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National K-12 Language Enrollments: Trends and Analyses from the 2007-2008 Study

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National K-12 Language Enrollments: Trends and Analyses from the 2007-2008 Study

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Department of Education Grant: P017A070039

Overview

- Project Background and Goals
- Data Collection and Processing
- State Results
- Estimation Method
- Language and National Totals
- Next Steps

Project Background

- Department of Education funded project
- Purpose: To determine foreign language enrollments in U.S. public schools in grades K-12
- Updating previous ACTFL studies

Project Goals

- Report 2007-2008 enrollment totals by:
 - Language
 - Grade level
 - State
 - Local Education Agency (school, district, county, etc.)

Project Goals

- Determine National language enrollment totals
- Determine State and National level enrollment totals for previous years
- Improve accuracy of both State and National level totals

Data Collection

- ACTFL Research Initiative
 - Spring 2008
 - Attempted to contact State Foreign Language Supervisors in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.
 - Provided this information to SWA as starting point for actually gathering the data

Data Collection

- Contacted State Department of Education data collection sources
- Requested data for 2007-2008 school year, and previous years where available
- Requested data broken down to most detailed levels as possible

Data Processing

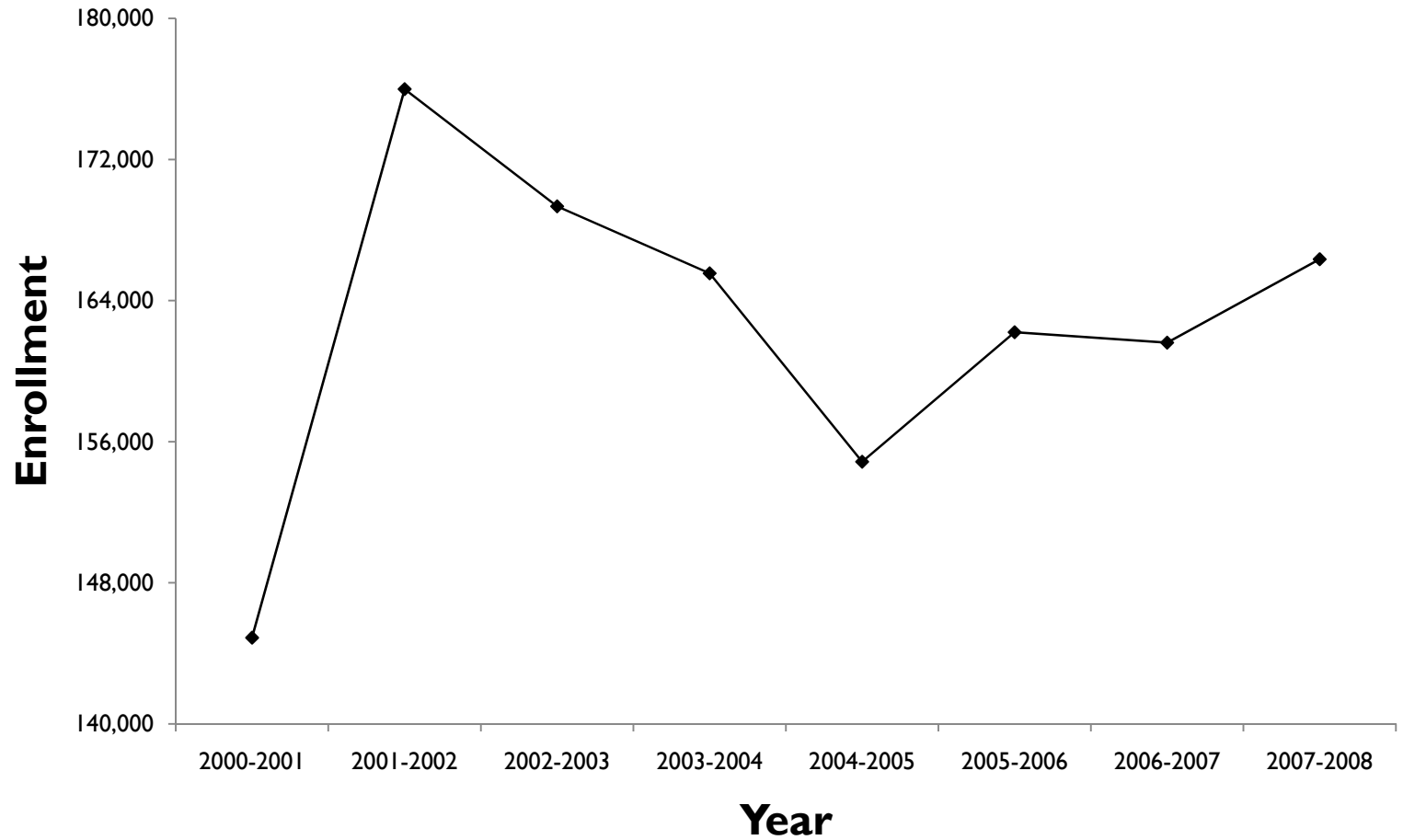
- State data file structures modified to same style
- Removed language courses not directly tied to a specific foreign language

State Results - Overview

- Minnesota
- North Carolina
- California

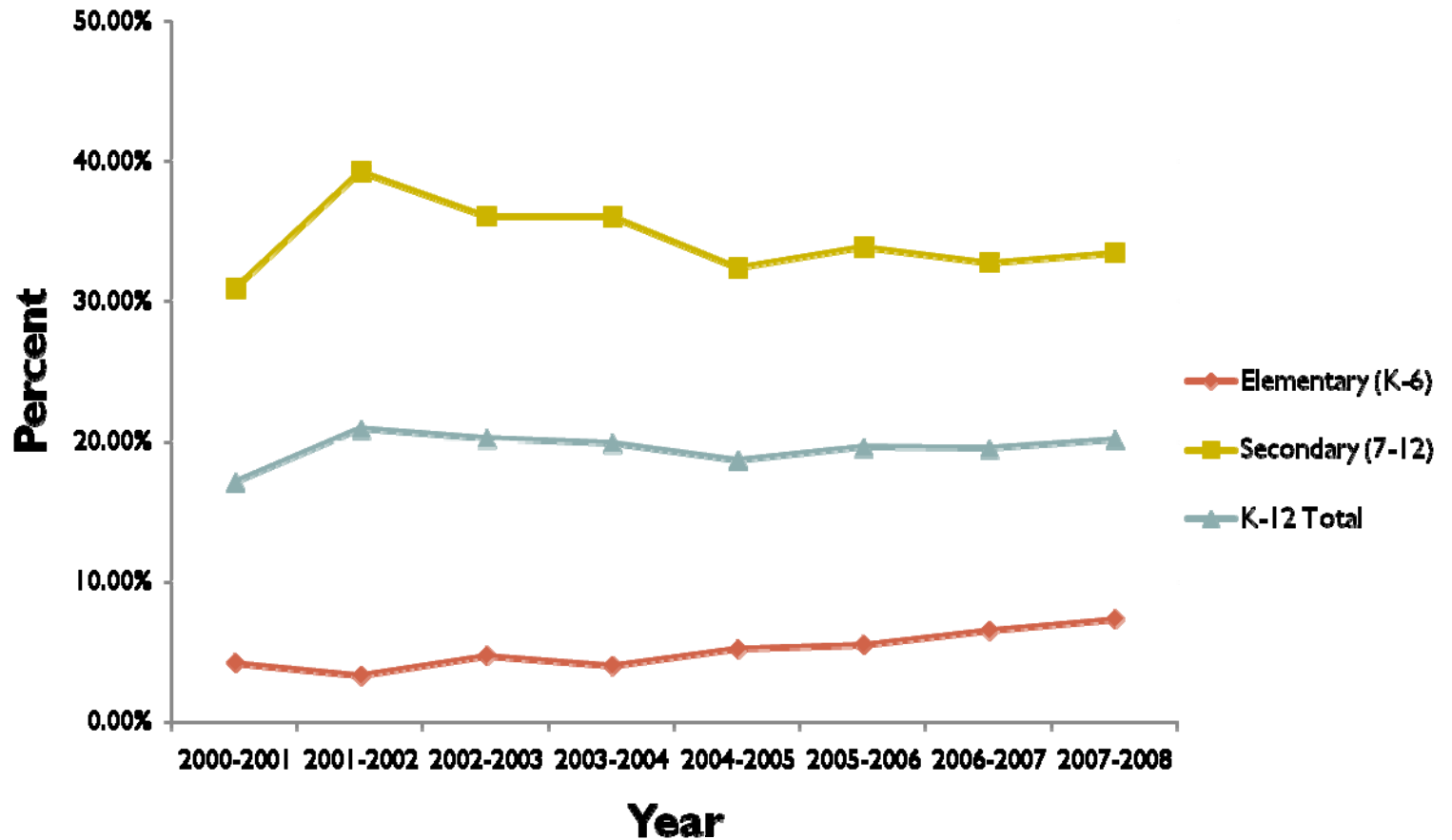
Minnesota

K-12 Foreign Language Enrollment



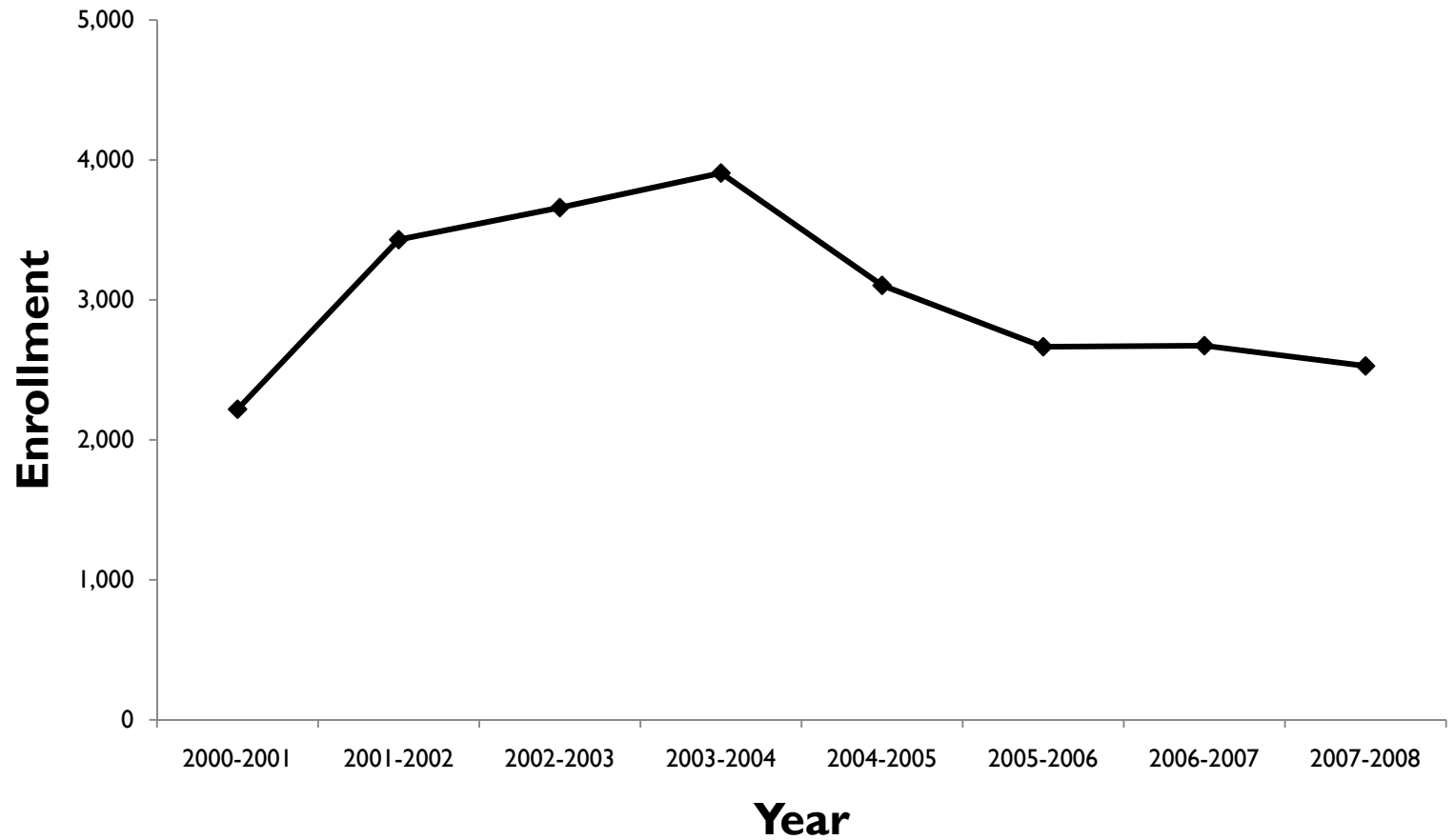
Minnesota

Percent of K-12 Students Enrolled in Foreign Language Courses



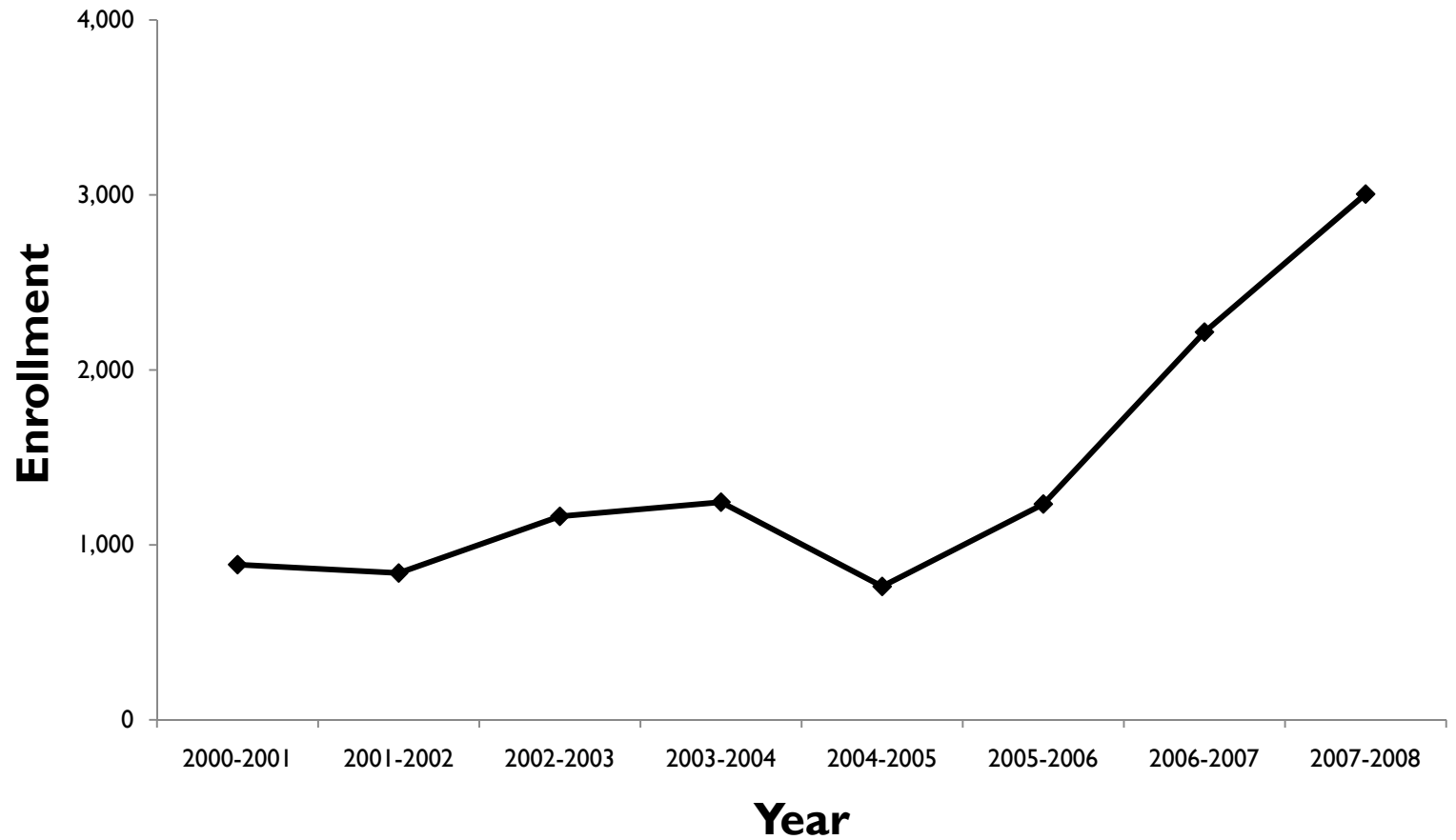
Minnesota

American Sign Language



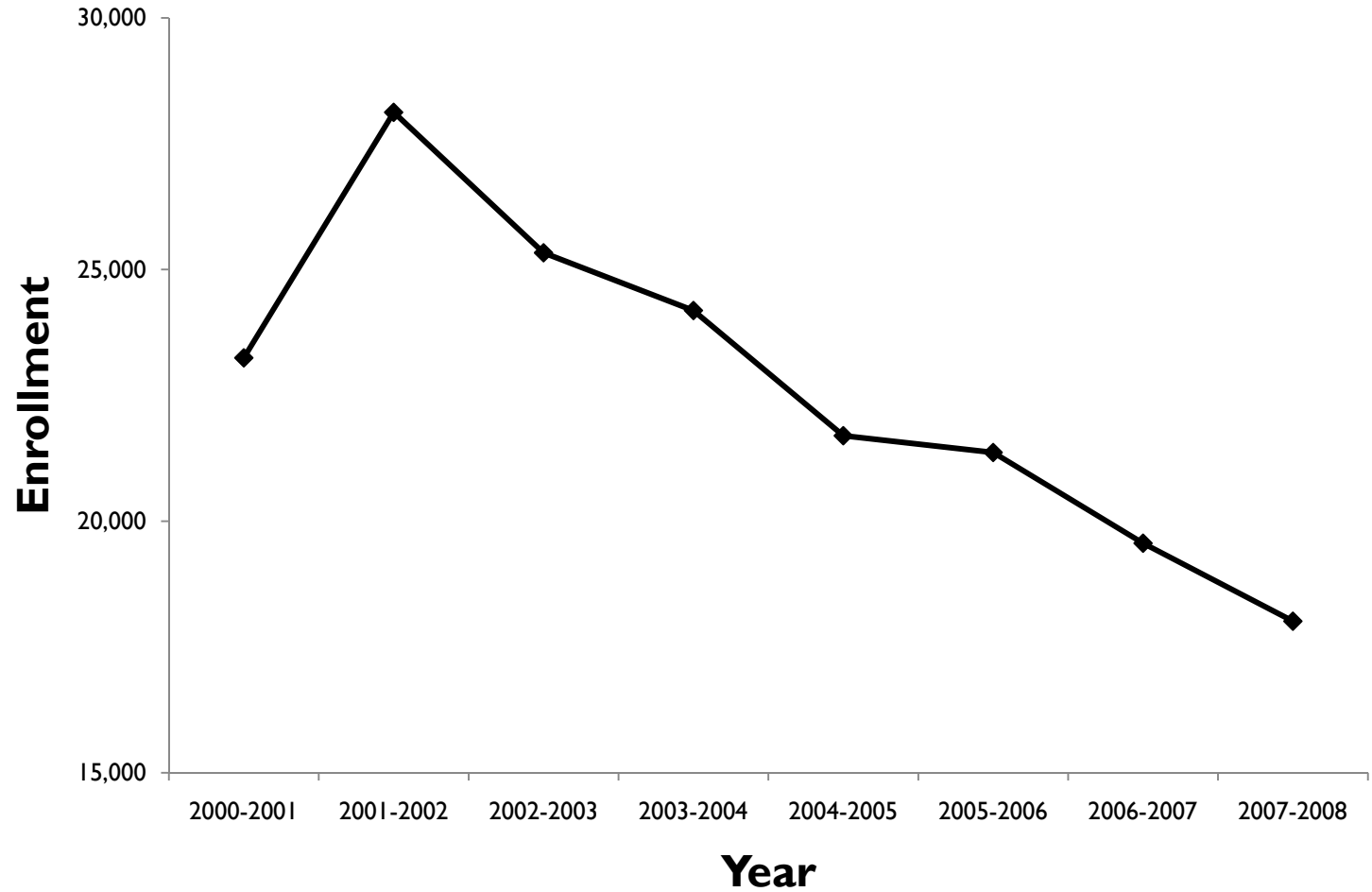
Minnesota

Chinese



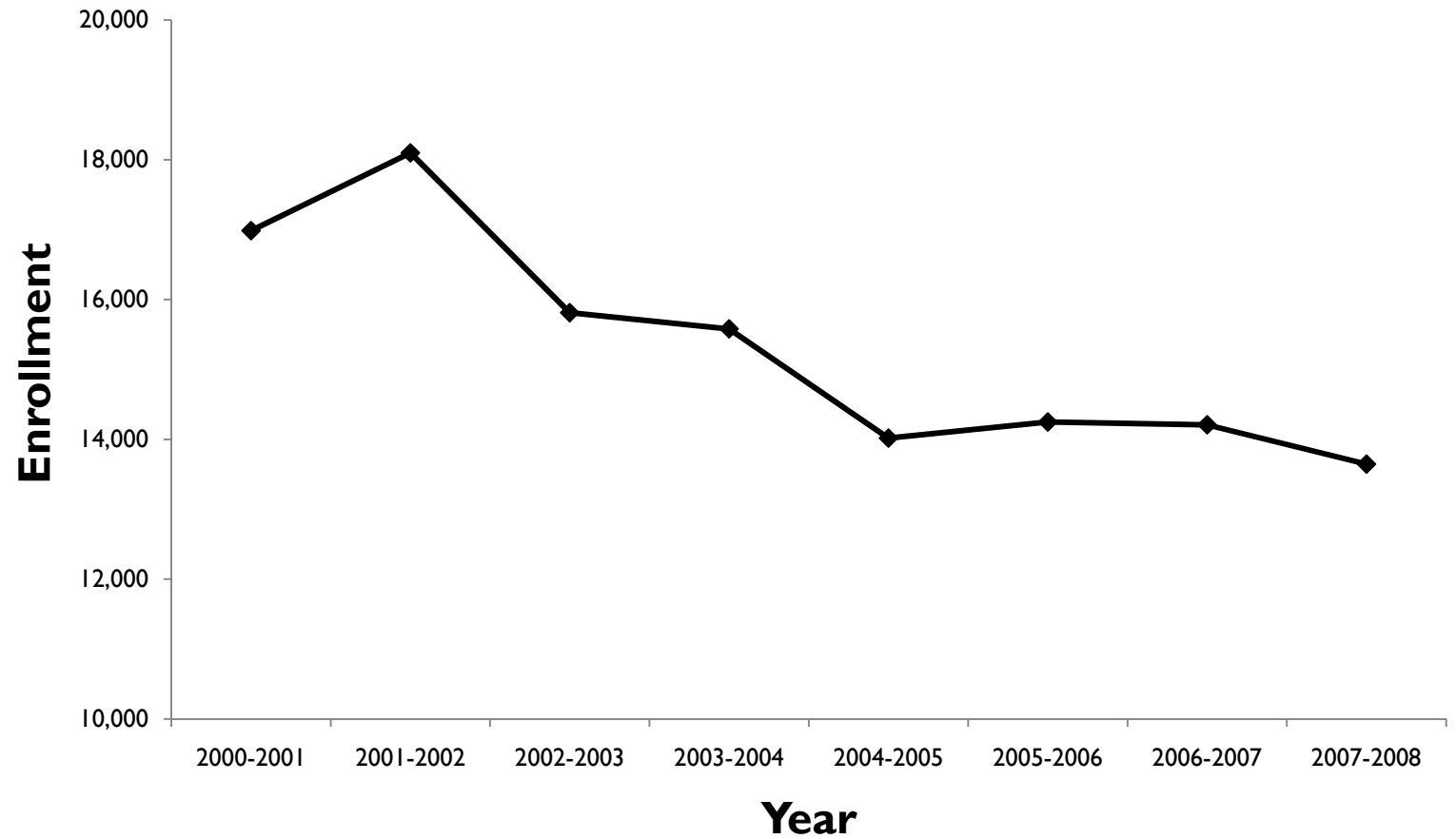
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French



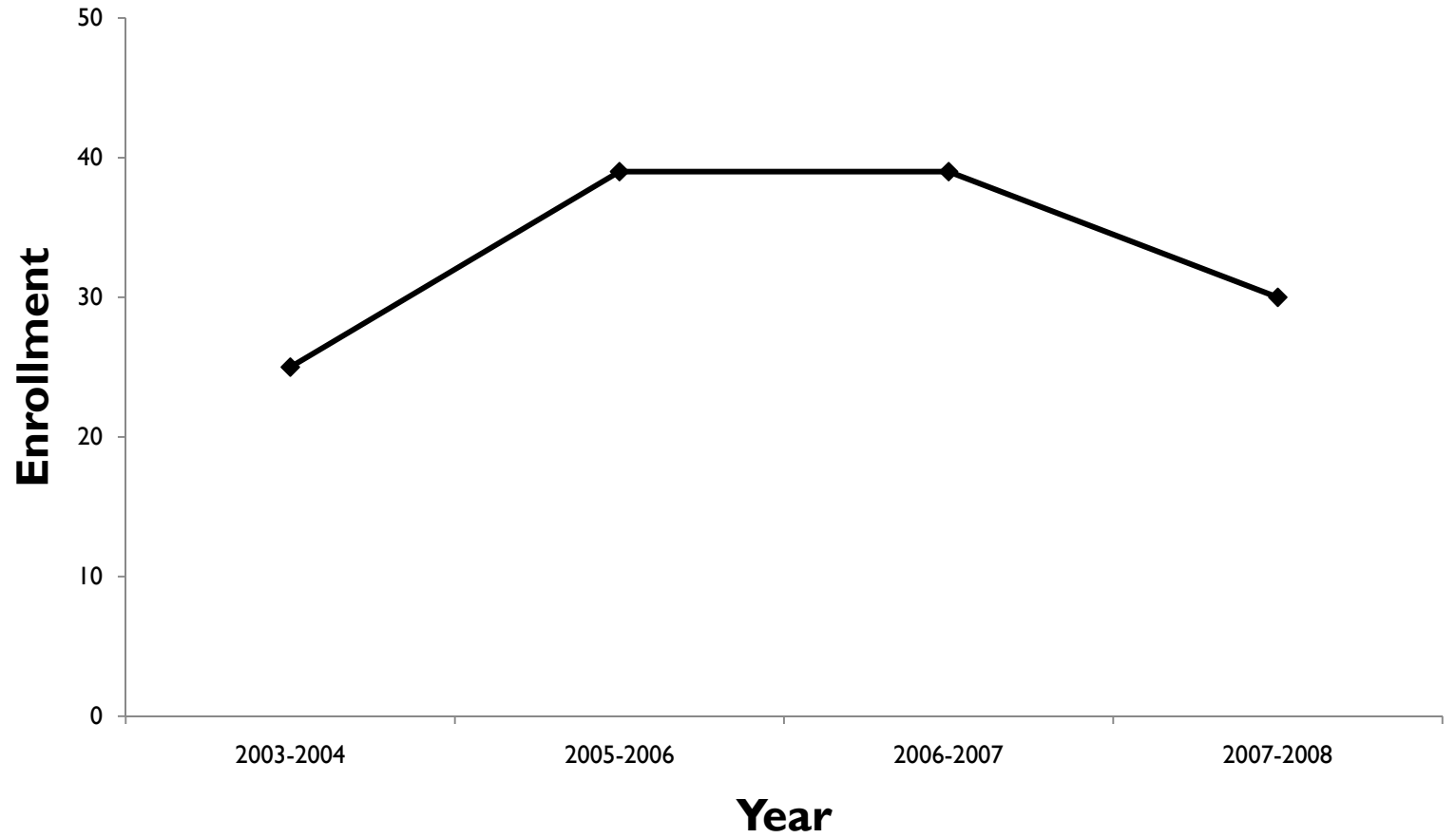
Minnesota

German



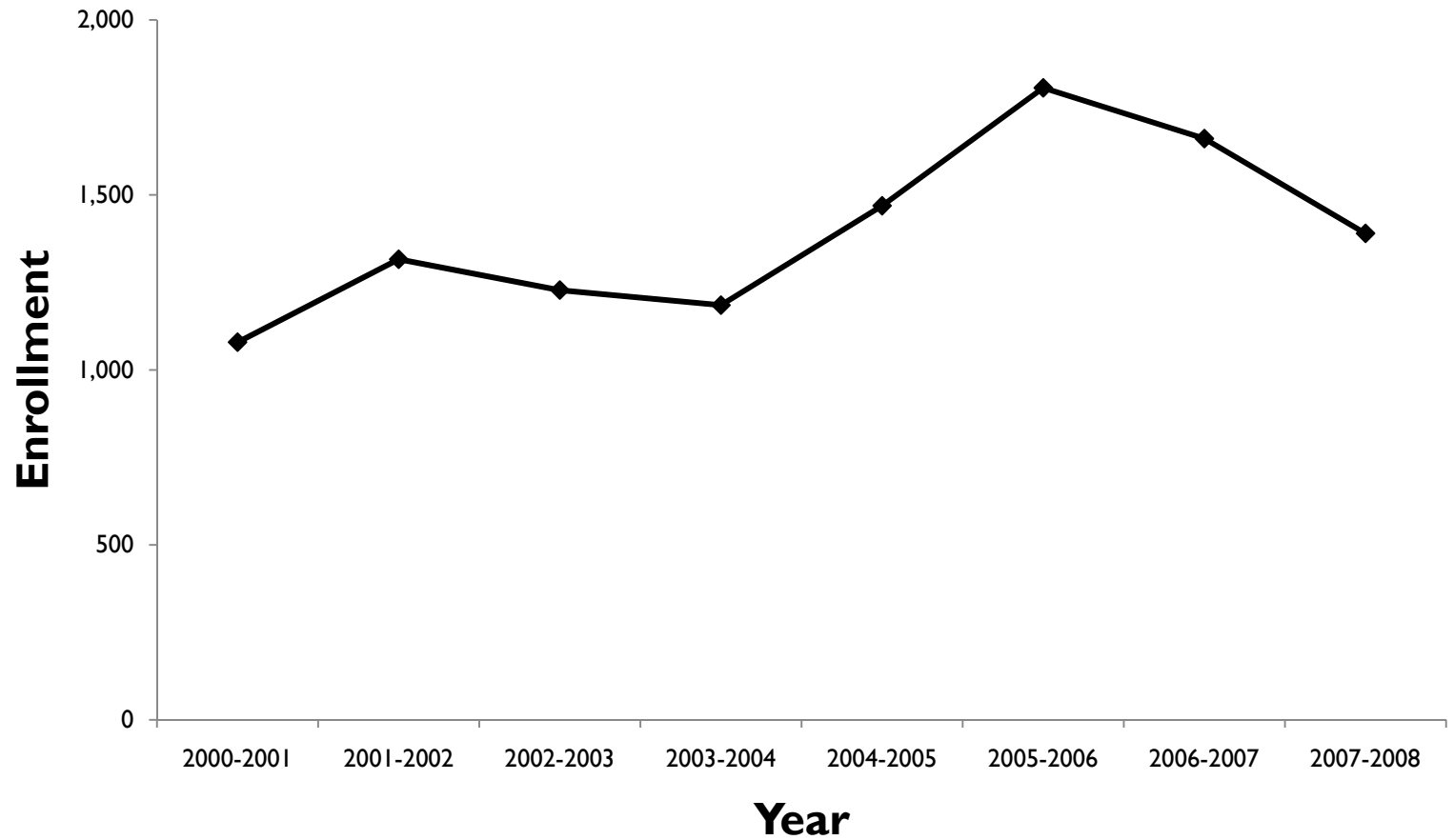
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Hebrew



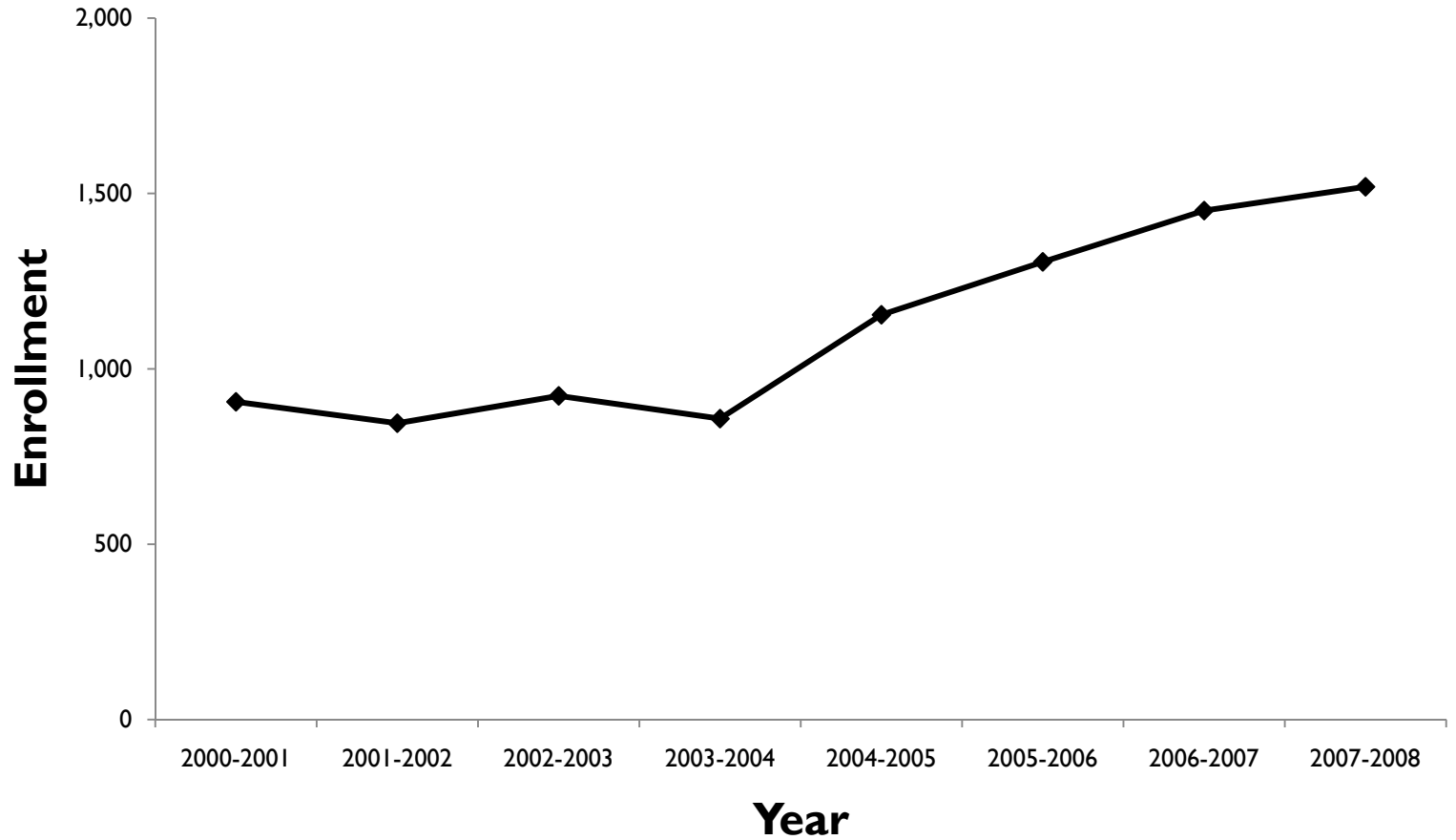
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Japanese



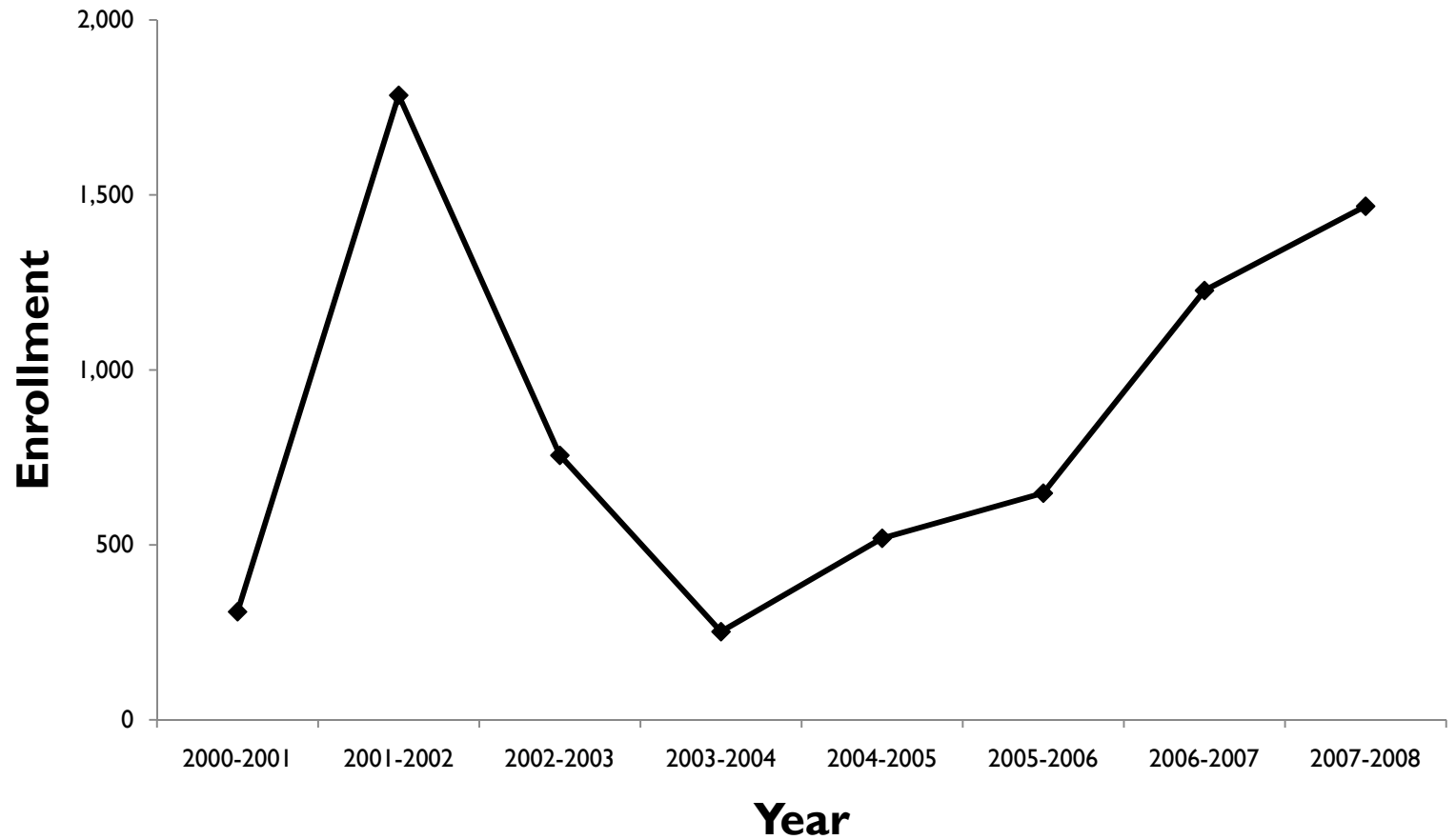
Minnesota

Latin



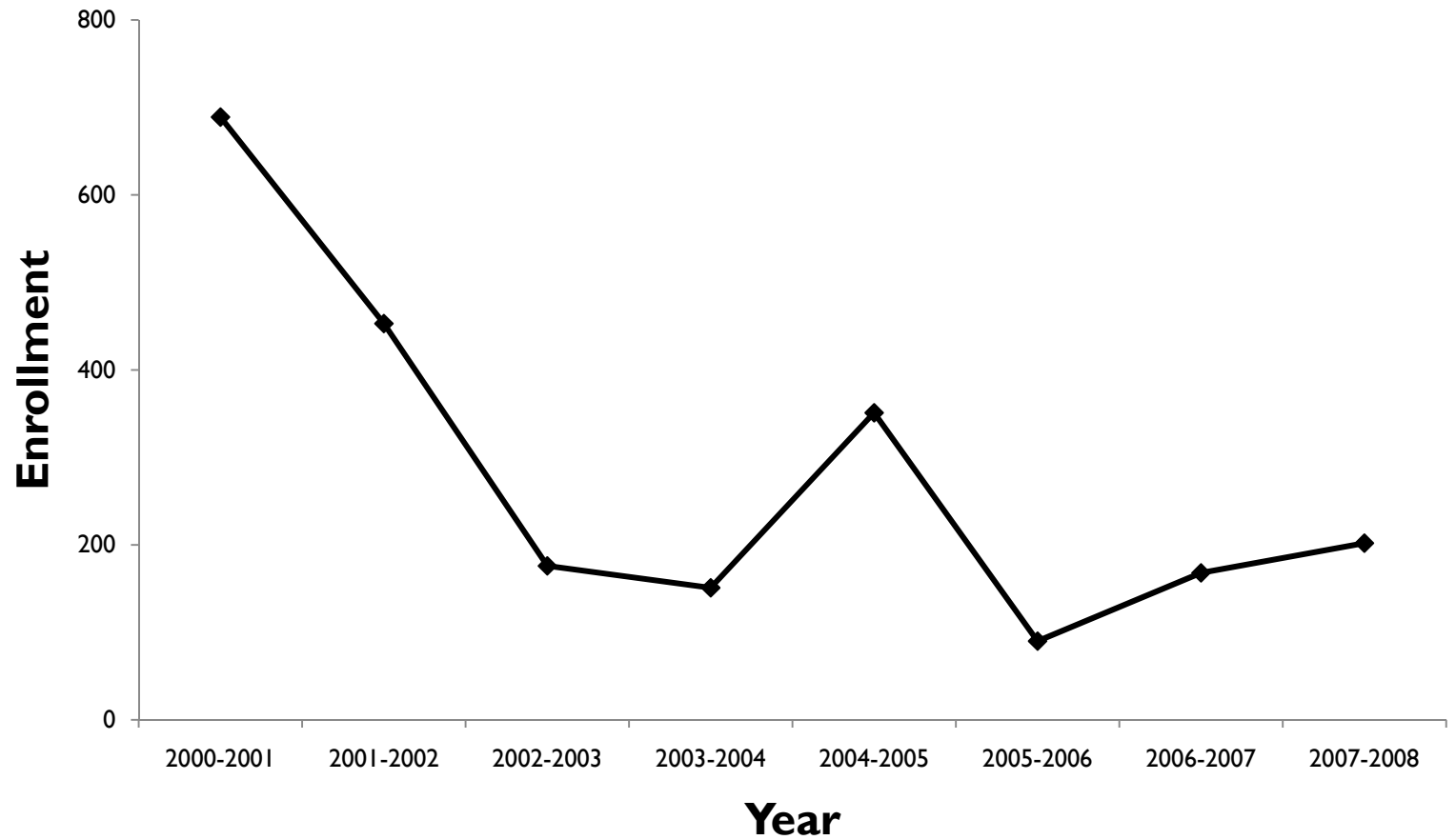
Minnesota

Ojibwe



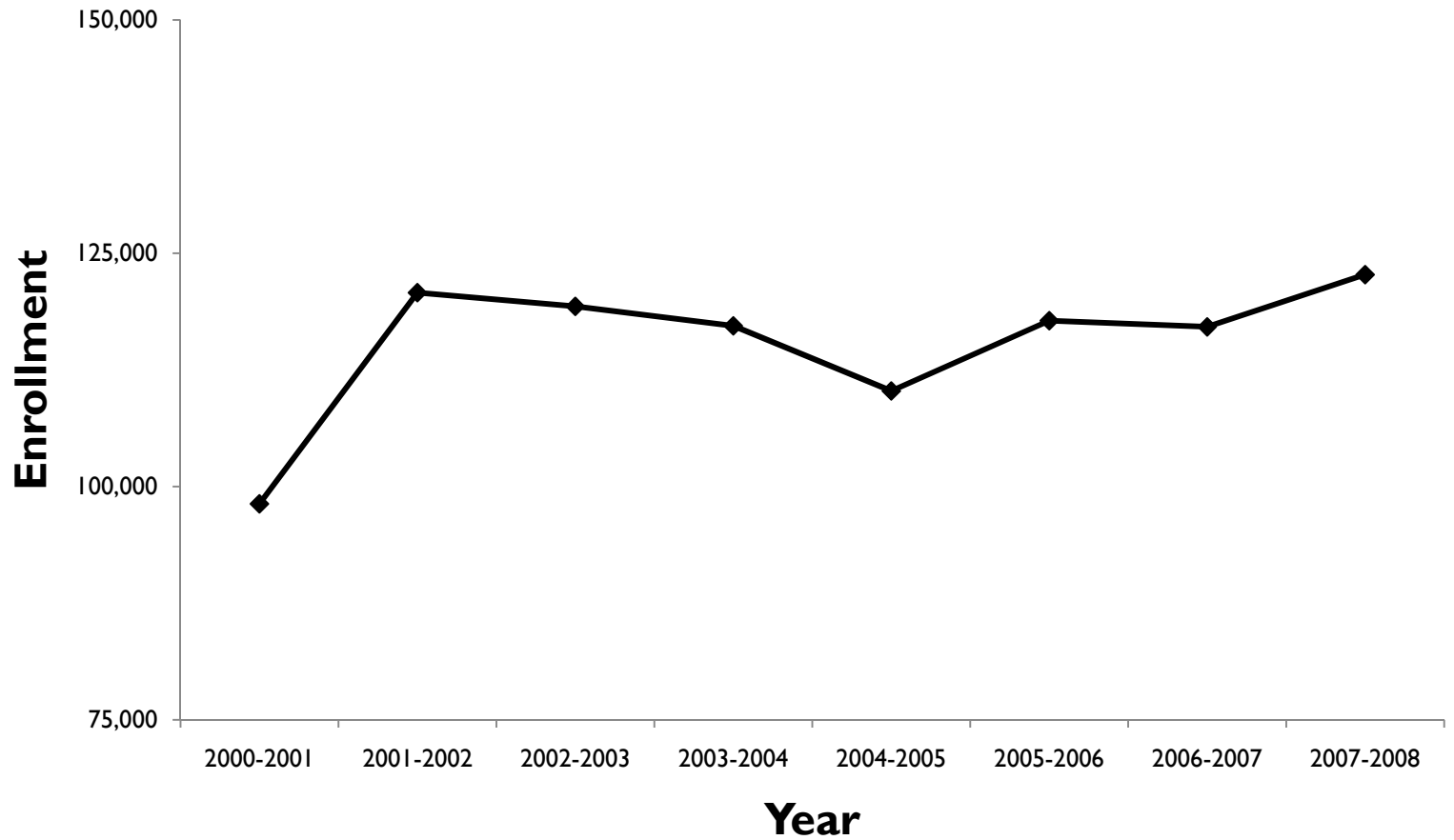
Minnesota

Russian



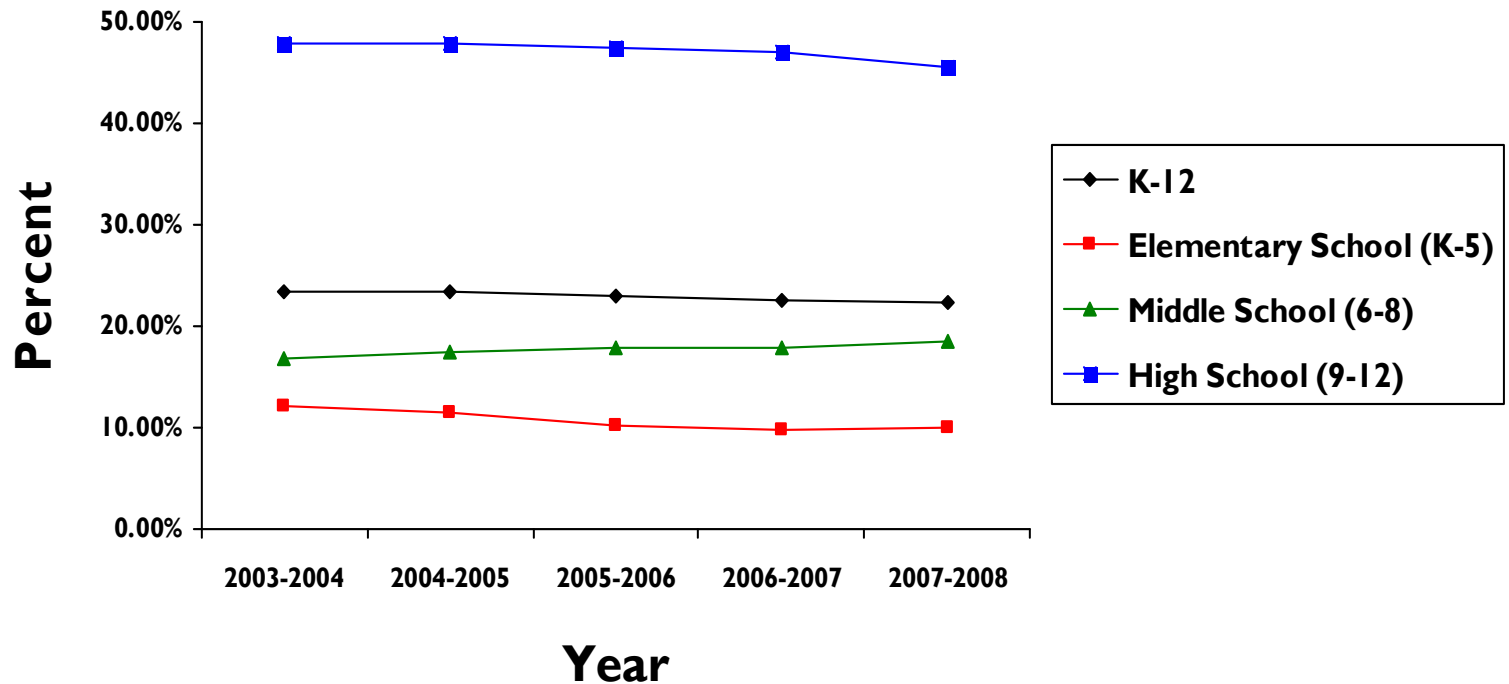
Minnesota

Spanish



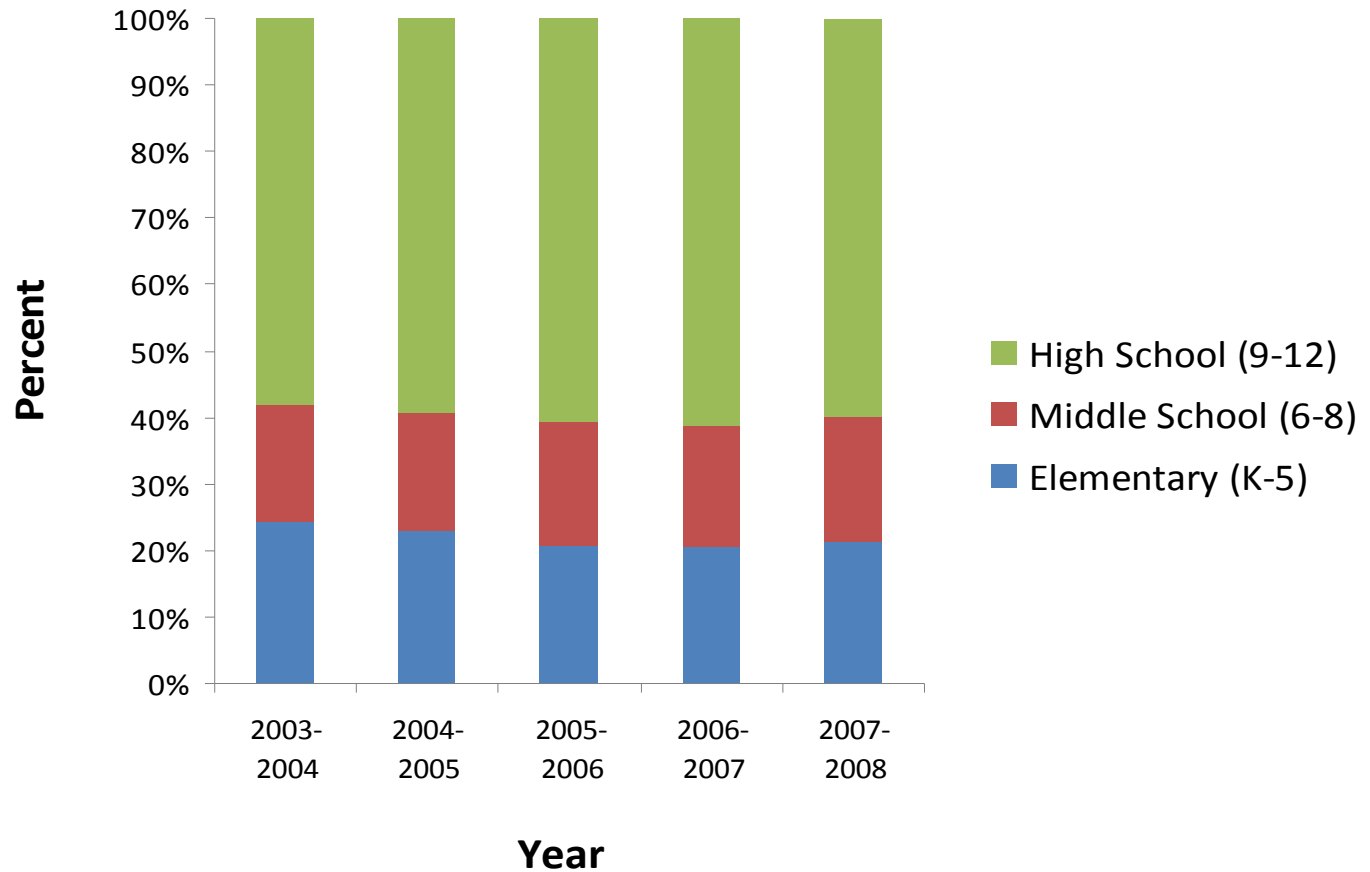
North Carolina

Percent of K-12 Students Enrolled in Foreign Language Courses



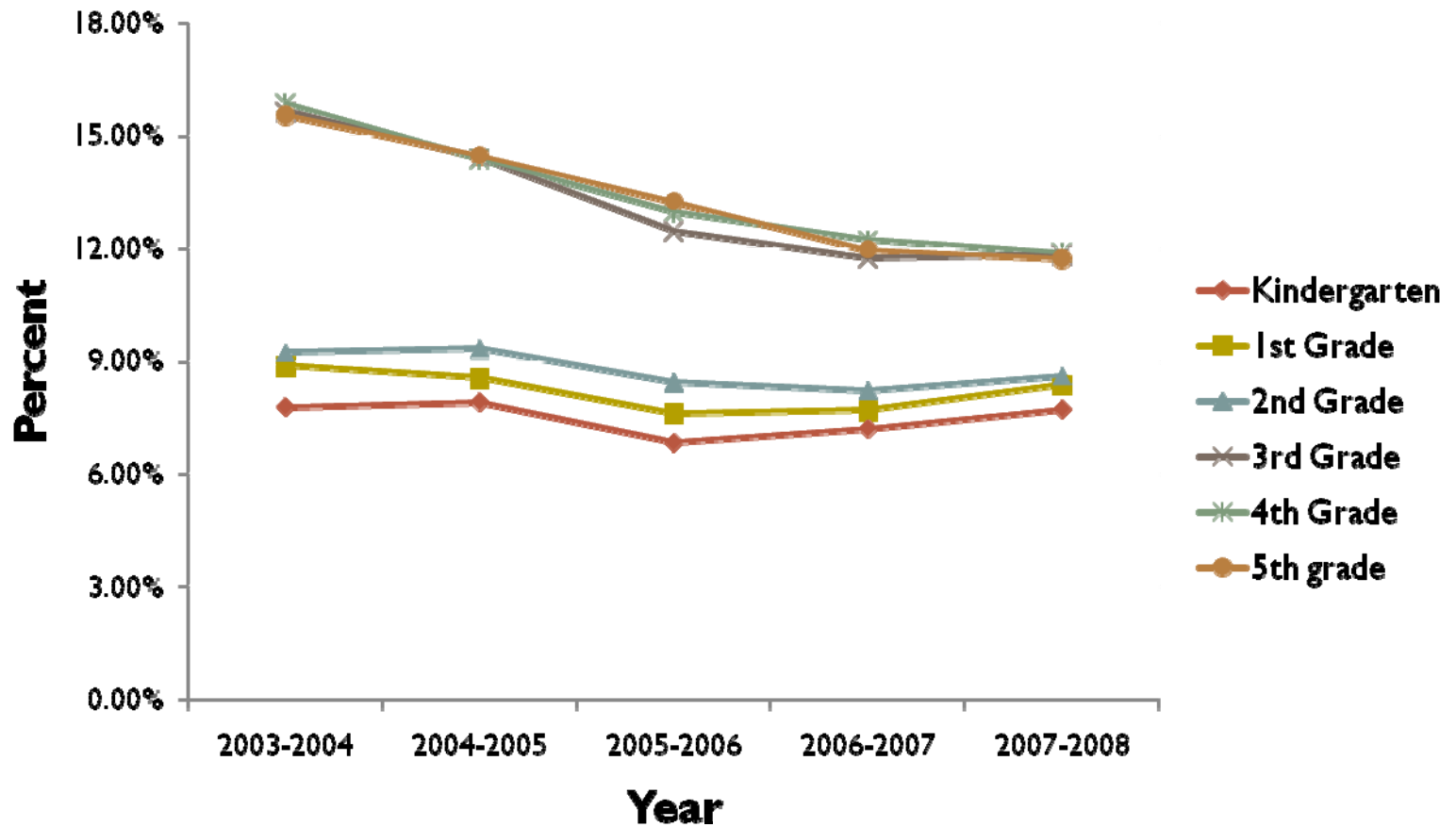
North Carolina

Percent of Total Foreign Language Enrollment



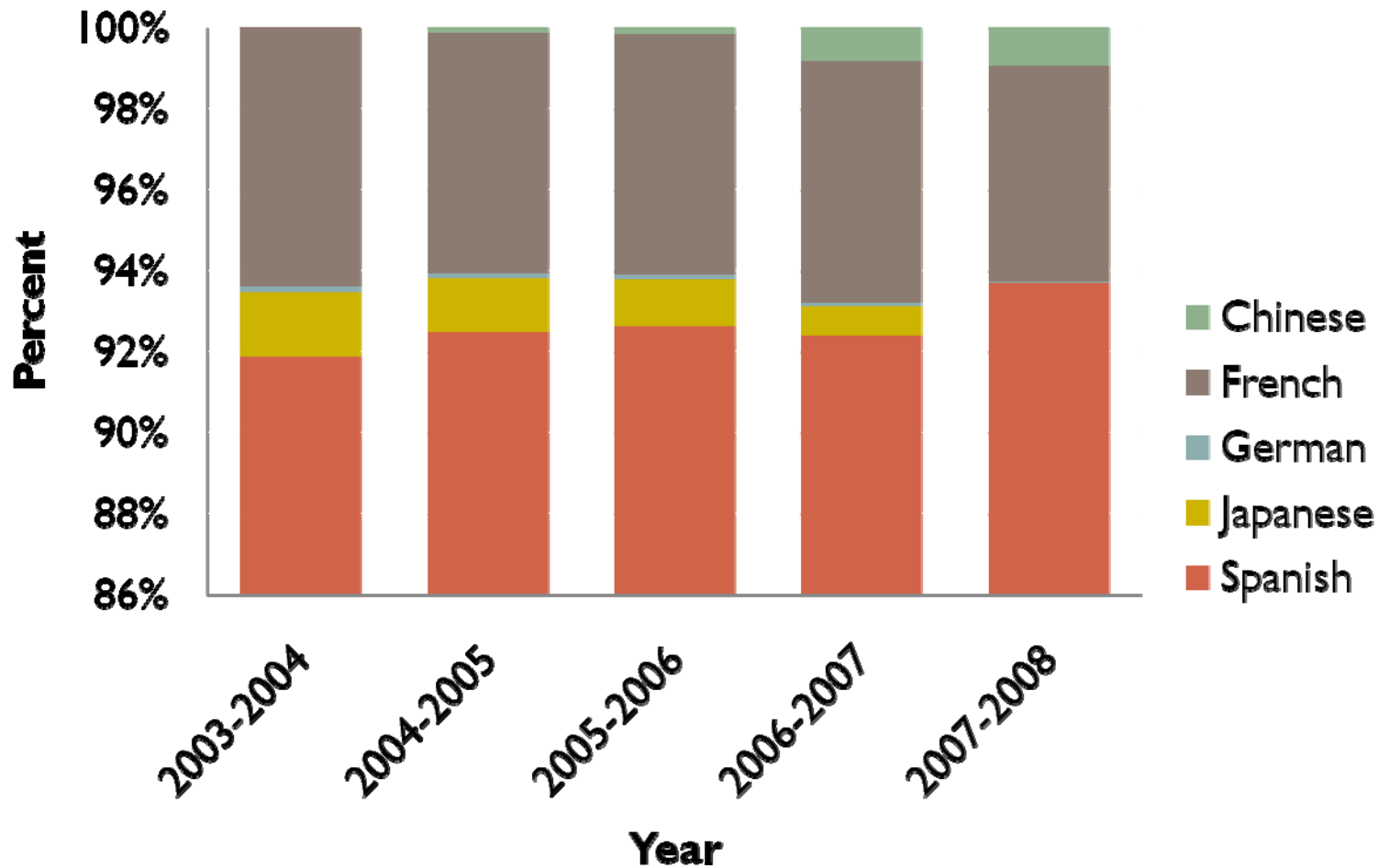
North Carolina

Percent of K-5 Total Student Enrollment Studying Foreign Languages



North Carolina

Languages Studied by K-5 Students

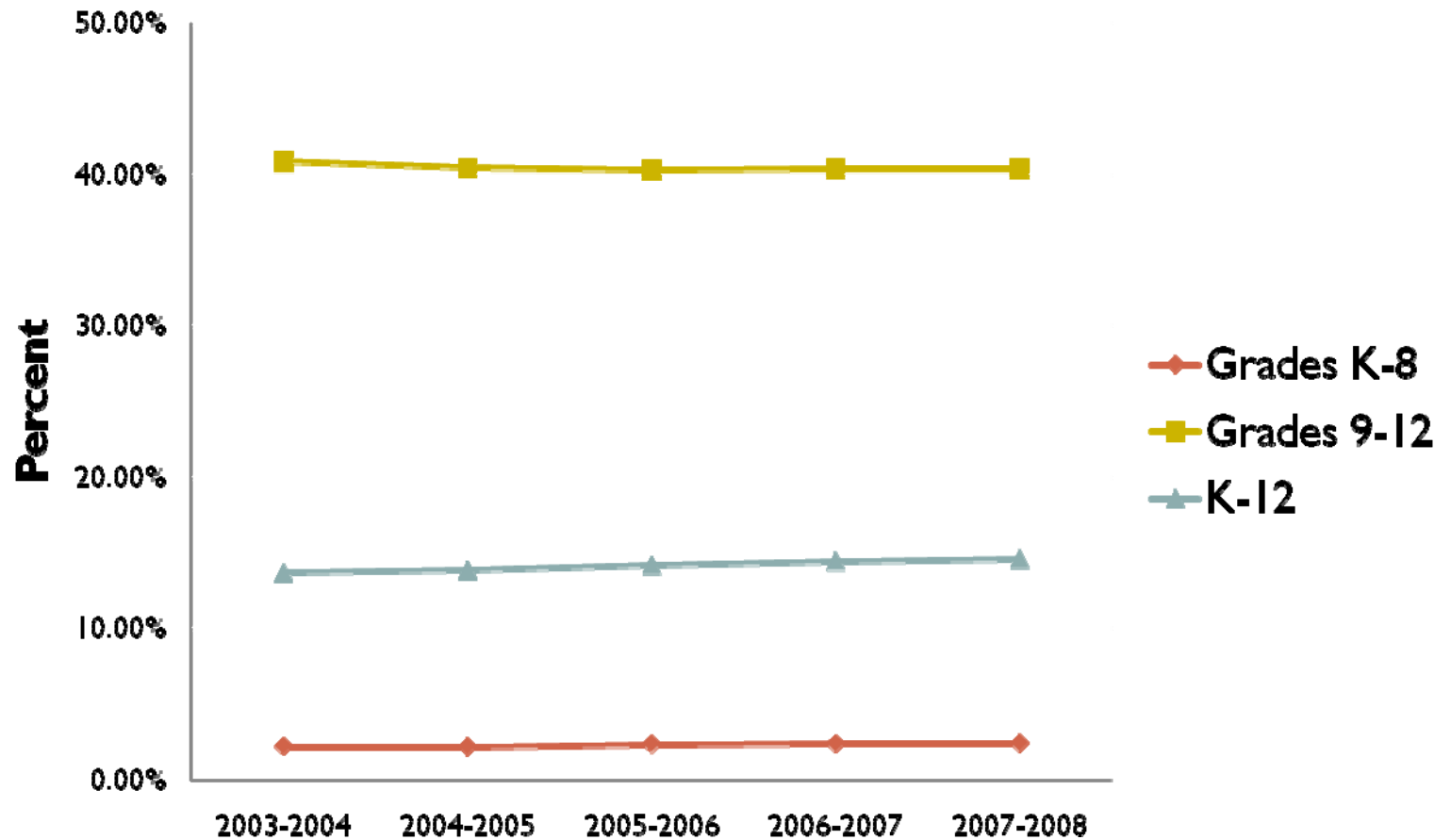


California

- Total 2007-2008 foreign language course enrollment: **917,074**
- Represents **14.6%** of California's total student enrollment
- Students enrolled in **18** specific foreign language courses

California

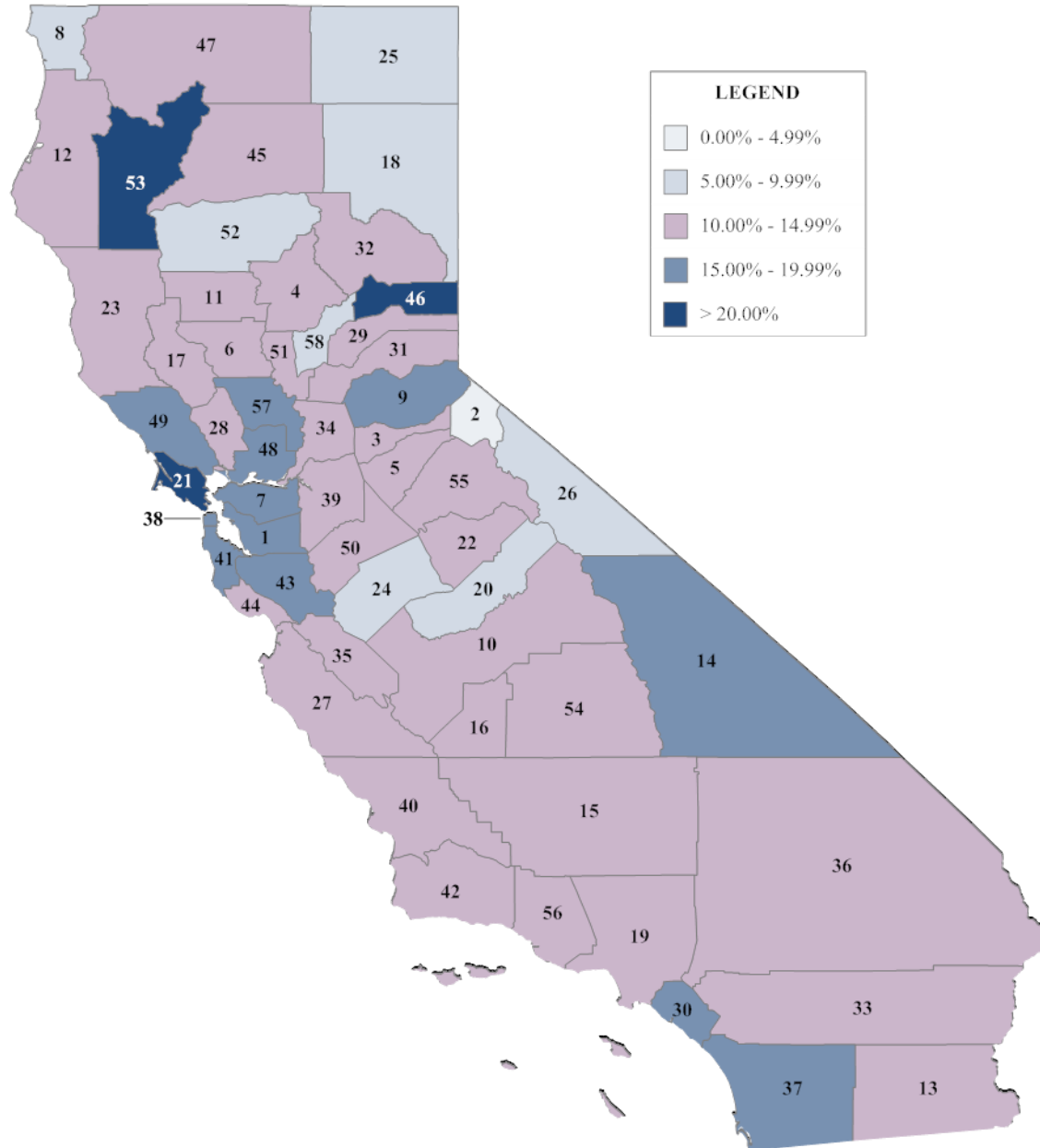
Percent of K-12 Students Enrolled in Foreign Language Courses



California

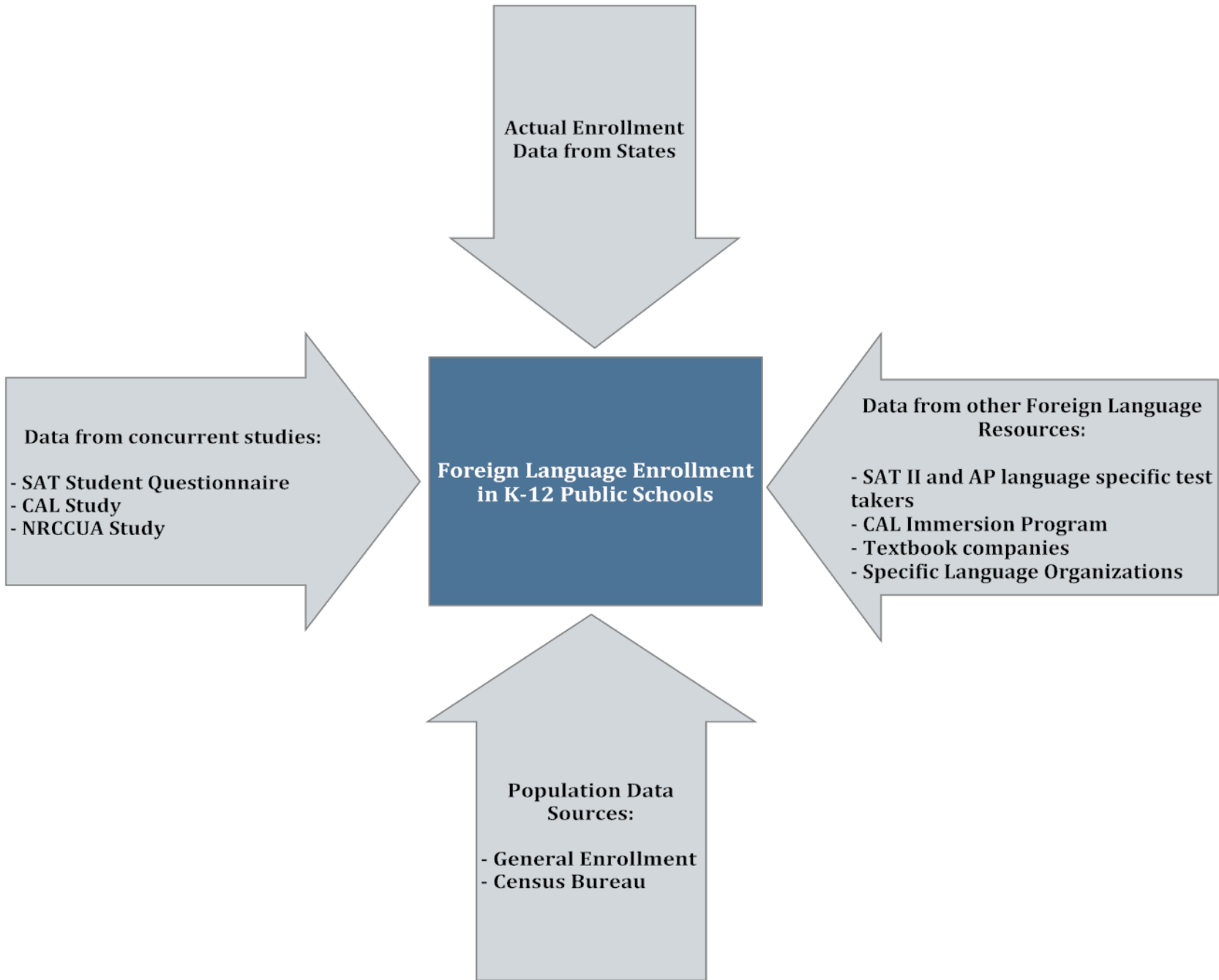
LANGUAGE	2007-2008 ENROLLMENT
Spanish	617,871
French	120,960
Spanish for Native Speakers	89,727
German	16,202
Japanese	14,748
Other Foreign Language	13,284
Chinese	12,710
American Sign Language	10,681
Latin	6,631
Italian	4,145
Filipino	2,532
Korean	2,374
Vietnamese	1,580
Other Language for Native Speakers	1,286
Russian	943
Portuguese	756
Chinese for Native Speakers	477
Korean for Native Speakers	167

California



Estimation Method

- 17 of states do not collect foreign language course enrollment data
- Used data from other sources to build estimation models
- Goal: to determine preliminary estimates for National level totals



Preliminary National Totals

- These are **NOT** final totals
- Totals may change slightly from now until the release in February due to:
 - Adding in actual numbers for 3 more states
 - Adding additional variables to estimation models

Preliminary National Spanish Totals

- Known (31 states): **4,840,306**
- Estimated (20 states): **2,109,241**
- Total: **6,949,547**

Preliminary National French Totals

- Known (31 states): **910,448**
- Estimated (20 states): **403,442**
- Total: **1,313,890**

Preliminary National German Totals

- Known (31 states): **269,641**
- Estimated (20 states): **178,471**
- Total: **448,112**

Preliminary National Latin Totals

- Known (31 states): **143,259**
- Estimated (20 states): **72,102**
- Total: **215,361**

Preliminary National Japanese Totals

- Known (31 states): **42,759**
- Estimated (20 states): **29,095**
- Total: **71,854**

Preliminary National Chinese Totals

- Known (29 states): **46,122**
- Estimated (22 states): **20,371**
- Total: **66,493**

Preliminary National Russian Totals

- Known (31 states): **7,906**
- Estimated (20 states): **3,393**
- Total: **11,299**

Preliminary National Other Totals

- Known (31 states): **384,200**
- Estimated (20 states): **156,546**
- Total: **540,746**

Preliminary National K-12 Foreign Language Totals

- Known (31 states): **6,644,641**
- Estimated (20 states): **2,972,661**
- Total: **9,617,302**

Problems and Challenges

- States that do not have data
- Data collection
 - Variability across states
 - Variability within a state
- Variability in language courses offered

Next Steps

- Finish processing and totaling data from remaining states
- Produce state reports
- Introduce additional variables into estimation models to increase accuracy
- Calculate totals for a comparison year

Next Steps

- Release final National results
- Make reports available online
- Secure additional funding for study continuation

ABOUT SWA CONSULTING INC.

SWA Consulting Inc. (formerly Surface, Ward, and Associates) provides analytics and evidence-based solutions for clients using the principles and methods of industrial/organizational (I/O) psychology. Since 1997, SWA has advised and assisted corporate, non-profit and governmental clients on:

- Training and development
- Performance measurement and management
- Organizational effectiveness
- Test development and validation
- Program/training evaluation
- Work/job analysis
- Needs assessment
- Selection system design
- Study and analysis related to human capital issues
- Metric development and data collection
- Advanced data analysis

One specific practice area is analytics, research, and consulting on foreign language and culture in work contexts. In this area, SWA has conducted numerous projects, including language assessment validation and psychometric research; evaluations of language training, training tools, and job aids; language and culture focused needs assessments and job analysis; and advanced analysis of language research data.

Based in Raleigh, NC, and led by Drs. Eric A. Surface and Stephen J. Ward, SWA now employs close to twenty I/O professionals at the masters and PhD levels. SWA professionals are committed to providing clients the best data and analysis with which to make solid data-driven decisions. Taking a scientist-practitioner perspective, SWA professionals conduct model-based, evidence-driven research and consulting to provide the best answers and solutions to enhance our clients' mission and business objectives. SWA has competencies in measurement, data collection, analytics, data modeling, systematic reviews, validation, and evaluation.

For more information about SWA, our projects, and our capabilities, please visit our website (www.swa-consulting.com) or contact Dr. Eric A. Surface (esurface@swa-consulting.com) or Dr. Stephen J. Ward (sward@swa-consulting.com).