Gender and Ethnic Distribution of Enrolled students in Teacher Preparation Programs

In 2012-2013, about 20,000 teacher candidates were enrolled in California’s teacher preparation programs to pursue their initial teaching credentials. Students were enrolled in 81 traditional programs, 55 IHE-based Alternative Route (University Intern) programs, and 9 Non IHE-Based Alternative Route (District Intern) programs. Each year, teacher preparation programs report on the number of enrolled students (candidates who have not yet completed all requirements for the initial teaching credential) as well on the number of Program Completers (candidates who have completed all requirements for the initial teaching credential). Teacher Preparation Programs submit enrollment information – enrollment by gender and race/ethnicity – as part of their Institution and Program Report Card (IPRC) to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) each April. The Commission submits a consolidated state report to ED each October.

A preliminary analysis of the enrollment data indicates that about three-fourths (73 percent) of those enrolled in teacher preparation programs were female and less than one-third (27 percent) were male. More than half (51 percent) identified themselves as White and more than one-fourth (26 percent) as Hispanic/Latino. Asian enrollees constituted 8 percent, African American 6 percent, 1 percent Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and another 1 percent American Indian or Alaska Native. Individuals can belong to one or more racial groups and they are reported under the “two or more races” category. This category accounted for the remaining 7 percent of the enrolled students.

Overall, the ethnic distribution of teacher candidates enrolled in teacher preparation programs has become more diverse in recent years. In 2008-09, 57 percent identified themselves as White, 39 percent non-White, and 4 percent two or more races. In 2012-13, the data show 51 percent as White, 42 percent non-White, and 7 percent two or more races. According to California Department of Education (CDE), in 2012-13, nearly two-thirds (66 percent) of the teachers were White, less than one-fifth (18 percent) Hispanic, 8 percent Asian, 4 percent African American, less than 1 percent American Indian, and the remaining 4 percent accounted for multiple races and no responses. This also suggests that recent teacher candidates are more diverse than the current teaching force.

Data Sources: Title II Annual IPRC Reports, 2012-13; CDE’s Data Quest, Certificated Staff by Ethnicity for 2012-13.