0	15	12	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	15	5	24	68
Corozal	1	1	0	3	8	3	2	10	1	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	3	17	37	
Orange Walk	1	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	8	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3	12	28	
Stann Creek	2	1	0	5	0	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	1	0	11	14	1	8	34
Toledo	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	9	15	
All	25	10	7	36	13	23	8	29	89	45	12	53	0	0	0	0	9	2	1	1	136	80	28	119	363
Females																									
Belize	8	4	2	17	2	7	2	5	27	26	8	27	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	38	41	13	49	141
Cayo	11	3	5	12	0	0	0	0	16	16	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	27	21	15	18	81
Corozal	2	1	2	11	7	2	4	8	2	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6	8	24	49	
Orange Walk	6	5	3	14	0	0	0	0	1	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	5	18	41	
Stann Creek	5	5	1	7	3	11	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	10	18	5	16	49
Toledo	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	14	30	
All	32	18	13	61	24	24	9	34	46	51	21	42	0	0	0	0	3	8	3	2	105	101	46	139	391
Males & Females																									
Belize	20	6	5	26	4	14	6	12	99	48	15	60	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	124	73	27	98	322
Cayo	20	6	8	24	0	0	0	0	31	28	11	17	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	51	36	20	42	149	
Corozal	3	2	2	14	15	5	6	18	3	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	13	11	41	86	
Orange Walk	7	8	4	21	0	0	0	0	2	14	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22	8	30	69	
Stann Creek	7	6	1	12	3	23	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	2	2	21	32	6	24	83
Toledo	0	0	0	0	15	5	2	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	2	23	45	
All	57	28	20	97	37	47	17	63	135	96	33	95	0	0	0	0	12	10	4	3	241	181	74	258	754

* GT – University Graduate with Professional Training, Gr - University Graduate, T – Professional Teacher Training, O – Other (High School or Sixth Form Graduate)

Table 30B: Number of Secondary School Teachers by Gender, District, Management and Qualification – 1997-98

Males																									
District	Government				Gov't-Comm				Gov't-Denom				Specially-Assisted				Private				All				All
	GT*	Gr*	T*	O*	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	GT	Gr	T	O	
Belize	9	3	1	16	4	5	1	6	31	29	8	20	1	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	47	41	14	44	146
Cayo	12	3	5	11	0	0	0	0	3	7	4	5	3	1	1	2	10	10	0	0	28	21	10	18	77
Corozal	2	1	2	11	6	3	3	8	2	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	7	25	48	
Orange Walk	5	5	3	15	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	5	19	40	
Stann Creek	4	3	1	2	4	9	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	9	14	4	10	37
Toledo	0	0	0	0	10	4	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4	1	13	28	
All	32	15	12	55	24	21	7	34	38	42	16	35	4	2	4	3	13	15	2	2	111	95	41	129	376
Females																									
Belize	13	1	3	9	3	3	6	5	69	16	11	28	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	88	22	20	43	173
Cayo	8	2	4	11	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	9	2	2	1	4	7	6	0	2	23	13	6	26	68
Corozal	1	1	0	3	8	3	3	10	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	4	15	36	
Orange Walk	2	2	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	6	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	3	14	28	
Stann Creek	1	0	0	2	1	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	4	8	12	1	9	30
Toledo	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	8	14
All	25	6	8	33	14	20	11	26	77	28	15	45	5	3	1	4	13	7	1	7	134	64	36	115	349
Males & Females																									
Belize	22	4	4	25	7	8	7	11	100	45	19	48	4	2	3	1	2	4	1	2	135	63	34	87	319
Cayo	20	5	9	22	0	0	0	0	9	10	5	14	5	3	2	6	17	16	0	2	51	34	16	44	145
Corozal	3	2	2	14	14	6	6	18	3	5	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13	11	40	84	
Orange Walk	7	7	4	23	0	0	0	0	3	10	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	17	8	33	68	
Stann Creek	5	3	1	4	5	21	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	2	5	17	26	5	19	67
Toledo	0	0	0	0	12	6	3	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6	3	21	42	
All	57	21	20	88	38	41	18	60	115	70	31	80	9	5	5	7	26	22	3	9	245	159	77	244	725

* GT – University Graduate with Professional Training, Gr - University Graduate, T – Professional Teacher Training, O – Other (High School or Sixth Form Graduate)

The figures for 1998-99 and 1997-98 school year indicated that 32.0% and 33.8% secondary school teachers had a university degree along with professional teacher training respectively.

Proportionally, Government-Aided Denominational schools had the highest number of trained graduates with 56.0% followed by Government schools with 23.7%, Government-Aided Community 15.4% and Private 5.0% for 1998-99.

In relation to the total number of teachers by district for 1998-99 the Belize District had the highest Graduate Trained Teachers with 38.5% followed by Cayo 34.2%, Toledo 33.3%, Stann Creek 25.3%, Corozal 24.4% and Orange Walk 13.0%.

7.5 PUPIL TEACHER RATIO

Table 31A: Pupil:Teacher Ratio in G & GA Primary Schools by Management, District and U/R Location – 1998-99

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	-	23.3	27.9	25.7	-	23.4	28.2	20.0	-	-	-	20.6	28.1	22.5
Roman Catholic	28.9	26.1	29.2	26.4	26.0	27.9	29.2	26.5	24.2	29.7	29.9	26.3	28.3	27.0
Anglican	24.9	18.0	32.0	29.3	23.0	-	22.1	-	27.5	30.9	-	20.0	25.2	26.1
Methodist	23.9	32.7	-	-	24.6	21.4	-	-	30.8	23.3	25.1	17.4	24.8	24.4
Seventh Day Advent.	29.0	10.0	25.0	-	23.3	15.0	25.3	-	23.4	-	-	-	25.3	14.3
Nazarene	23.8	-	31.9	27.6	24.6	20.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	29.5	25.1
Assemblies of God	22.4	-	-	25.3	-	17.1	-	-	-	31.6	-	-	22.4	25.6
Other	26.6	20.7	-	27.6	-	-	31.3	19.2	-	27.9	-	-	27.2	24.8
All	26.6	24.3	29.2	26.5	25.2	25.5	28.1	23.9	25.4	28.9	28.6	25.1	27.3	25.7

Table 31B: Pupil: Teacher Ratio in G & GA Primary Schools by Management, District and U/R Location – 1997-98

Management	District and Sector												All	
	Belize		Cayo		Corozal		Orange Walk		Stann Creek		Toledo			
	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	U	R
Government	-	22.7	30.5	28.2	-	23.5	28.2	20.0	-	-	-	21.0	29.3	23.0
Roman Catholic	28.7	26.0	30.5	26.5	26.7	24.9	30.3	27.7	26.5	27.0	31.4	25.9	29.1	26.2
Anglican	25.2	17.8	31.4	24.9	22.3	-	20.1	-	30.0	29.1	-	17.3	25.2	24.0
Methodist	25.1	23.9	-	-	24.6	21.1	-	-	31.8	25.4	22.4	15.3	25.5	22.1
Seventh Day Advent.	28.5	11.5	25.0	-	18.2	21.6	29.9	-	23.4	-	-	-	25.4	19.7
Nazarene	20.2	-	29.8	27.9	22.4	20.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.9	25.2
Assemblies of God	23.9	-	-	26.3	-	12.3	-	-	-	34.0	-	-	23.9	24.4
Other	24.4	24.4	-	27.2	-	-	25.6	16.1	-	32.6	-	-	24.4	31.8
All	26.6	23.8	30.2	26.8	24.9	23.7	28.1	24.8	27.2	27.7	29.0	24.6	27.6	25.2

Although the official PTR is 35.0:1 the national average PTR for 1998-99 was 26.5 and 26.4 in 1997-98 indicating that the majority of class sizes are small.

Urban/Rural PTR has shown no significant variation over the last two school years. Urban/Rural PTR for 1998-99 and 1997-98 remained the same (urban 27.3:1/rural 25.7:1 for 1998-99 and urban 27.6:1/rural 25.2:1 for 1997-98).

The Cayo and Stann Creek Districts had PTRs above the national average for the last two years.

For 1998-99 Roman Catholic schools had the highest PTR with 28.3:1 and schools under the Assemblies of God management had a low of 22.4:1. In the rural areas Roman Catholic also had the highest PTR with 27.0:1 and Seventh Day Adventist schools had a low of 14.3:1.

The Pupil to Fully Trained Teacher Ratio was 53.1:1 in 1998-99 and 54.1:1 in 1997-98.

7.6 PROGNOSTICATED ENROLMENT

Table 32: Prognosticated Primary School Enrolment until year 2005

Year	Infant		Standard.....						All
	I*	II	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
1996-1997	9,401	7,336	7,126	6,775	6,388	5,837	5,385	4,862	53,110
1997-1998	9,280	7,048	7,215	6,866	6,537	6,003	5,257	4,912	53,118
1998-1999	9,568	7,336	7,277	7,065	6,620	6,314	5,534	4,902	54,616
1999-2000	9,865	7,636	7,340	7,270	6,704	6,641	5,826	4,892	56,173
2000-2001	10,171	7,948	7,403	7,480	6,789	6,985	6,133	4,882	57,791
2001-2002	10,487	8,273	7,466	7,697	6,875	7,347	6,456	4,872	59,473
2002-2003	10,812	8,611	7,530	7,920	6,963	7,728	6,796	4,862	61,222
2003-2004	11,148	8,962	7,595	8,150	7,051	8,128	7,154	4,852	63,041
2004-2005	11,494	9,329	7,660	8,386	7,141	8,549	7,531	4,842	64,932

* Infant I enrolment figures includes 'Beginners', an 'unofficial' preparatory grade for 5 year olds.

Table 33: Prognosticated Secondary School Enrolment until year 2005

Year	Form I*	Form II	Form III	Form IV	All
1996-1997	3,813	2,889	2,441	1,769	10,912
1997-1998	3,837	2,991	2,453	1,979	11,260
1998-1999	3,897	3,060	2,707	2,056	11,720
1999-2000	3,958	3,131	2,987	2,136	12,212
2000-2001	4,020	3,203	3,297	2,219	12,738
2001-2002	4,083	3,277	3,638	2,305	13,303
2002-2003	4,147	3,352	4,015	2,395	13,909
2003-2004	4,211	3,430	4,430	2,488	14,560
2004-2005	4,277	3,509	4,889	2,585	15,260

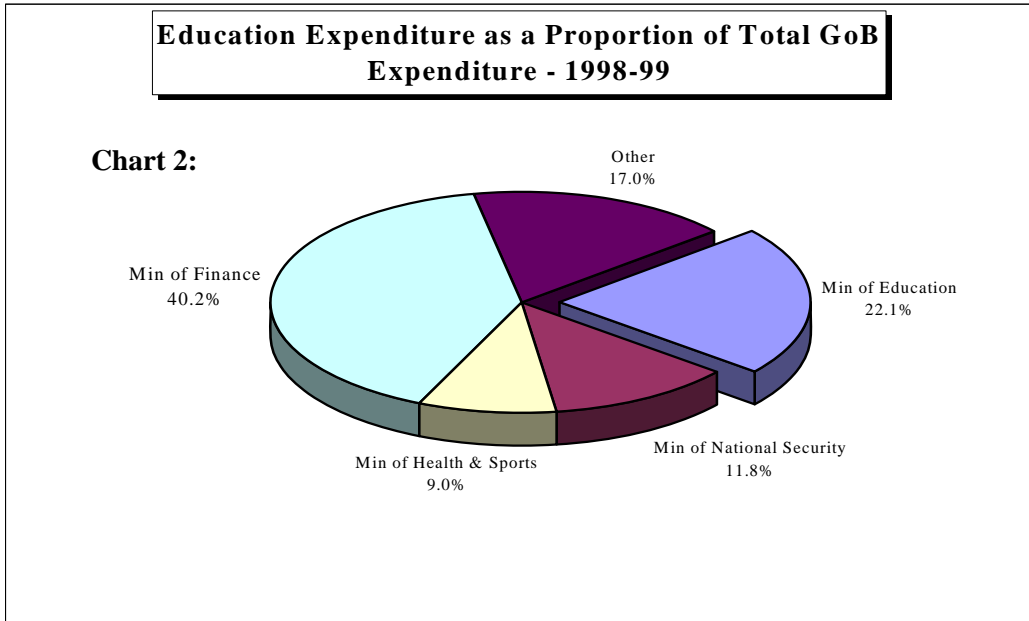
*Form I includes pupils in the preparatory grade.

The main reason for the inclusion of primary and secondary school enrolment projections is for planning purposes. Analysis is made of enrolment trends compared to demographic growth and other related trends until the year 2005.

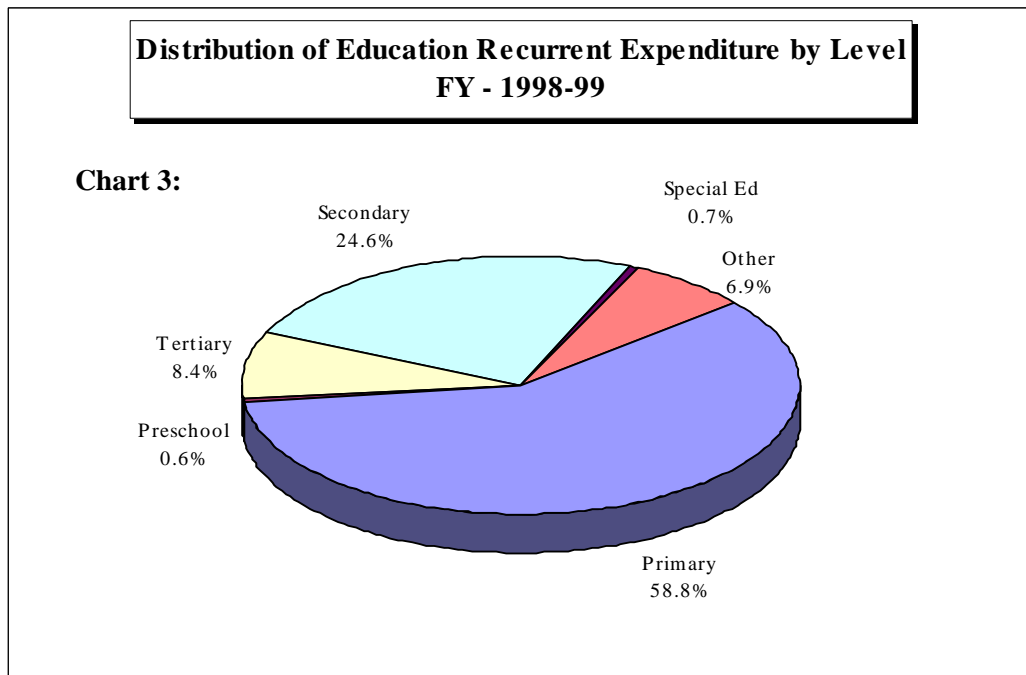
Projection figures for primary schools until year 2005 shows a growth rate of 3.1% for the Infant I intake. On the other hand, total enrolment projections stood at an average of 3.0%.

The secondary school projected intake rate was much lower than that of primary school and it stood at an average of 1.6%. This can be attributed to the limited spaces available at all secondary schools of Belize. It is estimated that this low intake rate would remain the same unless measures are taken to increase access.

8.0 FINANCE



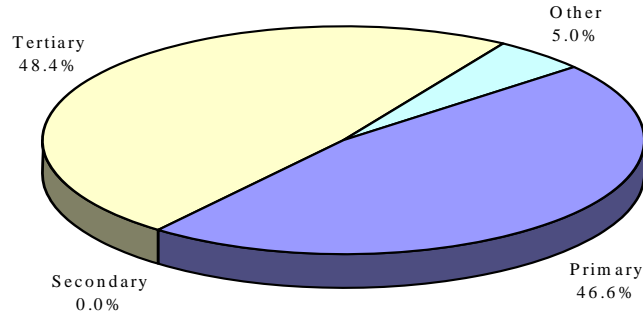
Education expenditure as a proportion of total Government of Belize expenditure remained the same for the past three financial years at about 22.0%. Comparing this figure with the other government ministries, education continues to rank as a high priority investment area for the Government of Belize.



From the total Recurrent Education Expenditure of \$67,456,915 in 1998-99, 58.8% went to primary education. Secondary education received the second highest allocation, which consisted of 24.6%. A major proportion of the recurrent expenditure (approximately 92.0%) was earmarked for teachers' salaries.

Distribution of Education Capital II Budget by Level FY - 1998-99

Chart 4:

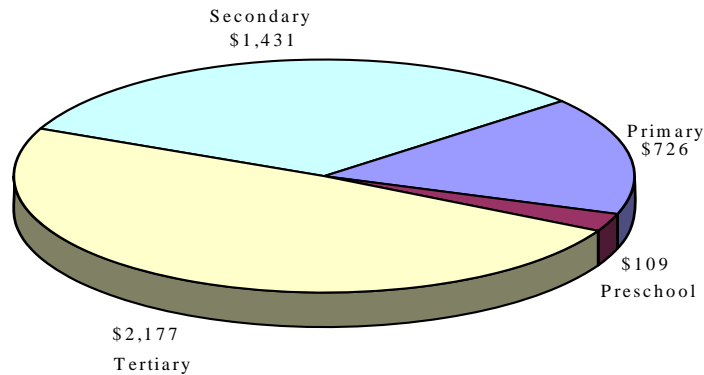


Capital II is the budget used for local capital financing including new investment in stock of school facilities as well as repairs and maintenance of existing stock. It also includes counterpart funds for externally funded projects.

Government allocation of \$2,415,000 of Capital II budget to the Ministry of Education showed that 46.6% went to primary education in 1998-99 as compared to 49.3% in 1997-98. A significant proportion of this budget was allocated to tertiary education 48.4% in 1998-99, with 5.0% going to other investment.

Unit Cost of Education Recurrent Budget by Level FY - 1998-99

Chart 5:



A comparison of unit cost per level of education showed that for the year 1998-99 the cost to support a student attending tertiary institutions was three times more than the cost to support a pupil in primary school (\$2,177 to \$726) and one and half more than supporting a student in secondary school (\$2,177 to \$1,431). It cost two times more to support a student in secondary school than one in primary school (\$1,431 to \$726).

Pre-school education showed the least allocation per child. Comparing costs between tertiary and pre-school reveals that it costs twenty times more to support a student at the tertiary level than a child in pre-school education (\$2,177 to \$109).

9.0 EXAMINATION RESULTS

Table 34A: Primary School Performance in the BNSE by District - 1999

	Top Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Bottom Quarter		All Pupils	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	471	28	307	18	349	21	536	32	1,663	100
Belize City	398	33	224	18	243	20	354	29	1,219	100
San Pedro	26	36	18	25	17	23	12	16	73	100
Belize Rural	47	13	65	18	89	24	170	46	371	100
Cayo	286	26	303	27	310	28	207	19	1,106	100
Belmopan	49	25	54	28	47	24	43	22	193	100
Benque Viejo	60	54	24	21	19	17	9	8	112	100
San Ignacio	94	31	87	28	88	29	38	12	307	100
Cayo Rural	83	17	138	28	156	32	117	24	494	100
Corozal	197	30	190	29	167	25	103	16	657	100
Corozal Town	69	39	61	34	31	18	16	9	177	100
Corozal Rural	128	27	129	27	136	28	87	18	480	100
Orange Walk	182	26	208	30	174	25	140	20	704	100
Orange Walk Town	121	33	118	32	78	21	47	13	364	100
Orange Walk Rural	61	18	90	26	96	28	93	27	340	100
Stann Creek	91	16	162	29	195	34	119	21	567	100
Dangriga	39	18	62	29	75	35	40	19	216	100
Stann Creek Rural	52	15	100	28	120	34	79	23	351	100
Toledo	80	16	114	22	133	26	185	36	512	100
Punta Gorda	30	21	30	21	42	29	43	30	145	100
Toledo Rural	50	14	84	23	91	25	142	39	367	100
Total	1,307	25	1,284	25	1,328	25	1,290	25	5,209	100
Urban	886	32	678	24	640	23	602	21	2,806	100
Rural	421	18	606	25	688	29	688	29	2,403	100

Table 34B: Primary School Performance in the BNSE by District - 1998

	Top Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Bottom Quarter		All Pupils	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Belize	448	27	324	20	361	22	527	32	1,660	100
Belize City	383	32	228	19	226	19	373	31	1,210	100
San Pedro	18	29	19	30	17	27	9	14	63	100
Belize Rural	47	12	77	20	118	30	145	37	387	100
Cayo	304	28	290	26	267	24	234	21	1,095	100
Belmopan	51	22	67	30	49	22	60	26	227	100
Benque Viejo	45	46	28	29	17	18	7	7	97	100
San Ignacio	121	42	83	29	57	20	30	10	291	100
Cayo Rural	87	18	112	23	144	30	137	29	480	100
Corozal	220	32	202	30	160	23	102	15	684	100
Corozal Town	95	49	57	29	30	15	13	7	195	100
Corozal Rural	125	26	145	30	130	27	89	18	489	100
Orange Walk	156	21	233	31	191	26	169	23	749	100
Orange Walk Town	108	27	136	34	86	21	72	18	402	100
Orange Walk Rural	48	14	97	28	105	30	97	28	347	100
Stann Creek	80	14	155	28	184	33	136	25	555	100
Dangriga	34	13	69	27	84	33	69	27	256	100
Stann Creek Rural	46	15	86	29	100	33	67	22	299	100
Toledo	75	17	110	24	114	25	150	33	449	100
Punta Gorda	46	34	27	20	31	23	32	24	136	100
Toledo Rural	29	9	83	27	83	27	118	38	313	100
Total	1,283	25	1,314	25	1,277	25	1,318	25	5,192	100
Urban	901	31	714	25	597	21	665	23	2,877	100
Rural	382	17	600	26	680	29	653	28	2,315	100

The Belize National Selection Examination (BNSE), a terminal primary school examination serves as the basis for selecting students for secondary schools. BNSE results are reported as percentiles and are norm-referenced achievement examination.

In the 1998-99 school year 5,209 pupils took the BNSE as compared to 5,192 in 1997-98. Some 53.9% of those who sat BNSE came from schools in the urban areas in 1998-99. Statistics shows that 32% of urban students are more likely to be placed in the top quarter with 18% coming from the rural areas. This represented 1.8 times more urban students than rural.

Children ranked in the two top quarters are more likely to gain entrance into secondary school. The figures suggest that more children in the Corozal, Orange Walk and Cayo districts are more likely to be accepted to secondary schools. Toledo and Belize district had the highest number of pupils concentrated in the bottom quarter.

10.0 EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS

Fourteen key national educational indicators are maintained by the Ministry of Education and Sports Planning Unit as part of the National Social Indicators headed by the Central Statistical Office of the Ministry of Finance. The following are the fourteen indicators for the 1998-99 school year together with the definition and the formula used to calculate them.

10.1 Primary School Completion Rate

Definition: Percentage of children entering Infant I who successfully complete primary school in due course.

Formula: Number of children entering Infant I who complete in due course/Number of children entering Infant I * 100.

Table 35: Primary School Completion Rate – 1998-99

1998-99	Rate
Total	54.0

The percentage of children who completed primary school in due course was 54.0%. This figure suggested that approximately 46% of the primary school enrolled in government and government aided schools are taking more than eight years to complete primary school (repeating several times) or are dropping out of the education system completely.

10.2 Primary School Gross Enrolment

Definition: Number of children enrolled in Infant I – Standard VI, in relation to the total number of children aged 5-12.

Formula: Number of children enrolled in Infant I – Standard VI/Number of 5-12 year olds*100.

Table 36: Primary School Gross Enrolment – 1998-99

Gender	Students	Population	Rate
Male	28,104	28,820	97.5
Female	26,512	26,975	98.3
Total	54,616	55,795	97.9

Students included those in pre-schools attached to primary schools and beginners classes. Private schools are not included. Primary school gross enrolment rate close to 100% was an indication of students less than 5 years (2.7%) and more than 12 years (9.8%) who were enrolled in school. The high percentage of overage students can be attributed to: students who score low in BNSE and are unable to gain access to a secondary school and remain in primary school to repeat the grade and attempt the examination again and also to stay within the legal compulsory school age.

10.3 Primary School Net Enrolment

Definition: Number of children aged 5-12 enrolled in Infant I – Standard VI, in relation to the total number of children aged 5-12.

Formula: Number of 5-12 year olds enrolled in Infant I – Standard VI/Number of 5-12 year old * 100.

Table 37: Primary School Net Enrolment - 1998-99

Gender	Students	Population	Rate
Male	24,215	28,820	84.0
Female	23,446	26,975	86.9
Total	47,661	55,795	85.4

Students included those aged 5-12 in pre-schools attached to primary schools and beginners classes. Private schools were not included. The data suggested that over 14% of the country's 5-12 year olds were not enrolled in primary school. Possible reasons for this high percentage is: a high number of 11 and 12 year olds are attending secondary school; a significant number of 5 year olds in September 1998 had not gained entry to primary school because of lack of places in the Infant classes; parents indifference to the compulsory education law; increasing primary school costs, including registration and other fees, cost of textbooks; opportunity cost to families and travel distance to school.

10.4 Net Pre-School Enrolment

Definition: Number of children aged 3-4 enrolled in pre-school, in relation to the total number of children aged 3-4.

Formula: Number of 3-4 year olds enrolled in pre-school/Number of 3-4 year olds * 100.

Table 38: Net Pre-School Enrolment - 1998-99

Gender	Students	Population	Rate
Male	1,818	6,330	28.7
Female	1,816	6,335	28.7
Total	3,634	12,665	28.7

Data related to the summer school initiatives and non-registered pre-schools are not included. The table indicated low coverage of the pre-school population age. For the past five years the net pre-school enrolment has remained below 30%. The primary cause of this low coverage can be attributed to low parents demand which might be due to an unawareness of the importance of pre-school education and the limited number of pre-schools in districts such as Orange Walk. For the 1998-99 school year the male and female representation were equal.

10.5 Percentage of Children Aged 12 in the Educational System

Definition: Percentage of children aged 12 in the educational system.

Formula: Number of 12 year olds enrolled in the educational system/Number of 12 year olds * 100.

Table 39: Percentage of Children Aged 12 in the Educational System –1998-99

1998-99	Students	Population	Rate
Total	5,515	5,963	92.5

92.5% of the 12 year old children were participating in primary or secondary school education. The remaining 7.5% could include students who have concluded primary school but were unable to gain access to secondary education due to the high costs of the same; opportunity cost to families; distance to the closest secondary school and the disparity between the growing number

of students necessitating a secondary education and the number of available secondary school places.

10.6 Percentage of Children Aged 14 in the Educational System

Definition: Percentage of children aged 14 in the educational system.

Formula: Number of 14 year olds enrolled in the educational system/Number of 14 year olds * 100.

Table 40: Percentage of Children Aged 14 in the Educational System – 1998-99

Gender	Students	Population	Rate
Male	1,998	2,797	71.4
Female	1,823	2,916	62.5
Total	3,821	5,713	66.9

According to the Education Act 1991 (Amendment 1996) education is compulsory for children aged 5-14. However, about 33.1% of 14 year olds were not enrolled in school. Greater proportions of the 14 year old males than females were enrolled. Casual factors for the significant percentage of 14 year olds not in the education system are: the majority of children complete the primary school program at age 13 many of whom do not gain access to secondary schools; incidences of pregnancy before age 15 and other social/cultural practices pertaining to girls.

10.7 Secondary School Net Enrolment

Definition: Number of children aged 13-17 enrolled in Form I – Form IV, in relation to the total number of children aged 13-17.

Formula: Number of 13-17 year olds enrolled in Form I – Form IV/Number of 13-17 year olds * 100.

Table 41: Secondary School Net Enrolment – 1998-99

Gender	Students	Population	Rate
Male	4,687	15,180	30.9
Female	5,403	15,280	35.4
Total	10,090	30,460	33.1

This table indicated that the 13-17 cohort of secondary school population represented 86.1% of the total secondary school population and 33.1% of the entire 13-17 year olds country population. In addition, over 4% of the 13-17 year old female than male population were gaining entry requirements to secondary school. The total low participation rate is attributed to the lack of available places at the secondary level to satisfy the increasing demand.

10.8 Secondary School Gross Enrolment

Definition: Number of children enrolled in Form I – Form IV, in relation to the total number of children aged 13-17.

Formula: Number of children enrolled in Form I – Form IV/Number of 13-17 year olds * 100.

Table 42: Secondary School Gross Enrolment – 1998-99

Gender	Students	Population	Rate
Male	5,532	15,180	36.4
Female	6,188	15,280	40.5
Total	11,720	30,460	38.5

Total enrolment in secondary school represented 38.5% of the entire 13-17 year olds country population. Since there is no official entry age to secondary school a significant number of children enter earlier than 13 years of age and remain longer than 17 years of age. Similarly to the secondary school net enrolment, the low participation rate was in large part due to the number of available places at the secondary school level. The difference between net enrolment (33.1%) and gross enrolment (38.5%) was due to the number of underage and overage children in the secondary school system.

10.9 Average Primary School Repetition Rate

Definition: Percentage of children in primary school repeating a year.

Formula: Number of children repeating in primary school/Number of children in primary school * 100.

Table 43: Average Primary School Repetition Rate – 1997-98

Gender	Repeaters	Students	Rate
Male	3,143	27,365	11.5
Female	2,349	25,753	9.1
Total	5,492	53,118	10.3

Overall primary school repetition rate stood at 10.3%. The data indicated a greater proportion of male repeaters (11.5%) compared to female repeaters (9.1%). In addition, Infant I exhibited the highest percentage of repetition (14%). Toledo recorded the highest repetition rate with 14.5%, followed by Stann Creek with 12.0%, Orange Walk (11.5%), Corozal (10.8%), Cayo (9.0%) and Belize (8.3%). Currently schools determine their own promotion policies based on their perception of successful completion of prescribed outcomes thus promotion practices and expected outcomes vary from school to school.

10.10 Average Primary School Dropout Rate

Definition: Percentage of children who dropped out of primary school.

Formula: Number of children dropped out of primary school/Number of children in primary school * 100.

Table 44: Average Primary School Dropout Rate – 1997-98

Gender	Dropouts	Students	Rate
Male	340	27,365	1.2
Female	256	25,753	1.0
Total	596	53,118	1.1

The figures suggested a low average primary school dropout rate (1.1%). According to the records dropout rates ranged from 2.3% in the Toledo District to 0.5% in the Belize District.

These figures do not present a fair picture of the dropout situation in primary schools because of the following reasons: poor record keeping in primary school; lack of data for private schools and difficulty in determining if a student actually dropped out or merely transferred to another school.

10.11 Average Secondary School Repetition Rate

Definition: Percentage of children in secondary school repeating a year.

Formula: Number of children repeating in secondary school/Number of children in secondary school * 100.

Table 45: Average Secondary School Repetition Rate – 1997-98

Gender	Repeaters	Students	Rate
Male	478	5,288	9.0
Female	491	5,972	8.2
Total	969	11,260	8.6

Total repetition rate for the 1997-98 school year stood at 8.6%, about one percentage point less than last year. These figures indicated a higher incidence of repetition for males (9.0%) than females (8.2%) thus suggesting that more females are acquiring the necessary competencies established by each school for promotion. Orange Walk District exhibited a higher percentage of repetition followed by Belize. Form III had the highest incidence of repetition (10.2%) followed closely by Form II (10.0%).

10.12 Average Secondary School Dropout Rate

Definition: Percentage of children who dropped out of secondary school.

Formula: Number of children dropped out of secondary schools/Number of children in secondary school * 100.

Table 46: Average Secondary School Dropout Rate – 1997-98

Gender	Dropouts	Students	Rate
Male	563	5,288	10.6
Female	456	5,972	7.6
Total	1,019	11,260	9.0

Total dropout rate at the secondary school level was 9.0%. Evidently, males' dropout rate (10.6%) was higher than females (7.6%). Cayo District demonstrated a high dropout rate with 11.4% followed by Belize with 10.0%. In terms of the dropout by grade, Preparatory led the way with 19.2% dramatically declining to 4.9% in Form IV. Given the high male repetition rate, it is only expected that repeated repetitions could result in eventual dropout. Moreover, social pressures lure males from academic type pursuits while economic pressures result in high opportunity cost for male students.

10.13 Percentage of Trained Teachers in Primary School

Definition: Percentage of primary school teachers that have received formal training.

Formula: Number of trained teachers in primary school/Number of teacher in primary school * 100.

Table 47: Percentage of Trained Teachers in Primary Schools – 1998-99

District	Fully Trained Teachers	Teachers	Rate
Corozal	164	277	59.2
Orange Walk	172	328	52.4
Belize	356	567	62.8
Cayo	187	449	41.6
Stann Creek	85	224	37.9
Toledo	64	219	29.2
Total	1,028	2,064	49.8

Data does not include private schools. Fully trained teachers represented 49.8% of the total primary school teaching population. Trained teachers ranged from 29.2% in the Toledo District to 62.8% in the Belize District. Toledo, Stann Creek and Cayo showed the lowest percentage of trained teachers with 29.2%, 37.9% and 41.6% respectively. Possible reasons are: teachers in these districts do not meet entry requirements for the Belize Teachers Training College; until recently teacher training was a two-year program delivered in Belize City thus both the financial and social cost of relocation was a prohibiting factor for most teachers.

10.14 Primary School Pupil/Teacher Ratio

Definition: The number of pupils enrolled in primary school, expressed as a percentage of the total number of teachers in primary school.

Formula: Number of pupils enrolled in primary school/Number of teachers in primary school.

Table 48: Primary School Pupil/Teacher Ratio – 1998-99

District	Students	Teachers	Rate
Corozal	7,046	277	25.4
Orange Walk	8,485	328	25.9
Belize	14,815	567	26.1
Cayo	12,461	449	27.8
Stann Creek	6,173	224	27.6
Toledo	5,636	219	25.7
Total	54,616	2,064	26.5

Data does not include private schools. The national Pupil/Teacher Ratio is a low 26.5% indicating that the majority of primary school class sizes are relatively small, especially in the rural areas. Not much variation was evident among districts. In order to maximize the use of teaching resources and to have a more efficient teacher deployment schedule it seems possible to bring schools with small classes together.

The Way Forward

During the life span of the Belize Primary Education Development Project (BPEDP) awareness was created among policy makers about the importance of data for strategic planning and informed decision making. Since 1992 basic data on enrolment, teachers, finance and school facilities has become an integral part of the Education Management Information System (EMIS).

In order to deliver quality educational services to the Belizean society the Ministry of Education and Sports is embarking on an ambitious project to readily access educational data from all the district education centres in Belize which should impact in decision making.

Having received Cabinet's consent to reorganise and streamline the educational services, the MoES is well on its way in establishing proper working and reporting relationship and clearer lines of accountability. In addition, the necessary type of information for each level of decision making is being defined both regionally and nationally.

Concomitant to this the appropriate technology (hardware and software) is being installed in Belmopan and Belize City. It is expected that this massive investment in information technology infrastructure and proper training of ministry personnel in data based decision making should impact positively in delivering the quality service so much needed by all our stakeholders.

The Planning Unit would like to thank each and everyone who helped in making the publication of this Digest a success. Special recognition goes to all the principals, teachers and school managers who took time out from their busy schedule to fill out our annual data collection instruments. Once again thanks to the Planning Unit staff (Juan, Marcia and Sonia) for a job well done.

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