

# Public School Enrollment Is Declining. Here's Why — and What Districts Can Do



## Public School Enrollment Loss Is a Challenge Nationwide.



**6,308** Districts

Number of districts experiencing enrollment declines between SY19-20 and SY23-24 (68% of those studied).

*(Dickason et al., 2025)*



**↓ 2 Million** Students

Approximate number of students lost from the public system between SY19-20 and SY23-24

*(Dickason et al., 2025)*

## Public Schools Can't Control All Factors of Enrollment Loss...



Declining Birth Rates



Shifts in Immigration



Rising Housing Costs



Expansion of Vouchers

But They *Must* Win on  
**One Powerful Factor.**



**Family Choice**

## Public Microschools Can Be One of the Most Desirable Research-Based Solutions for Parents

**↑ 2 Million** Students

Number of students enrolled in microschoools, which have significantly increased in growth in the last 4 years.

*(Ohls et al., 2025)*

**1/3** of Parents

Parents surveyed who either have a child enrolled in a microschoool or are interested in learning more about them.

*(Aldis, 2024)*



## How School Districts Can Give Families the Experience They Seek — and Keep Them in Public Schools:

*Certified Microschools for Deeper Learning™ are designed to retain and recruit families by creating a small, boutique “private” school experience in public schools.*

- District owned and operated
- Partnered with Instructional Empowerment (25+ years of research-based practice) for professional support with teacher training, marketing and recruitment, and more
- 100% of per-pupil funding remains with the district
- Utilizes unused classroom space
- Adds another choice option to your portfolio



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