



**EVANSTON/SKOKIE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65**

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

**TO:** Board of Education

**CC:** Dr. Devon Horton, Superintendent; LaTarsha Green, Deputy Superintendent; Kylie Klein, Director, Research, Accountability, and Data

**FROM:** Sarita Smith, Manager of Student Assignments

**DATE:** December 1, 2020

**RE:** 5-Year Enrollment Projections (2021-22 to 2025-26)

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**Objective:**      X   Information       Discussion       Follow-up       Decision

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**Background**

Each year, District 65 prepares annual five-year enrollment projections by District, grade, and school. Enrollment projections are used to estimate staffing needs, space usage, revenues and expenditures, transportation needs, and more. Typically, projections provided in this memorandum are based on October 1st enrollment numbers. Given the anomaly in this year’s registration and enrollment process and the policy change for part-time enrollment, we could not ensure this report properly aligns to prior years. This report is based on November 1st enrollment numbers. We plan to use the October 1st enrollment numbers for the 2022-23 school year projection report.

The District’s enrollment projections are calculated using a 3-year enrollment average methodology. Using this model, the number of actual enrolled students over three years at each grade level is averaged and used for projections. Current year students are rolled forward to the next grade.

Historically, the Department of Research, Accountability, and Data has identified typical one-year error rates of more than 2% and five-year error rates of more than 5%. There remains a certain degree of difficulty when accurately calculating projections by school and grade. We limit our projections to a five-year period because projections greater than 5-years tend to have higher error rates. In addition, kindergarten projections often have larger error rates.

District 65’s projection accuracy can be affected due to various factors that influence enrollments. Some examples of these factors include birth rates, residential construction/demolition, family mobility, opting for private schools or homeschooling, and changes in the economy.

This year’s enrollment numbers are drastically different due to the impact of COVID 19. The decrease in kindergarten enrollment and an increase in part-time enrollments will impact future projection averages. We must prepare for the possibility that students will return to District 65, though we cannot be sure. A return of kindergarten students will result in higher than normal error rates next school year. School projections are also impacted by changes in the number of

“selective enrollment magnet school” applications received and changes to where special education and bilingual education services are provided.

**Overall Findings**

For the 2020-21 school year, 7,339 students were projected, and a total of 6,977 students were enrolled (-362 students or an error rate of -4.93%). There were 777 kindergarteners projected, and the actual kindergarten enrollment was 636 (-141 students or an error rate of -18.15%). Anecdotal Evidence from parents/guardians proclaim many kindergarten students stayed in preschool another year, are attending private schools, or are homeschooled. Parents/guardians that spoke to registration members said they plan to come back when District 65 returns in person. Table 1 “Historical 5-Year Projections” and Table 2 “Historical 5-Year Grade-Level Projections” provide additional detail on the historical 5-year projections by site and grade.

**Five-Year Enrollment Projections**

Table 3 “5-Year Enrollment Future Year Projections” highlights the district-level grade projections from 2021-22 through 2025-26. The projections for District 65 predict a slight downward-trending enrollment curve with a total projected decline of 566 students (or a -8.11% decline) from 2020-21 to 2025-26. This year’s decline may be higher primarily due to the - 141 kindergarten student enrollment.

Table 4 contains “5-year Future Year Projections by School” and includes individual school projections. The board should note that enrollment projections do not account for full enrollment at the magnet schools, assume consistency in special education and bilingual programs, and the same level of interest in selective enrollment magnet schools and programs. The projection predictions presented in Table 4 will be heavily skewed in future years due to lower kindergarten enrollment. If the kindergarten population returns once we return in person, the projected kindergarten numbers will increase and impact the future projected totals for that grade.

Overall District enrollment projections from the 2021-22SY to the 2025-26SY:

Kindergarten - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Schools: -240	Middle Schools (6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade): -53
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Schools with projected **increases** in enrollments from the 2021-22SY to the 2025-26SY are:

Dewey: +18	Oakton: +28
Rhodes: + 44	

Schools with projected **decreases** in enrollments from the 2020-21SY to the 2025-26SY are:

Dawes: -31	King: -19	Kingsley: -43	Lincoln: -33
Lincolnwood: -51	Orrington: -40	Walker: -21	Washington: -63
Willard: -46	Chute: -20	Haven: -13	Nichols: -13

## **COVID and Part Time Enrollment**

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 had an impact on the 2021-22 school year enrollment numbers. Kindergarten was the most impacted grade, and the registration department answered several questions regarding incoming kindergarten student age requirements (which is six years old in Illinois), enrolling in private school, homeschooling, staying in preschool an additional year, and part-time enrollment. We believe parents/guardians considered all these factors this year, and many decided not to enroll in District 65 due to remote learning. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19, it will be difficult to predict how families' decisions will impact future enrollment numbers. We don't know how many will return, how many will feel comfortable with our return to school plan, or the marketing strategies private schools will employ to keep the students enrolled.

A small number of families were concerned with screen time and remote learning not meeting their student's needs. To support families with the best educational setting for their students, we changed our part-time enrollment policy and are allowing any family to enroll in select classes and homeschool the other courses. There are currently 24 students enrolled as part-time.

### **Part-Time Enrollment by Grade for 2020-21SY:**

Grade	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
Number of Students	3	1	1	4	4	2	9

### **Planned Actions**

Given the impact of COVID-19 we have a few reinvigorated strategies to increase enrollment and enhance the registration process for the 2021-22 school year. The registration team has a new website that is user friendly, easy to navigate, and allows for an interactive registration experience. Registration will begin on the first Monday of December to allow more time for family support and meetings with registration team members. The Manager of Student Assignments has met with Childcare and Preschool leaders to market our local area schools, selective enrollment magnet schools, and our programs. We shared a kindergarten registration presentation (Kindergarten Roadshow) with the community to help parents/guardians with frequently asked questions and guide them through the registration process. The registration team also plans to host virtual kindergarten and new school year presentations after winter break.

Our existing projection methodology's accuracy rates will be reviewed as the new school year registration numbers are finalized. We have strategic efforts to market District 65 and evaluate both the new kindergarten and 1st-grade numbers next year. These methods are being developed in collaboration with the communications department, student services team leaders, and magnet school principals. We also have the advantage of obtaining census information from the State this year to determine population growth which will better inform our enrollment opportunities for the 2021-22 school year.

## Enrollment Management

Based on the current enrollment management strategy's success, where class sizes remained under guidelines, registration anticipates enacting the same strategy for 2021-22SY. The Manager or Student Assignments will monitor enrollment numbers weekly, paying particular attention to sites with class sizes approaching/exceeding district guidelines and the kindergarten and 1st-grade enrollment numbers. Individual plans will be developed in conjunction with the school principal to address any future class size concerns.

### Historical, Current and Projected Enrollments

Location	2016-17				2017-18				2018-19				2019-20				2020-21			
	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate
District	7,456	7,559	103	1.38%	7,546	7,482	-64	-0.85%	7,548	7,422	-126	-1.67%	7,488	7,396	-92	-1.22%	7,339	6,977	-362	-4.93%
Dawes	353	375	22	6.23%	381	377	-4	-1.05%	379	370	-9	-2.37%	374	362	-12	-3.21%	357	333	-24	-6.72%
Dewey	519	538	19	3.66%	556	508	-48	-8.63%	558	484	-74	-13.26%	510	464	-46	-9.02%	469	418	-51	-10.87%
Kingsley	382	378	-4	-1.05%	370	390	20	5.41%	348	398	50	14.37%	389	382	-7	-1.72%	370	354	-16	-4.32%
Lincoln	514	526	12	2.33%	525	523	-2	-0.38%	505	518	13	2.57%	522	522	0	-0.06%	504	459	-45	-8.93%
Lincolnwood	390	405	15	3.85%	383	405	22	5.74%	371	390	19	5.12%	400	374	-26	-6.50%	365	356	-9	-2.47%
Oakton	424	404	-20	-4.72%	411	405	-6	-1.46%	412	375	-37	-8.98%	395	391	-4	-0.93%	388	385	-3	-0.77%
Orrington	382	395	13	3.40%	413	417	4	0.97%	416	378	-38	-9.13%	397	387	-10	-2.44%	374	332	-42	-11.23%
Walker	355	368	13	3.66%	367	364	-3	-0.82%	354	387	33	9.32%	373	376	3	0.80%	369	378	9	2.44%
Washington	541	545	4	0.74%	546	558	12	2.20%	543	536	-7	-1.29%	546	533	-13	-2.44%	545	519	-26	-4.77%
Willard	540	536	-4	-0.74%	528	509	-19	-3.60%	519	501	-18	-3.47%	515	496	-19	-3.75%	484	449	-35	-7.23%
Chute	584	601	17	2.91%	582	588	6	1.03%	588	611	23	3.91%	600	665	65	10.83%	672	641	-31	-4.61%
Haven	808	833	25	3.09%	831	835	4	0.48%	853	859	6	0.70%	842	859	17	1.98%	861	843	-18	-2.09%
Nichols	728	718	-10	-1.37%	740	723	-17	-2.30%	812	784	-28	-3.45%	742	767	25	3.42%	771	743	-28	-3.63%
Rhodes	371	361	-10	-2.70%	353	341	-12	-3.40%	342	270	-72	-21.05%	324	280	-44	-13.58%	288	268	-20	-6.94%
King	566	576	10	1.77%	560	539	-21	-3.75%	548	561	13	2.37%	559	538	-21	-3.70%	534	498	-36	-6.74%

Grade	2016-17				2017-18				2018-19				2019-20				2020-21			
	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate	Projected	Actual	Difference	Error Rate
K	832	820	-12	-1.44%	829	802	-27	-3.26%	822	762	-60	-7.30%	822	768	-54	-6.57%	777	636	-141	-18.15%
1	823	824	1	0.12%	815	819	4	0.49%	829	818	-11	-1.33%	829	775	-54	-6.51%	768	748	-20	-2.60%
2	839	827	-12	-1.43%	845	845	0	0.00%	815	813	-2	-0.25%	829	796	-33	-3.98%	775	727	-48	-6.19%
3	890	909	19	2.13%	835	846	11	1.32%	845	844	-1	-0.12%	815	805	-10	-1.23%	796	772	-24	-3.02%
4	787	800	13	1.65%	833	828	-5	-0.60%	835	829	-6	-0.72%	845	834	-11	-1.30%	805	757	-48	-5.96%
5	818	811	-7	-0.86%	921	907	-14	-1.52%	833	815	-18	-2.16%	835	840	5	0.60%	834	826	-8	-0.96%
6	801	805	4	0.50%	831	809	-22	-2.65%	921	919	-2	-0.22%	833	830	-3	-0.36%	840	780	-60	-7.14%
7	809	831	22	2.72%	817	812	-5	-0.61%	831	814	-17	-2.05%	921	914	-7	-0.76%	830	824	-6	-0.72%
8	734	744	10	1.36%	820	814	-6	-0.73%	817	818	1	0.12%	831	834	3	0.36%	914	907	-7	-0.77%

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2020-21 (actual)	636	748	727	772	757	826	780	824	907	6977
2021-22	722	636	748	727	772	757	826	780	824	6792
2022-23	709	722	636	748	727	772	757	826	780	6677
2023-24	689	709	722	636	748	727	772	757	826	6586
2024-25	707	689	709	722	636	748	727	772	757	6467
2025-26	701	707	689	709	722	636	748	727	772	6411

**Table 4 | 5-Year Future Year Projections by School  
Elementary Schools (K-5)**

Dawes							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	43	56	53	60	64	57	333
2021-22	55	43	56	53	60	64	331
2022-23	51	55	43	56	53	60	318
2023-24	50	51	55	43	56	53	308
2024-25	52	50	51	55	43	56	307
2025-26	51	52	50	51	55	43	302

Dewey							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	67	67	66	66	72	80	418
2021-22	78	67	67	66	66	72	416
2022-23	72	78	67	67	66	66	416
2023-24	72	72	78	67	67	66	422
2024-25	74	72	72	78	67	67	430
2025-26	73	74	72	72	78	67	436

King							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	42	66	49	53	49	48	307
2021-22	54	42	66	49	53	49	313
2022-23	54	54	42	66	49	53	318
2023-24	50	54	54	42	66	49	315
2024-25	53	50	54	54	42	66	319
2025-26	52	53	50	54	54	42	305

Kingsley							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	50	52	61	57	66	68	354
2021-22	52	50	52	61	57	66	338
2022-23	53	52	50	52	61	57	325
2023-24	52	53	52	50	52	61	320
2024-25	52	52	53	52	50	52	311
2025-26	52	52	52	53	52	50	311

Lincoln							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	62	70	76	91	71	89	459
2021-22	76	62	70	76	91	71	446
2022-23	73	76	62	70	76	91	448
2023-24	70	73	76	62	70	76	427
2024-25	73	70	73	76	62	70	424
2025-26	72	73	70	73	76	62	426

Lincolnwood							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	46	57	64	73	59	57	356
2021-22	54	46	57	64	73	59	353
2022-23	52	54	46	57	64	73	346
2023-24	50	52	54	46	57	64	323
2024-25	52	50	52	54	46	57	311
2025-26	51	52	50	52	54	46	305

Oakton							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	67	73	45	68	65	67	385
2021-22	70	67	73	45	68	65	388
2022-23	69	70	67	73	45	68	392
2023-24	69	69	70	67	73	45	393
2024-25	69	69	69	70	67	73	417
2025-26	69	69	69	69	70	67	413

Orrington							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	40	53	56	64	61	58	332
2021-22	55	40	53	56	64	61	329
2022-23	49	55	40	53	56	64	317
2023-24	48	49	55	40	53	56	301
2024-25	51	48	49	55	40	53	296
2025-26	49	51	48	49	55	40	292

Rhodes							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	35	31	30	21	26	32	175
2021-22	37	35	31	30	21	26	180
2022-23	37	37	35	31	30	21	191
2023-24	36	37	37	35	31	30	206
2024-25	37	36	37	37	35	31	213
2025-26	37	37	36	37	37	35	219

Walker							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	62	59	66	65	61	65	378
2021-22	58	62	59	66	65	61	371
2022-23	59	58	62	59	66	65	369
2023-24	60	59	58	62	59	66	364
2024-25	59	60	59	58	62	59	357
2025-26	59	59	60	59	58	62	357

Washington							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	67	82	83	87	89	111	519
2021-22	81	67	82	83	87	89	489
2022-23	78	81	67	82	83	87	478
2023-24	75	78	81	67	82	83	466
2024-25	78	75	78	81	67	82	461
2025-26	77	78	75	78	81	67	456

Willard							
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2020-21 (actual)	55	81	78	67	74	94	449
2021-22	73	55	81	78	67	74	428
2022-23	70	73	55	81	78	67	424
2023-24	66	70	73	55	81	78	423
2024-25	70	66	70	73	55	81	415
2025-26	69	70	66	70	73	55	403

## Middle Schools (6-8)

Chute				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2020-21 (actual)	189	232	220	641
2021-22	211	189	232	632
2022-23	212	211	189	612
2023-24	204	212	211	627
2024-25	209	204	212	625
2025-26	208	209	204	621

Haven				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2020-21 (actual)	276	259	308	843
2021-22	281	276	259	816
2022-23	274	281	276	831
2023-24	277	274	281	828
2024-25	277	277	274	828
2025-26	276	277	277	830

Nichols				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2020-21 (actual)	225	248	270	743
2021-22	255	225	248	728
2022-23	242	255	225	722
2023-24	241	242	255	738
2024-25	246	241	242	729
2025-26	243	246	241	730

King				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2020-21 (actual)	57	59	75	191
2021-22	60	57	59	176
2022-23	57	60	57	174
2023-24	58	57	60	175
2024-25	58	58	57	173
2025-26	58	58	58	174

Rhodes				
Year	6	7	8	Total
2020-21 (actual)	33	26	34	93
2021-22	36	33	26	95
2022-23	34	36	33	103
2023-24	34	34	36	104
2024-25	35	34	34	103
2025-26	34	35	34	103