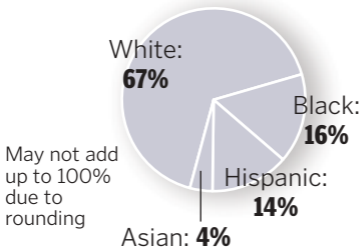


Back To School Facts

State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan issued these statistics as students prepare to return to school over the next few weeks. Of 571,000 public school students:



- ▶ 39,000 are seniors, the largest graduating class in two decades.
- ▶ About 5 percent speak limited English.
- ▶ More than one in four are from low-income families.
- ▶ Of 45,000 teachers, 28 percent are eligible to retire now and 40 percent are eligible within 10 years.