

EDUCATION

CENSUS BUREAU REPORT

ONE THIRD OF ALL STUDENTS AGES 15-17 FALL BEHIND IN SCHOOL

By ages 15 to 17, 35 percent of all students are either enrolled below their appropriate grade in school or have dropped out, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

Twenty-nine percent of teen-age females were behind in school or dropped out compared with 40 percent of teen-age males in 1990, the annual school enrollment report says.

In 1990, 22 percent of all children ages six to eight were enrolled below their appropriate grade (for their age) compared with 15 percent in 1980.

"A great deal of falling behind in school occurs at an early age for Black and Hispanic students," report author Robert Kominski says. As children move from the six to eight year-old age group into the nine to 11 year-old group, their rate of enrollment below appropriate grade

increases by 5 percentage points for Hispanics.

The number of children enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten increased from 6.7 million in the fall of 1989 to 7.3 million in 1990. Family income played a significant role in determining whether children were enrolled in nursery school, said Kominski.

Among families earning less than \$20,000, 30 percent of the children ages three to four were enrolled in nursery school compared with 38 percent from families earning \$20,000 to \$39,999 and 59 percent from families earning \$40,000 and above.

Of the three and four-year olds enrolled in nursery school, 35 percent attended public school, while 66 percent attended private school.

Family income also played a determining role in whether chil-

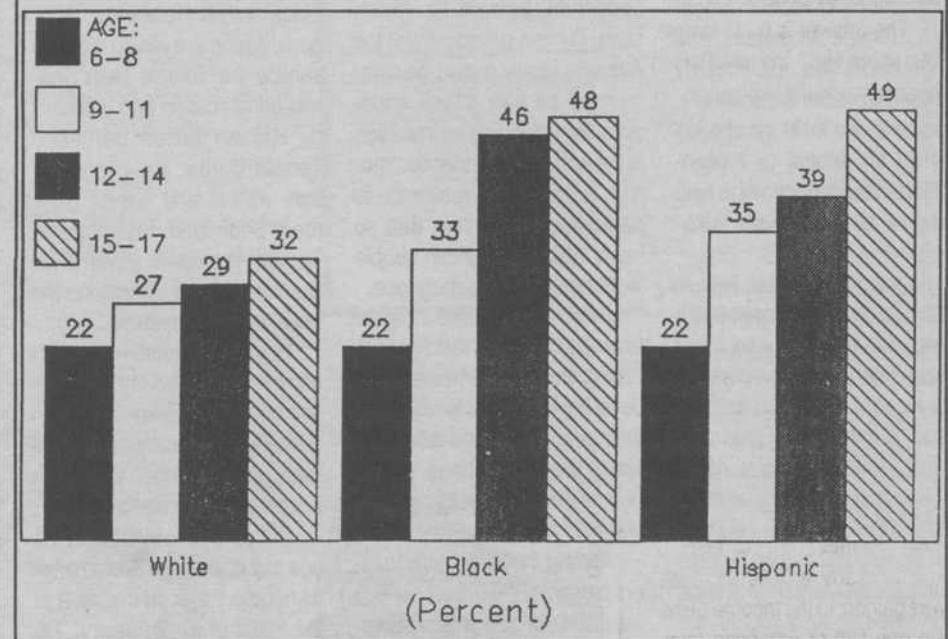
dren attended public or private nursery school classes, according to Kominski. While 66 percent of families with incomes of less than \$20,000 enrolled their children in public nursery schools, only 15 percent of families with over \$40,000 in incomes used public nursery schools.

As in all surveys, the data are subject to sampling variability and other sources of error.

Copies of School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students; October 1990, Series P-20, No. 460, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (202-783-3238).

For the report's GPO stock number, call the Census Bureau's Customer Services at 30763-4100.

PERCENT OF PERSONS BELOW APPROPRIATE GRADE OR DROPPED OUT BY AGE, RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN: OCTOBER 1990



SIGN-UP FOR THE L.V. CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT'S "READ FOR THE GOLD" SUMMER READING PROGRAM NOW

There's still time to sign-up for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's Read For The Gold Summer Reading Program at district-wide libraries.

Along with the Olympic ath-

letes in Barcelona, Spain, every young reader can earn a gold medal by reading and reporting on six books and two newspaper articles between now and August 1. Celebrations, con-

gratulations and surprises will be awarded at the READ FOR THE GOLD Closing ceremonies at each library during the week of August 3.

One lucky Gold Medal reader will win a trip for four to a San Diego Padres Baseball game. Another prize is a pass to the Lied Discovery Children's Museum.

The library district has purchased many books on or about sports, fiction, nonfiction, hardcover and paperback for beginning readers to high school. Sports is the theme this year, but a book on any subject will do to win a gold medal.

Sign-up at your local library today and READ FOR THE GOLD!

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THING TO DEVELOP"

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WITH READING,
WRITING, MATH,
& GED—AGE: 16+**

**CONTACT
A.O.I.P
647-2117
1-4 P.M.**

SUNSET H.S. - A SECOND CHANCE

There are many Las Vegas Citizens between the ages of 16 and 21 who have dropped out of day school for various reasons during the regular school year. Sunset High School, a fully accredited Clark County District High School, offers a complete academic and elective schedule from 1:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Unique services are provided for single parents, pregnant teenagers and young adults who presently hold jobs, or who are seeking employment and wish to continue their education at night. Students who have infants or toddlers up to age 5 may utilize the Evening Child Care Center located on the school campus. Space is limited. For a nominal fee, usually \$5.00 each quarter, the child is cared for in a well regulated supervised environment while the parents attends classes. In addition to taking classes required for graduation, the parent/students take their lunch break with their child, learning and experiencing correct nutritional practices as they spend this part of the school day together.

Pregnant teenagers are enrolled in the Young Adult Center Classes. In this setting the students learn important prenatal and postnatal personal health skills and practices. Classes in Food and Nutrition, Child Development, field trips to local hospital maternity units, and instruction by a Registered Nurse are program essentials in addition to classes in the basic academic skills and other regular subjects required for high school graduation. This decision is usually based on their need to work and their desire to take advantage of the Evening Child Care Center services. Many Sunset High School students have jobs in order to support themselves or to help support their family. The employment factor is significant in the Sunset High School Curriculum. A Vocational Coordinator helps students find new jobs, change to better jobs and schedule classes that are appropriate for the student's area of vocational interest. The Vocational Coordinator maintains current contact with the employment community and encourages a supportive attitude among employers who are willing to hire students who are actively pursuing the completion of their high school education. Students may also earn school credit for time on the job during their period of enrollment at Sunset High School. Registration for the fall term is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 20 and 21. Interested persons should call the Sunset High School Office 799-4160 for specific registration information.