



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Evanston/Skokie District 65 Board of Education

**CC:** Dr. Paul Goren, Superintendent; Peter Godard, Chief Officer, Research, Accountability, & Data

**FROM:** Lora Taira, Director, Research, Accountability, & Data

**DATE:** November 12, 2015

**RE:** Enrollment Projections

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Objective:    \_\_\_ Information         X  Discussion        \_\_\_ Follow-up        \_\_\_ Decision

### Background

Each year, District 65 prepares five-year enrollment projections by grade and school, and for the District. Enrollment projections are used to estimate staffing needs, space usage, revenues and expenditures, transportation needs, and more.

Projections are based on and project to September 30 enrollments, the date the State uses for the official fall enrollment counts. The District's enrollment projections are calculated using a straight-line projection methodology. Using this model, the numbers of students at each grade level are rolled forward to the next grade and fifth graders are assigned to their feeder middle schools. Kindergarten enrollments are estimated using a five-year rolling average. Projections are created for schools and then totaled for the district.

Typically, an error rate of two percent for projecting district enrollments one year into the future, and an error rate of five to six percent for projecting enrollments five years into the future is considered acceptable. The further into the future projections are made, the higher the error rate tends to be. It is also more difficult to project by school and grade. School districts aim for error rates of four percent or less for individual grade levels. However, kindergarten projections often have larger error rates.

Factors that influence enrollments include past births in the district area, residential construction and demolition, families moving in and out of existing homes, families opting for private schools or homeschooling, and changes in the economy that impact the number of families doubling up. Projections by school are also impacted by changes in the number of limited school choice applications received and changes to where special education and bilingual education services are provided. In prior years, projections were also impacted by the Public School Choice option imposed by the No Child Left Behind Act.

### Findings

#### *Accuracy rate of previous one-year projections*

Tables 1 and 2 show the error rate for one-year projections at the district, school, and grade level. Error rates greater than four percent are circled. Note that the 2015-16 error rates for the district and by grade level are all within four percent. There were three schools with larger discrepancies between projected and actual enrollments, Dewey, Lincoln, and Chute.

For the 2015-16 school year, 7333 students were projected and 7371 students enrolled; a difference of 38 students. The error rate was -.5 percent. There were 832 kindergarteners projected and the actual enrollment was 820; a difference of 12 students; an error rate of 1.5 percent.

### *Five Year Enrollment Projections*

Table 3 shows the district level projections for 2016-17 through 2020-21. The projections predict continued growth in district enrollments, with the largest increase in 2016-17. Table 4 shows the projections for each school. It should be noted that enrollment projections do not account for full enrollment at the magnet schools and assume consistency in special education and bilingual programs as well as the same level of interest in limited school choice options.

The schools with the largest projected increases in enrollments from 2015-16 to 2020-21 are Nichols (+116), Washington (+72), Haven (+71), Willard (+44), Oakton (+33), and Dewey (+27).

As noted above, the factors influencing enrollment are varied and complex and longer-term projections are less reliable than short-term projections. District 65 enrollment in neighborhood and magnet schools increased 562 students or 8.3 percent between school year 2011-12 and school year 2015-16. Projections presented to the Board in November 2011 projected a smaller increase of 234 students or 3.5 percent. The factors influencing enrollment increases in the Lincoln attendance area identified by the Office of Research, Accountability, and Data may partly explain these larger than expect increases across the district. As with this historical projection, the accuracy of the predictions presented in Tables 3 and 4 will depend on the stability of current trends in housing markets and birth rates.

### *Affect of full-school re-enrollment and enrollment limits at Lincoln Elementary*

Lincoln's enrollments were projected to increase for 2015-16 to 593 students and then decrease in subsequent years. In order to manage enrollment, the Board approved limiting enrollment at Lincoln based on class size guidelines and available classroom space. Kindergarten families were also encouraged to complete limited school choice applications. Further, pursuant to Board approval, all returning Lincoln families were required to complete re-registration.

For each of the last three years, the table below shows the percentage of rising first through fifth grade students that returned to Lincoln, attended another school in the district, or were withdrawn from the District. Re-registration requirements were different in each of these years. In 2013-14, families with returning third graders were required to complete re-registration. In 2014-15, the only returning Lincoln families required to complete re-registration were those whose children were placed outside the district for services, had reported their residence as temporary, or had mail returned as undeliverable or their address was not on file with the U.S. Postal Service. As approved by the Board, re-registration of all returning students was mandatory for the 2015-16 school year.

	Returned to Same School		Placed in Another D65		Limited school Choice		Moved within D65		Withdrew from D65	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
2013-14	368	85.8%	1	0.2%	4	0.9%	8	1.9%	48	11.2%
2014-15	409	88.1%	0	0.0%	4	0.9%	7	1.5%	44	9.5%
2015-16	415	85.7%	6	1.2%	7	1.4%	9	1.9%	47	9.7%

The modification to the re-registration process in 2015-16 did not affect enrollment at Lincoln. The percent of rising first through fifth grade students who withdrew from District 65 differed by only 0.2 percentage points. The percent of students who moved within District 65 differed by only 0.4 percentage points.

However, limiting enrollment combined with increased communication about other school options had a large affect on enrollment at Lincoln. We received 136 applications for magnet schools, magnet programs, or permissive transfers. Of these, 92 applications were selected. Families accepted 74 of the 92 seats offered. Consequently, 526 students were enrolled at Lincoln as of September 30, 67 fewer students than projected.

### **Planned actions**

In the coming months, a space analysis will be conducted for Chute, Dewey, Haven, Oakton, Nichols, Washington, and Willard to determine the proper course of action. If any school is identified as having space concerns, a process involving key stakeholders will be used to identify an appropriate enrollment management strategy. In conjunction with the space analysis, options for creating an additional strand of TWI will be explored. We also plan to re-double our efforts at community-wide communication about the importance of enrolling students for school as early as possible.

Based on the analysis of full-school enrollment at Lincoln and projected expense of expanding this strategy, we do not plan to expand the use of re-enrollment as an enrollment management strategy. Instead, we will continue with our current approach, which includes re-enrollment of sixth grade students, students placed outside the district, students whose families reported temporary addresses, students for whom returned mail is received, and investigation of cases reported by school staff.

Table 1

Enrollment Projections Analysis by District and School: 2011-12 through 2013-14															
Location	2011 - 12			2012 - 13			2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate
District	6674	6809	-2.0%	6929	7027	-1.4%	7171	7116	0.8%	7234	7216	0.2%	7333	7371	-0.5%
Dawes	358	360	-1%	361	368	-2%	377	375	1%	372	368	1%	366	360	2%
Dewey	464	483	-4%	496	492	1%	501	493	2%	502	467	7%	477	518	-8%
Kingsley	368	378	-3%	368	387	-5%	391	397	-2%	388	380	2%	384	378	2%
Lincoln	387	414	-7%	454	475	-4%	504	521	-3%	545	572	-5%	593	526	13%
Lincolnwood	415	430	-3%	446	407	10%	410	401	2%	381	391	-3%	379	382	-1%
Oakton	414	399	4%	413	409	1%	402	395	2%	408	414	-1%	419	417	0%
Orrington	354	365	-3%	360	374	-4%	382	374	2%	362	376	-4%	388	385	1%
Walker	309	312	-1%	314	334	-6%	354	346	2%	347	341	2%	336	351	-4%
Washington	479	491	-2%	494	495	0%	501	524	-4%	529	522	1%	511	527	-3%
Willard	468	489	-4%	514	519	-1%	530	524	1%	527	515	2%	528	525	1%
Chute	562	556	1%	531	552	-4%	536	519	3%	533	537	-1%	543	575	-6%
Haven	674	700	-4%	744	743	0%	772	752	3%	790	778	2%	798	794	1%
Nichols	545	546	0%	554	542	2%	575	565	2%	610	611	0%	673	680	-1%
Bessie Rhodes	353	352	0%	353	361	-2%	366	357	3%	363	373	-3%	372	372	0%
King Lab	524	534	-2%	527	569	-7%	570	573	-1%	577	571	1%	566	581	-3%

Table 2

Grade Level Enrollment Projections Analysis: 2011-12 through 2013-14															
Grade	2011 - 12			2012 - 13			2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Error Rate
K*	752	822	-8.5%	800	863	-7.3%	839	823	1.9%	826	823	0.4%	832	820	1.5%
1	831	825	1%	822	809	2%	863	878	-2%	823	839	-2%	823	824	0%
2	817	812	1%	825	837	-1%	809	803	1%	878	890	-1%	839	827	1%
3	800	818	-2%	812	806	1%	837	827	1%	803	787	2%	890	909	-2%
4	710	731	-3%	818	821	0%	806	810	0%	827	818	1%	787	800	-2%
5	693	713	-3%	731	748	-2%	821	825	0%	810	801	1%	818	811	1%
6	715	713	0%	713	722	-1%	748	739	1%	825	809	2%	801	805	0%
7	680	695	-2%	713	726	-2%	722	703	3%	739	734	1%	809	831	-3%
8	676	680	-1%	695	695	0%	726	708	3%	703	715	-2%	734	744	-1%

\* For 2012-13 and prior, kindergarten enrollments were estimated using births-to-kindergarten ratios. In 2013-14 a three-year rolling average was used and in 2014-15 and 2015-16 a five-year rolling average.

**Table 3**

**ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS: DISTRICT\***  
**(\*Excludes Park, Rice, and JEH Education Center)**

September 30, 2015

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>KDGN</b>	<b>GR.1</b>	<b>GR.2</b>	<b>GR.3</b>	<b>GR.4</b>	<b>GR.5</b>	<b>GR.6</b>	<b>GR.7</b>	<b>GR.8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>INC/DEC</b>
2015-16	820	824	827	909	800	811	805	831	744	7371	153
2016-17	830	820	824	827	909	800	811	805	831	7457	86
2017-18	832	830	820	824	827	909	800	811	805	7458	1
2018-19	826	832	830	820	824	827	909	800	811	7479	21
2019-20	826	826	832	830	820	824	827	909	800	7494	16
2020-21	827	826	826	832	830	820	824	827	909	7521	27

Table 4

## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY SCHOOL

YEAR	KDGN	GR.1	GR.2	GR.3	GR.4	GR.5	TOTAL
BESSIE RHODES							
2015-16	39	45	40	42	39	42	247
2016-17	39	39	45	40	42	39	244
2017-18	40	39	39	45	40	42	245
2018-19	39	40	39	39	45	40	242
2019-20	39	39	40	39	39	45	241
2020-21	39	39	39	40	39	39	235
DAWES							
2015-16	53	60	61	63	62	61	360
2016-17	54	53	60	61	63	62	353
2017-18	54	54	53	60	61	63	345
2018-19	53	54	54	53	60	61	335
2019-20	53	53	54	54	53	60	327
2020-21	53	53	53	54	54	53	320
DEWEY							
2015-16	90	83	89	96	70	90	518
2016-17	91	90	83	89	96	70	519
2017-18	91	91	90	83	89	96	540
2018-19	91	91	91	90	83	89	535
2019-20	91	91	91	91	90	83	537
2020-21	91	91	91	91	91	90	545
KINGSLEY							
2015-16	63	63	61	72	59	60	378
2016-17	64	63	63	61	72	59	382
2017-18	64	64	63	63	61	72	387
2018-19	63	64	64	63	63	61	378
2019-20	63	63	64	64	63	63	380
2020-21	64	63	63	64	64	63	381
LINCOLN							
2015-16	77	84	85	103	87	90	526
2016-17	78	77	84	85	103	87	514
2017-18	78	78	77	84	85	103	505
2018-19	78	78	78	77	84	85	480
2019-20	78	78	78	78	77	84	473
2020-21	78	78	78	78	78	77	467
LINCOLNWOOD							
2015-16	59	69	57	69	76	52	382
2016-17	60	59	69	57	69	76	390
2017-18	60	60	59	69	57	69	374
2018-19	59	60	60	59	69	57	364
2019-20	59	59	60	60	59	69	366
2020-21	59	59	59	60	60	59	356

**Table 4****ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY SCHOOL**

YEAR	KDGN	GR.1	GR.2	GR.3	GR.4	GR.5	TOTAL
<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.</b>							
2015-16	55	58	68	69	60	65	375
2016-17	56	55	58	68	69	60	366
2017-18	56	56	55	58	68	69	362
2018-19	55	56	56	55	58	68	348
2019-20	55	55	56	56	55	58	335
2020-21	55	55	55	56	56	55	332
<b>OAKTON</b>							
2015-16	74	74	62	71	69	67	417
2016-17	74	74	74	62	71	69	424
2017-18	75	74	74	74	62	71	430
2018-19	76	75	74	74	74	62	435
2019-20	76	76	75	74	74	74	449
2020-21	75	76	76	75	74	74	450
<b>ORRINGTON</b>							
2015-16	60	67	67	75	52	64	385
2016-17	61	60	67	67	75	52	382
2017-18	61	61	60	67	67	75	391
2018-19	60	61	61	60	67	67	376
2019-20	60	60	61	61	60	67	369
2020-21	60	60	60	61	61	60	362
<b>WALKER</b>							
2015-16	57	54	68	64	54	54	351
2016-17	58	57	54	68	64	54	355
2017-18	58	58	57	54	68	64	359
2018-19	57	58	58	57	54	68	352
2019-20	57	57	58	58	57	54	341
2020-21	57	57	57	58	58	57	344
<b>WASHINGTON</b>							
2015-16	99	76	83	97	86	86	527
2016-17	100	99	76	83	97	86	541
2017-18	100	100	99	76	83	97	555
2018-19	100	100	100	99	76	83	558
2019-20	100	100	100	100	99	76	575
2020-21	100	100	100	100	100	99	599
<b>WILLARD</b>							
2015-16	94	91	86	88	86	80	525
2016-17	95	94	91	86	88	86	540
2017-18	95	95	94	91	86	88	549
2018-19	95	95	95	94	91	86	556
2019-20	95	95	95	95	94	91	565
2020-21	95	95	95	95	95	94	569

**Table 4****ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY SCHOOL**

YEAR	GR.6	GR.7	GR.8	TOTAL
<b>BESSIE RHODES</b>				
2015-16	42	43	40	125
2016-17	42	42	43	127
2017-18	39	42	42	123
2018-19	42	39	42	123
2019-20	40	42	39	121
2020-21	45	40	42	127
<b>CHUTE</b>				
2015-16	200	202	173	575
2016-17	182	200	202	584
2017-18	185	182	200	567
2018-19	198	185	182	565
2019-20	191	198	185	574
2020-21	188	191	198	577
<b>HAVEN</b>				
2015-16	272	280	242	794
2016-17	256	272	280	808
2017-18	273	256	272	801
2018-19	304	273	256	833
2019-20	271	304	273	848
2020-21	290	271	304	865
<b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.</b>				
2015-16	65	70	71	206
2016-17	65	65	70	200
2017-18	60	65	65	190
2018-19	69	60	65	194
2019-20	68	69	60	197
2020-21	58	68	69	195
<b>NICHOLS</b>				
2015-16	226	236	218	680
2016-17	266	226	236	728
2017-18	243	266	226	735
2018-19	296	243	266	805
2019-20	257	296	243	796
2020-21	243	257	296	796