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Table 212.08. Number and percentage distribution of principals in public and private elementary and secondary schools, by selected characteristics: Selected years, 1993-94 through 2017-18

[Standard errors appear in parentheses]

Selected characteristic	Number of principals					Percentage distribution of principals				
	1993-94	1999-2000	2011-12	2015-16	2017-18	1993-94	1999-2000	2011-12	2015-16	2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Public schools										
Total	79,620 (235)	83,790 (327)	89,810 (406)	90,410 (298)	90,850 (229)	100.0 (+)	100.0 (+)	100.0 (+)	100.0 (+)	100.0 (+)
Sex										
Male	52,110 (613)	47,130 (604)	43,450 (901)	41,380 (690)	42,100 (540)	65.5 (0.70)	56.2 (0.69)	48.4 (0.92)	45.8 (0.74)	46.3 (0.59)
Female	27,500 (542)	36,660 (598)	46,360 (801)	49,030 (672)	48,750 (559)	34.5 (0.70)	43.8 (0.69)	51.6 (0.92)	54.2 (0.74)	53.7 (0.59)
Race/ethnicity										
White ¹	67,080 (540)	68,930 (579)	72,070 (723)	70,340 (541)	70,580 (498)	84.3 (0.54)	82.3 (0.57)	80.3 (0.66)	77.8 (0.52)	77.7 (0.49)
Black ¹	8,020 (351)	9,240 (321)	9,110 (394)	9,550 (354)	9,570 (367)	10.1 (0.45)	11.0 (0.39)	10.1 (0.43)	10.6 (0.39)	10.5 (0.41)
Hispanic ¹	3,270 (258)	4,330 (300)	6,130 (404)	7,430 (361)	8,090 (328)	4.1 (0.33)	5.2 (0.36)	6.8 (0.46)	8.2 (0.40)	8.9 (0.36)
Asian ^{1,2}	620 (109)	630 (124)	820 (154)	1,290 (192)	860 (111)	0.8 (0.14)	0.8 (0.15)	0.9 (0.17)	1.4 (0.21)	0.9 (0.12)
Pacific Islander	--- (+)	--- (+)	# (+)	# (+)	# (+)	--- (+)	--- (+)	# (+)	0.2 (0.06)	0.2 (0.04)
American Indian/ Alaska Native ¹	630 (67)	660 (60)	650 (123)	620 (114)	630 (97)	0.8 (0.08)	0.8 (0.07)	0.7 (0.14)	0.7 (0.13)	0.7 (0.11)
Two or more races	--- (+)	--- (+)	1,010 (183)	980 (131)	930 (118)	--- (+)	--- (+)	1.1 (0.20)	1.1 (0.15)	1.0 (0.13)
Age										
Under 40	5,940 (273)	8,440 (302)	18,040 (523)	17,360 (507)	15,210 (445)	7.5 (0.34)	10.1 (0.35)	20.1 (0.58)	19.2 (0.56)	16.7 (0.48)
40 to 44	14,570 (496)	10,510 (317)	17,650 (565)	19,150 (515)	18,330 (472)	18.3 (0.61)	12.5 (0.37)	19.7 (0.62)	21.2 (0.56)	20.2 (0.52)
45 to 49	25,430 (429)	19,600 (535)	14,700 (541)	19,460 (599)	21,100 (447)	31.9 (0.55)	23.4 (0.63)	16.4 (0.60)	21.5 (0.65)	23.2 (0.49)
50 to 54	18,870 (539)	27,120 (606)	15,060 (668)	13,910 (438)	15,980 (498)	23.7 (0.68)	32.4 (0.71)	16.8 (0.73)	15.4 (0.49)	17.6 (0.55)
55 or over	14,820 (441)	18,130 (500)	24,350 (655)	20,540 (631)	20,230 (468)	18.6 (0.55)	21.6 (0.60)	27.1 (0.74)	22.7 (0.70)	22.3 (0.51)
School level										
Elementary	53,680 ⁴ (294)	60,110 (253)	61,250 (443)	62,090 (276)	62,030 (273)	71.9 (0.21)	71.7 (0.21)	68.2 (0.38)	68.7 (0.31)	68.3 (0.28)
Secondary	18,260 ⁴ (161)	20,450 (197)	20,470 (537)	20,280 (395)	20,240 (275)	24.4 (0.20)	24.4 (0.20)	22.8 (0.56)	22.4 (0.41)	22.3 (0.29)
Combined	2,750 ⁴ (143)	3,230 (146)	8,090 (658)	8,050 (332)	8,570 (239)	3.7 (0.19)	3.9 (0.17)	9.0 (0.74)	8.9 (0.37)	9.4 (0.26)
Highest degree earned										
Bachelor's or less	1,150 (167)	1,540 (182)	1,960 (272)	2,030 (212)	1,670 (201)	1.4 (0.21)	1.8 (0.22)	2.2 (0.30)	2.2 (0.23)	1.8 (0.22)
Master's	50,470 (536)	45,440 (579)	55,420 (678)	55,390 (682)	56,110 (602)	63.4 (0.65)	54.2 (0.63)	61.7 (0.71)	61.3 (0.73)	61.8 (0.65)
Education specialist ³	20,570 (459)	28,280 (493)	23,560 (492)	24,020 (570)	23,500 (551)	25.8 (0.57)	33.8 (0.60)	26.2 (0.54)	26.6 (0.62)	25.9 (0.60)

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
Doctor's or first professional	7,430	(263)	8,530	(386)	8,870	(442)	8,970	(415)	9,580	(372)	9.3	(0.33)	10.2	(0.46)	9.9	(0.49)	9.9	(0.46)	10.5	(0.41)
Number of years as a principal																				
3 or fewer	24,450	(451)	25,080	(513)	29,520	(758)	35,420	(644)	33,390	(633)	30.7	(0.56)	29.9	(0.60)	32.9	(0.84)	39.2	(0.71)	36.7	(0.69)
4 to 9	26,600	(548)	25,900	(524)	35,500	(886)	31,370	(618)	32,420	(597)	33.4	(0.68)	30.9	(0.61)	39.5	(0.96)	34.7	(0.67)	35.7	(0.65)
10 to 19	19,730	(412)	23,230	(525)	19,870	(634)	19,960	(533)	21,600	(548)	24.8	(0.52)	27.7	(0.62)	22.1	(0.70)	22.1	(0.58)	23.8	(0.60)
20 or more	8,840	(377)	9,580	(331)	4,920	(273)	3,670	(285)	3,450	(233)	11.1	(0.47)	11.4	(0.39)	5.5	(0.31)	4.1	(0.31)	3.8	(0.26)
Years of full- and part-time teaching experience prior to becoming a principal																				
3 or fewer	5,690	(251)	3,210	(186)	4,040	(264)	3,360	(235)	4,190	(233)	7.1	(0.31)	3.8	(0.22)	4.5	(0.30)	3.7	(0.26)	4.6	(0.26)
4 to 9	29,500	(516)	22,510	(491)	34,240	(792)	34,970	(639)	34,600	(575)	37.1	(0.63)	26.9	(0.57)	38.1	(0.84)	38.7	(0.69)	38.1	(0.62)
10 to 19	36,680	(558)	38,110	(597)	39,160	(752)	41,970	(710)	41,910	(547)	46.1	(0.70)	45.5	(0.69)	43.6	(0.82)	46.4	(0.77)	46.1	(0.60)
20 or more	7,740	(275)	19,960	(485)	12,380	(519)	10,110	(418)	10,160	(367)	9.7	(0.34)	23.8	(0.57)	13.8	(0.58)	11.2	(0.46)	11.2	(0.40)
School locale																				
City	---	(+)	20,100	(328)	23,440	(274)	24,770	(190)	25,360	(091)	27.4	(0.34)	24.0	(0.40)	26.1	(0.28)	27.4	(0.17)	27.9	(0.10)
Suburban	---	(+)	30,640	(440)	24,520	(356)	29,120	(180)	29,640	(123)	25.9	(0.45)	36.6	(0.53)	27.3	(0.36)	32.2	(0.17)	32.6	(0.12)
Town	---	(+)	10,860	(228)	12,330	(341)	12,360	(372)	12,060	(101)	22.0	(0.43)	13.0	(0.26)	13.7	(0.40)	13.7	(0.41)	13.3	(0.10)
Rural	---	(+)	22,200	(404)	29,520	(430)	24,170	(399)	23,800	(145)	24.7	(0.43)	26.5	(0.44)	32.9	(0.43)	26.7	(0.43)	26.2	(0.13)
Private schools Total	25,020	(198)	26,230	(259)	25,730	(605)	---	(+)	26,260	(149)	100.0	(+)	100.0	(+)	100.0	(+)	---	(+)	100.0	(+)
Sex																				
Male	11,610	(301)	11,900	(308)	11,490	(501)	---	(+)	11,030	(327)	46.4	(1.10)	45.4	(1.06)	44.6	(1.48)	---	(+)	42.0	(1.23)
Female	13,410	(283)	14,330	(307)	14,240	(462)	---	(+)	15,230	(335)	53.6	(1.10)	54.6	(1.06)	55.4	(1.48)	---	(+)	58.0	(1.23)
Race/ethnicity																				
White ¹	23,130	(270)	23,320	(309)	22,470	(628)	---	(+)	22,620	(232)	92.5	(0.70)	88.9	(0.76)	87.3	(1.08)	---	(+)	86.2	(0.81)
Black ¹	1,060	(124)	1,570	(164)	1,750	(193)	---	(+)	1,410	(168)	4.2	(0.50)	6.0	(0.62)	6.8	(0.75)	---	(+)	5.4	(0.64)
Hispanic ¹	520	(91)	830	(135)	860	(141)	---	(+)	1,260	(118)	2.1	(0.37)	3.2	(0.52)	3.3	(0.56)	---	(+)	4.8	(0.45)
Asian ^{1,2}	±	(+)	350	(64)	±	(+)	---	(+)	510	(87)	0.7	(0.17)	1.3	(0.25)	1.8	(0.38)	---	(+)	1.9	(0.33)
Pacific Islander	---	(+)	---	(+)	±	(+)	---	(+)	±	(+)	---	(+)	---	(+)	±	(+)	---	(+)	0.3	!(0.12)
American Indian/ Alaska Native ¹	±	(+)	±	(+)	±	(+)	---	(+)	±	(+)	0.5	(0.15)	0.6	(0.15)	±	(+)	---	(+)	0.3	!(0.12)
Two or more races	---	(+)	---	(+)	90	!	(45)	---	±	(+)	---	(+)	---	(+)	0.4	!(0.17)	---	(+)	1.2	(0.27)
Age																				
Under 40	4,790	(302)	3,750	(223)	4,360	(392)	---	(+)	4,470	(298)	19.2	(1.21)	14.3	(0.80)	16.9	(1.44)	---	(+)	17.0	(1.14)
40 to 44	4,400	(217)	3,450	(212)	3,130	(300)	---	(+)	3,130	(217)	17.6	(0.83)	13.2	(0.83)	12.2	(1.05)	---	(+)	11.9	(0.83)
45 to 49	5,140	(216)	5,210	(261)	2,630	(281)	---	(+)	3,610	(240)	20.6	(0.87)	19.9	(0.96)	10.2	(1.00)	---	(+)	13.8	(0.91)
50 to 54	4,120	(228)	5,840	(291)	3,480	(247)	---	(+)	3,610	(237)	16.5	(0.90)	22.3	(1.11)	13.5	(0.93)	---	(+)	13.7	(0.89)
55 or over	6,550	(244)	7,980	(276)	12,120	(424)	---	(+)	11,430	(372)	26.2	(0.95)	30.4	(1.01)	47.1	(1.66)	---	(+)	43.5	(1.38)
School level																				
Elementary	13,350	⁴ (244)	15,810	(245)	14,510	(505)	---	(+)	14,380	(223)	59.5	(0.74)	60.3	(0.85)	56.4	(0.90)	---	(+)	54.8	(0.80)

1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10		11	
Secondary Combined	2,300 ⁴	(115)	2,630	(133)	2,660	(138)	---	(+)	3,900	(209)	10.3	(0.52)	10.0	(0.51)	10.3	(0.57)	---	(+)	14.9	(0.78)
	6,770 ⁴	(174)	7,800	(265)	8,570	(210)	---	(+)	7,980	(209)	30.2	(0.77)	29.7	(0.89)	33.3	(0.71)	---	(+)	30.4	(0.78)
Highest degree earned																				
Bachelor's or less	8,590	(337)	8,050	(334)	7,990	(570)	---	(+)	8,080	(397)	34.3	(1.23)	30.7	(1.16)	31.0	(1.73)	---	(+)	30.8	(1.52)
Master's	12,900	(292)	13,370	(288)	12,800	(363)	---	(+)	13,280	(399)	51.6	(1.28)	51.0	(1.09)	49.7	(1.49)	---	(+)	50.6	(1.47)
Education specialist ³	2,050	(103)	2,600	(159)	2,610	(200)	---	(+)	2,830	(172)	8.2	(0.41)	9.9	(0.60)	10.1	(0.80)	---	(+)	10.8	(0.66)
Doctor's or first professional	1,480	(138)	2,220	(167)	2,340	(224)	---	(+)	2,060	(179)	5.9	(0.54)	8.5	(0.64)	9.1	(0.87)	---	(+)	7.9	(0.68)
Number of years as a principal																				
3 or fewer	8,270	(341)	7,540	(327)	7,100	(516)	---	(+)	9,380	(422)	33.1	(1.32)	28.7	(1.19)	27.6	(1.74)	---	(+)	35.7	(1.63)
4 to 9	7,080	(269)	6,990	(320)	6,750	(415)	---	(+)	6,430	(318)	28.3	(1.03)	26.6	(1.16)	26.2	(1.45)	---	(+)	24.5	(1.17)
10 to 19	6,950	(310)	7,340	(250)	6,910	(350)	---	(+)	6,340	(285)	27.8	(1.23)	28.0	(0.93)	26.8	(1.33)	---	(+)	24.2	(1.08)
20 or more	2,710	(189)	4,360	(230)	4,970	(318)	---	(+)	4,100	(257)	10.8	(0.77)	16.6	(0.90)	19.3	(1.27)	---	(+)	15.6	(0.97)
Years of full- and part-time teaching experience prior to becoming a principal																				
3 or fewer	6,290	(335)	3,610	(241)	6,820	(473)	---	(+)	5,150	(296)	25.2	(1.27)	13.8	(0.87)	26.5	(1.48)	---	(+)	19.6	(1.14)
4 to 9	6,940	(268)	5,560	(244)	6,810	(363)	---	(+)	5,220	(255)	27.8	(1.05)	21.2	(0.88)	26.5	(1.36)	---	(+)	19.9	(0.97)
10 to 19	9,240	(251)	9,070	(260)	7,790	(403)	---	(+)	9,220	(321)	36.9	(1.03)	34.6	(1.04)	30.3	(1.50)	---	(+)	35.1	(1.19)
20 or more	2,540	(136)	7,990	(265)	4,310	(249)	---	(+)	6,680	(292)	10.1	(0.54)	30.4	(0.98)	16.7	(0.99)	---	(+)	25.4	(1.08)
School locale																				
City	---	(+)	11,250	(226)	8,590	(267)	---	(+)	8,870	(107)	---	(+)	42.9	(0.78)	33.4	(1.28)	---	(+)	33.8	(0.33)
Suburban	---	(+)	9,190	(229)	8,110	(298)	---	(+)	9,030	(84)	---	(+)	35.0	(0.80)	31.5	(1.27)	---	(+)	34.4	(0.28)
Town	---	(+)	3,250	(190)	2,630	(323)	---	(+)	2,440	(60)	---	(+)	12.4	(0.73)	10.2	(1.16)	---	(+)	9.3	(0.22)
Rural	---	(+)	2,540	(211)	6,390	(510)	---	(+)	5,910	(93)	---	(+)	9.7	(0.78)	24.8	(1.57)	---	(+)	22.5	(0.34)

---Not available.

†Not applicable.

#Rounds to zero.

!Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 and 50 percent.

‡Reporting standards not met. Either there are too few cases for a reliable estimate or the coefficient of variation (CV) is 50 percent or greater.

¹ Data for 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are only roughly comparable to data for later years, because the new category of Two or more races was introduced in 2003-04.

² Includes Pacific Islander for 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

³ Education specialist degrees or certificates are generally awarded for 1 year's work beyond the master's level. Includes certificate of advanced graduate studies.

⁴ Excludes data for 4,930 public and 2,690 private school principals whose school level could not be determined.

NOTE: Data are based on a head count of full-time and part-time principals rather than on the number of full-time-equivalent principals reported in other tables. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and cell suppression. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Principal Data File" and "Private School Principal Data File," 1993-94, 1999-2000, and 2011-12; SASS, "Charter School Principal Data File," 1999-2000; National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), "Public School Principal Data File," 2015-16 and 2017-18; and NTPS, "Private School Principal Data File," 2017-18. (This table was prepared November 2019.)

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