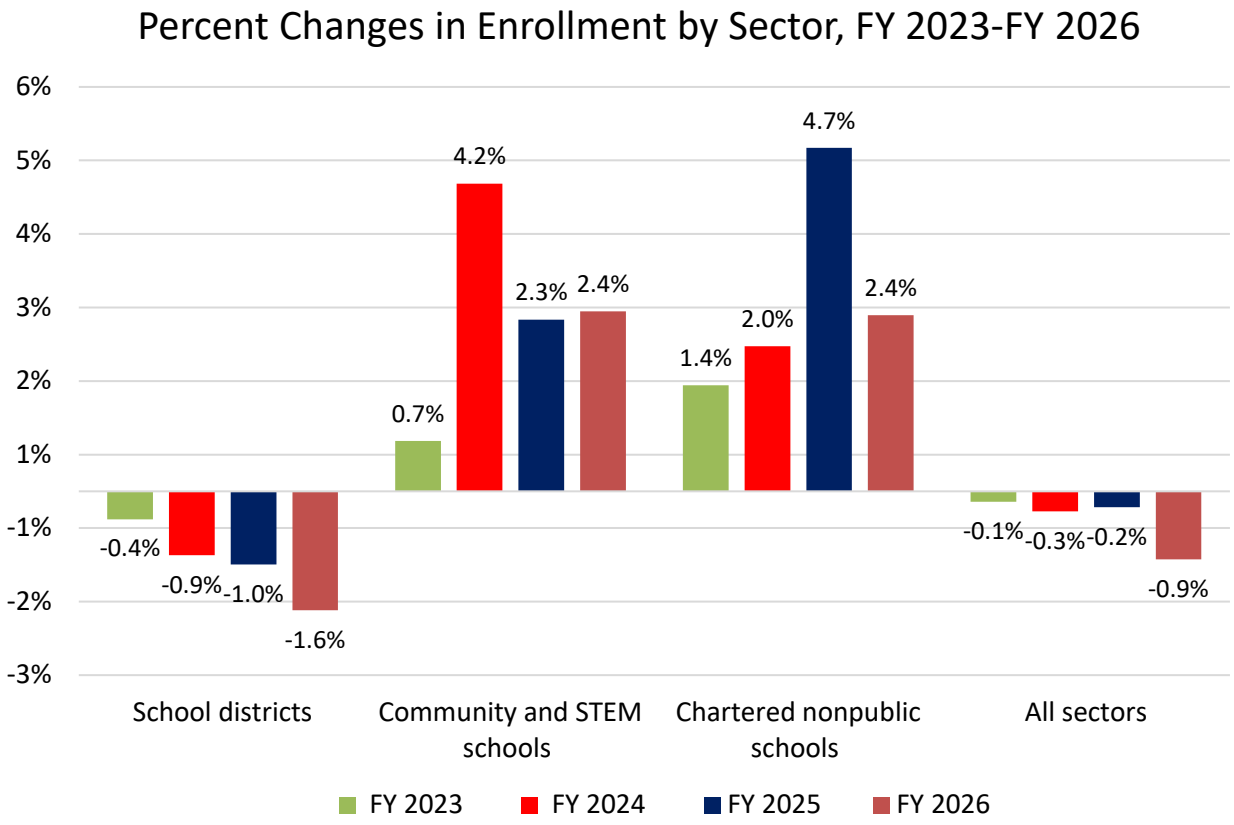
Enrollment continues to decline in school districts but grows in other types of schools



Source: Department of Education and Workforce

- School district enrollment (1.45 million students in FY 2026) continues to decline. The decline in FY 2026 (1.6%, 23,829 students) was faster than the declines in the three previous years (1.0% in FY 2025, 0.9% in FY 2024, and 0.4% in FY 2023).
- Enrollment fell fastest in urban districts in FY 2026, with decreases in rural and small town districts' enrollment following close behind. Changes in enrollment by district type:
  - Rural: -2.0% (-4,415).
  - Small town: -2.0% (-6,262).
  - Suburban: -1.3% (-6,817).
  - Urban: -2.2% (-7,780).
  - Joint vocational school districts: 2.9% (+1,446).
- FY 2026 enrollment in community and STEM schools (126,570 students) grew 2.4% (3,023), maintaining a similar rate to FY 2025 (2.3%, 2,742).
- Chartered nonpublic school enrollment (185,584 students) also grew 2.4% (4,340) in FY 2026, following a spike of growth in FY 2025 (4.7%, 8,088).
- Across all sectors, enrollment decreased 0.9% (16,466) in FY 2026.
- Public school students comprised 89.5% of the 1.76 million students enrolled statewide in FY 2026.