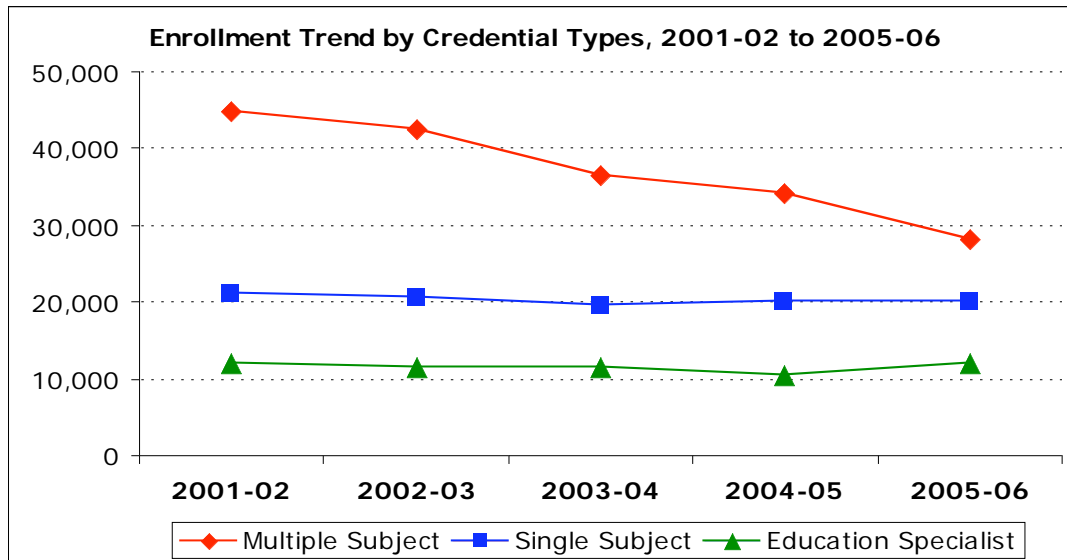


## How many people are considering teaching as a career?

June 07

In California, there are more than ninety preparation programs (offered at colleges, universities and school districts/county offices of education) that prepare individuals to be teachers. As part of the federal government's Title II data collection system, enrollment in the multiple subject (elementary), single subject (secondary), and special education preparation programs is reported to the federal government every fall. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing coordinates the federal mandate of Title II reporting for the state.

In 2005-06, approximately 30,000 individuals were enrolled in the multiple subject, 20,000 in the single subject, and about 12,000 in the special education credential programs. The enrollment number includes individuals who are earning their first credentials only. A noticeable trend is the steady decline in total enrollment which decreased by 23 percent over the past five years.



- A dramatic decrease was noticed for enrollment in multiple subject programs; decreased by 37 percent since 2001-02. The downward trend was consistent over the five years, with the biggest decrease (17 percent) in 2005-06.
- Enrollment in single subject programs also declined, but to a lesser degree; by 5 percent during the same time period.
- Enrollment in special education programs showed a fairly steady pattern with an enrollment of about 12,000 for each of the five years. There was an increase (by 13 percent) between 2004-05 and 2005-06.
- There is also a dramatic decline (by 44 percent) in the individuals taking the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) over the past five years. The number of individuals taking CBEST has been an indicator of people considering a teaching career because CBEST is one of the licensing requirements for all teacher candidates.

*The full implementation of class size reduction may have contributed to this downward trend in total enrollment as well as the shift from multiple subject to education specialist enrollment.*