

Characteristics of School Principals

Table 34-1. Number and percentage distribution of school principals, by school level, school type, and selected characteristics: School years 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04

Characteristic	All principals ¹	Elementary ²			Secondary ²		
		All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
1993–94							
Total, number	104,600	67,000	53,700	13,400	20,600	18,300	2,300
Total, percentage	100.0	69.0	80.1	19.9	21.2	88.8	11.2
Sex							
Male	60.9	53.6	58.9	32.3	84.0	86.2	66.0
Female	39.1	46.4	41.1	67.7	16.0	13.8	34.0
Age							
Under 40	10.3	9.3	7.4	16.9	8.2	7.6	13.0
40–44	18.1	18.3	18.8	16.4	18.3	18.2	19.5
45–49	29.2	29.3	31.2	21.6	32.3	33.9	20.0
50–54	22.0	22.0	23.7	15.1	23.7	23.5	25.7
55 and over	20.4	21.1	18.9	30.0	17.4	16.8	21.8
Race/ethnicity ³							
White	86.2	84.6	83.0	91.1	89.1	88.2	96.1
Black	8.7	9.7	10.8	5.0	6.6	7.3	1.5
Hispanic	3.6	4.0	4.5	2.1	3.1	3.2	2.1
Asian	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.2
Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.1
Highest degree earned							
No degree	1.6	1.1	#	5.3	#	#	0.2
Associate's	0.4	0.3	#	1.8	#	#	#
Bachelor's	7.3	6.4	1.5	26.1	1.7	1.2	6.0
Master's	60.6	62.2	64.1	54.2	63.5	63.1	67.4
Education specialist or professional diploma ⁴	21.6	22.2	25.7	8.0	24.1	25.4	14.0
Doctoral or first-professional ⁵	8.5	7.8	8.6	4.7	10.5	10.3	12.4
1999–2000							
Total, number	110,000	75,900	60,100	15,800	23,100	20,500	2,600
Total, percentage	100.0	69.0	79.2	20.8	21.0	88.6	11.4
Sex							
Male	53.7	44.9	48.2	32.4	76.9	78.3	66.3
Female	46.4	55.1	51.8	67.6	23.1	21.8	33.7
Age							
Under 40	11.1	10.5	9.9	12.9	9.9	10.0	9.6
40–44	12.7	12.5	12.6	12.5	13.1	12.9	14.6
45–49	22.6	22.6	23.7	18.6	22.8	23.1	20.4
50–54	30.0	30.0	32.0	22.4	32.8	33.5	28.0
55 and over	23.7	24.3	21.9	33.6	21.4	20.6	27.3
Race/ethnicity ³							
White	83.9	82.2	81.2	86.2	86.6	85.6	94.5
Black	9.8	11.1	11.8	8.1	7.6	8.4	1.3!
Hispanic	4.7	5.1	5.6	3.2	4.0	4.1	3.1!
Asian	0.9	1.0	0.7!	1.9	0.7!	0.8!	0.3!
Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.9!
Highest degree earned							
No degree	1.5	0.9	#	4.2	0.1!	#	1.1
Associate's	0.3	0.2!	#	0.7!	#	#	0.1!
Bachelor's	7.0	6.5	1.8	24.4	2.7	1.4	13.3
Master's	53.5	54.1	53.9	54.7	56.1	55.8	58.6
Education specialist or professional diploma ⁴	28.1	29.5	34.6	9.9	29.6	31.3	16.0
Doctoral or first-professional ⁵	9.8	8.9	9.7	6.1	11.5	11.6	10.9

See notes at end of table.

Characteristics of School Principals

Table 34-1. Number and percentage distribution of school principals, by school level, school type, and selected characteristics: School years 1993–94, 1999–2000, and 2003–04—Continued

Characteristic	All principals ¹	Elementary ²			Secondary ²		
		All	Public	Private	All	Public	Private
2003–04							
Total, number	115,000	78,200	61,500	16,700	22,200	19,700	2,500
Total, percentage	100.0	67.8	78.6	21.4	19.3	88.7	11.3
Sex							
Male	50.3	41.3	44.0	31.4	73.1	74.0	66.6
Female	49.7	58.7	56.0	68.6	26.9	26.0	33.4
Age							
Under 40	15.0	14.9	14.8	15.2	12.8	12.6	14.3
40–44	10.9	10.6	10.5	10.9	11.0	11.2	8.7
45–49	17.5	17.5	18.3	14.3	18.5	18.8	15.9
50–54	26.0	26.6	28.0	21.5	25.9	27.3	15.4
55 and over	30.7	30.5	28.5	38.2	31.9	30.1	45.7
Race/ethnicity³							
White	84.2	82.4	81.0	87.5	85.9	84.8	95.0
Black	9.3	10.3	11.4	6.6	8.7	9.4	3.2
Hispanic	4.8	5.5	6.0	3.3	4.1	4.4	1.2
Asian	0.7	0.8	0.6	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.4
Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	#
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1
Highest degree earned							
No degree	1.8	1.4	#	6.6	0.4	#	3.2
Associate's	0.8	0.7	0.1	2.7	0.1	#	0.8
Bachelor's	6.8	6.0	1.0	24.1	3.6	2.9	9.3
Master's	56.9	57.8	59.9	50.0	57.1	56.4	62.9
Education specialist or professional diploma ⁴	25.6	26.5	30.5	12.0	28.7	30.7	13.0
Doctoral or first-professional ⁵	8.2	7.7	8.5	4.6	10.1	10.0	10.9

— Not available.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

Rounds to zero.

¹ Included in the totals but not shown separately are principals of combined elementary and secondary schools.

² Roughly 900 cases were missing data for the school level variable in 1993–94; these cases were excluded from the school-level analyses.

³ Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Before 2003–04, Asian and Pacific Islander were not reported separately; therefore, Pacific Islander is included in Asian for the 1993–94 and 1999–2000 survey administrations.

⁴ At least 1 year beyond the master's level.

⁵ An award that requires completion of a degree program that meets all of the following criteria: (1) completion of the academic requirements to begin practice in the profession; (2) at least 2 years of college work before entering the degree program; and (3) a total of at least 6 academic years of college work to complete the degree program, including previously required college work plus the work required in the professional program itself. See glossary for a complete list of first-professional degrees.

NOTE: Data are only for principals, not assistant principals. Principals from Bureau of Indian Affairs schools were excluded from the analysis. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS). Some estimates have been revised from previous publications.

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 2003–04 and "Charter School Principal Data File," 1999–2000.