To: Dr. Christopher Shamburg, Professor

From: Mr. Manuel F. Negron

Date: August 18, 2017

Re: U.S. population enrollment in K-12 education in 1985, 1995, and 2005

Changes in enrollment in K-12 schools can be due to many factors. There has also been a large difference in enrollment when comparing public versus private schools. Figure 1[[1]](#footnote-1) below displays a column chart that identifies the U.S. population enrollment in K-12 education in 1985, 1995, and 2005. Between 1985 and 1995 there was a rise in enrollment in public schools by approximately 14%, while private schools only had a rise of approximately 7%. Between 1995 and 2005 enrollment also rose, but at a smaller rate. Public schools increased by approximately 9.5% while private schools only increased by approximately 2%.

Overall, the U.S. population enrollment in K-12 has risen as a whole. Between 1985 and 1995 there was an increase in enrollment inclusive of both public and private schools by approximately 12.5%. The enrollment increased between 1995 and 2005 inclusive of both public and private schools by approximately 8.5%.

While the trend shows that enrollment continues to rise in K-12 education, it is clear to see that the enrollment did not increase as much between 1995 and 2005 when compared to the enrollment between 1985 and 1995. There is also a huge difference in the enrollment of students in public versus private schools.

One of the major factors that affect enrollment in private versus public schools are the rising costs of education. Many families today cannot afford to pay for their child to attend a private school, which has caused many private schools to close their doors. Public schools in the United States are free since they are primarily funded by property taxes.

Figure 1. School Enrollment

1. U.S. population enrollment in K-12 education in 1985, 1995, and 2005

   Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)