

Today, narrowly configured, and larger schools, are quite common, and the K-8 school is a minority configuration. The table shows just how passé wide grade-span configurations have become in the US.

Not only are contemporary schools narrowly configured, these more narrowly configured schools enroll greater numbers of kids per grade than did their more broadly configured predecessors. That's a problem because it means that nearly all schools are much, much larger than they used to be (with locale differences controlled). A K-2 school enrolling 360 students doesn't seem all that large by comparison to all those hefty suburban high schools enrolling 2,000 kids, does it? But with 120 5-to-8 year olds per grade, however, it's very large; and that's become our standard. The Table, in fact, shows that enrollment per grade in K-2 schools is very large across all three locale types-urban, suburban, and rural. K-2 schools, especially given their diminutive clientele, are among the largest schools in the nation! Surprisingly, they are most common in rural areas and small towns.

Major Grade Span Configurations:

Number, Percentage of Schools Within Locale, Average Size (Enrollment Per Grade)

configuration	total number of schools in U.S.	rural or small-town schools	urban fringe schools	city schools
K-2	1,387	2.5% (112)	2.2% (137)	0.9% (118)
10-12	549	0.7% (197)	0.9% (429)	0.7% (460)
6-8 or 7-9	10,676	13.8% (139)	17.0% (274)	15.0% (295)
5-8	1,323	2.7% (105)	1.8% (155)	0.8% (173)
9-12	10,833	19.1% (125)	14.9% (311)	11.3% (384)
K-5	21,753	18.3% (60)	35.4% (85)	42.8% (85)

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FFR14, PLEASE NOTE: The K-2 schools in every locale have greater number of students per grade, rural, city, urban, etc. THEY ARE THE LARGEST SCHOOLS basically in the country if you look at students per grade.

This is, in essence, a big consolidated school.



Filename: Excerpt from a study on consolidations and grade spans  
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\pam\My Documents\Region 14  
Elementary  
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\pam\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: Today, narrowly configured, and larger schools, are quite  
common, and the K-8 school is a minority configuration  
Subject:  
Author: Pamela A. Gengenbach  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 12/18/2006 2:36:00 PM  
Change Number: 1  
Last Saved On: 12/18/2006 2:42:00 PM  
Last Saved By: Pamela A. Gengenbach  
Total Editing Time: 6 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 12/18/2006 2:42:00 PM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 2  
Number of Words: 277 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 1,583 (approx.)