Enrollment figures during the first few days of school in Holyoke School District Re-1J remained the same as the numbers recorded one year ago as the school year began.

Students started classes Wednesday, Aug. 22, and additions and deletions to class lists were still in progress this week.

As of Tuesday morning, Aug. 28, the total enrollment for K-12 was at 589, the same number reported just one year ago.

That includes 342 in grades K-6, 231 in grades 7-12 and 16 at Holyoke Alternative High School.

For state funding purposes, the actual student count is linked to the Oct. 1 enrollment, not this first-week count.

The funded full-time equivalent (FTE) student number counts kindergartners as .58 of a student and also counts preschoolers eligible for special education services through BOCES as half students.

First-week counts in the district dropped steadily from 2002-07, stayed steady in 2008, increased by 32 in 2009, dropped by 19 in 2010 and increased by 16 last year.

The student count at Holyoke Elementary School is 342, up 10 from a year ago.

Grades 7-12 shows 231 students, down 14 from last year. The junior high (grades 7-8) count was down 10, while the high school (grades 9-12) count was down four.

Holyoke Alternative School count was reported as 16, up four from a year ago.

This year's second-grade class is the largest in the district with 53 students. There are 52 kindergartners, and 50 in grades one and five.

There are 34 HHS juniors, for the smallest class in the district. Thirty-eight are enrolled in seventh, 10th and 12th grades.

Enrollment in individual grades during the first few days of school for 2012-13 follow:

Kindergarten 52, first grade 50, second grade 53, third grade 49, fourth grade 47, fifth grade 50, sixth grade 42, seventh grade 38, eighth grade 41, freshmen 42, sophomores 38, juniors 34, seniors 38 and Alternative High School 16.

Enrollment for the first week of school in past years compares as follows to the 589 count this year: 589 in 2011, 573 in 2010, 592 in 2009, 560 in 2008, 560 in 2007, 572 in 2006 and 622 in 2005.

Supt. Bret Miles said the 2012-13 school year is off to a good start. The student testing which was conducted Aug. 13 and 14 went very well for a first-time effort.

He added that the teachers went through a great deal of work the week prior to the start of school, as they completed professional development sessions.

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