

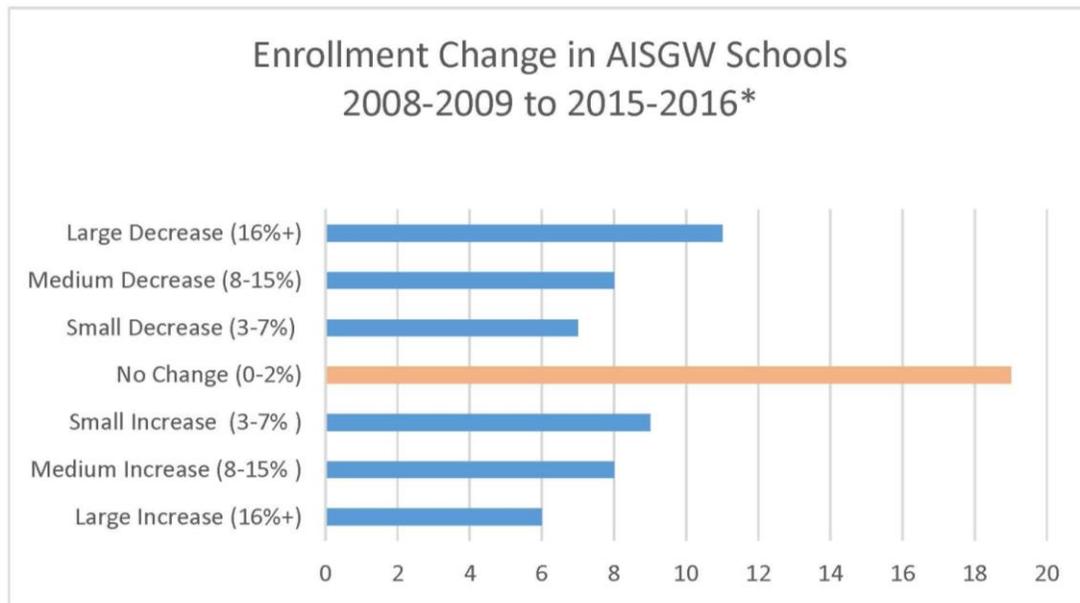
## May Day 2016 AISGW Intel 's "DASL Dashboard of the Day"

### Select Post-Recession Enrollment Trends in AISGW Schools

In its *2014-2015 Trendbook* NAIS notes regarding independent school enrollment that "[i]t's been five full school years since the onset of the Great Recession in 2008" and asks, "How does the post-recession reality compare with the pre-recession picture?" (p. 7)

Well, we now have seven years of data since the end of the recession, and as Executive Director of AISGW, one of the most frequent questions that Heads and other school leaders ask me remains, "**How are our AISGW schools doing so I can compare that to my school for our Board?**"

We begin to address this question for AISGW schools with a look at the enrollment data we have for our current AISGW schools for the seven-school-year period 2008-2009 to 2015-2016.



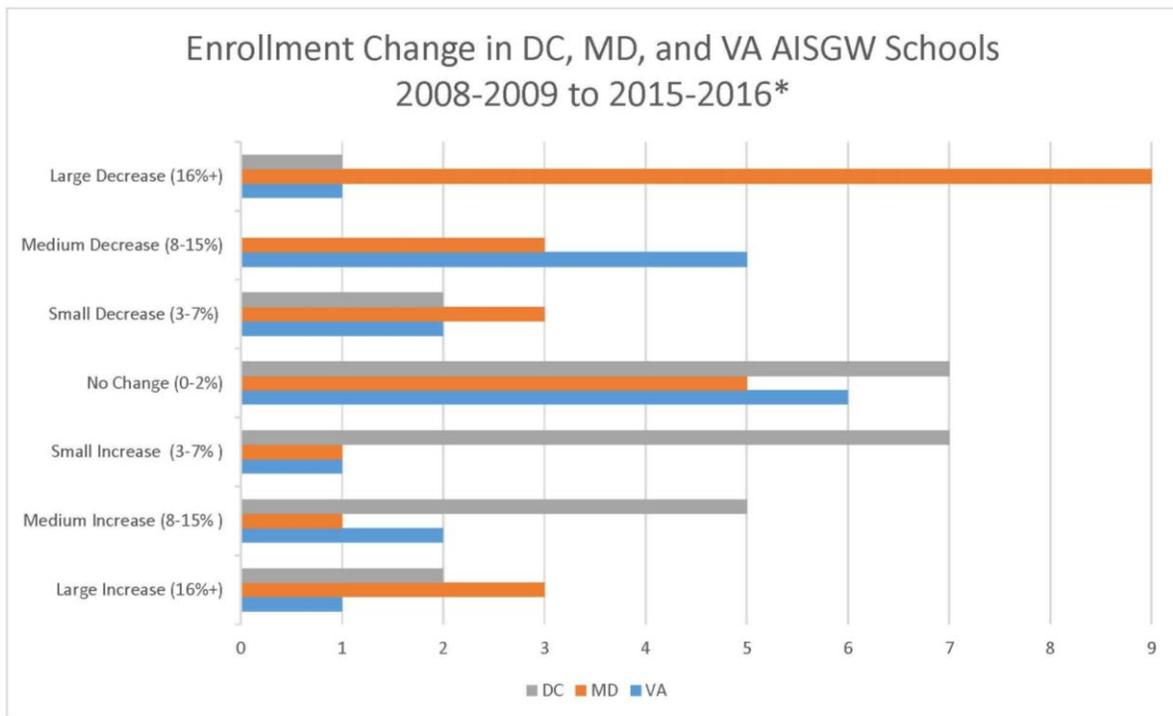
**Figure 1**

*\*These cross-time enrollment data are from 68 of the 69 AISGW schools that were members over this time period and for which we have complete data.*

Overall enrollment in AISGW schools has declined 2.6% since the end of the recession despite quite small increases the past two years. Actually, most AISGW schools have experienced no or

relatively small enrollment growth or decline over this period, i.e., 2 % or less decline or growth over this seven-year period as seen in Figure 1.

As seen in Figure 1, seven AISGW schools have experienced a small (3-7%) decrease in enrollment; eight AISGW schools a modest (8-15%) decrease in enrollment; and eleven AISGW schools a relatively large (16-57%) decrease in enrollment. On the other hand, nine AISGW schools have experienced a small (3-7%) increase in enrollment; eight AISGW schools a modest (8-15%) increase in enrollment; and six AISGW schools a relatively large (16-53%) increase in enrollment.



**Figure 2**

*\*These cross-time enrollment data are from 68 of the 69 AISGW schools that were members over this time period and for which we have complete data.*

There are, nonetheless, notable differences in these cross-time enrollment trends in AISGW schools when comparing schools in DC and Virginia to those in Maryland. For example, as seen in Figure 2 above, nine Maryland AISGW schools experienced large enrollment declines of 16% and higher compared to only one AISGW school in DC and Virginia. On the other hand, three AISGW schools in Maryland experienced large enrollment increases of 16% and higher as did two AISGW schools in DC and one AISGW school in Virginia.

When looking at any decline or increase in enrollment of more than 2% over this period, we can also see notable differences in DC, Maryland, and Virginia by looking at the chart below.

	DC	MD	VA
Increased Enrollment of > 2%	14	6	4
Decreased Enrollment of > 2%	3	15	13

In subsequent “DASL Dashboards for the Day,” we hope to look at other important enrollment trend analyses, as well as more complex considerations such as net tuition, financial aid, and other longitudinal trends. Stay tuned.

As we reported in the New Year’s Edition of *AISGW Intel*, one of the many advantages of DASL are the resources it offers to schools for benchmarking. All AISGW member schools (regardless of their affiliation with NAIS) now have access to the tools in DASL for creating reports on the collected data from our association. We encourage admission and development directors, business officers, and heads of schools to explore the potential for mining the data available in DASL for their planning and budgeting needs.

To assist schools in getting the most out of DASL, AISGW is planning to hold workshops in the coming months on the benchmarking and reporting tools available in DASL. Details regarding these important workshops will be coming soon.

DASL can generate reports on all survey categories including enrollment, tuition, financial aid, diversity, advancement, and staffing statistics. The complete report option in DASL provides values for each school selected in your comparison group. However, DASL will not report salary and compensation values; these variables can only be viewed in summary.

AISGW continues to offer custom reports that can more precisely yield comparison data based on a selection of schools. Because AISGW custom reports display data anonymously, they can provide salary and compensation data for more insightful benchmarking.

Please contact Kevin Kelso ([kkelso@aisgw.org](mailto:kkelso@aisgw.org)) for more information about AISGW custom reports.