



**EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65**

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

TO: Board of Education

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

FROM: Sarita Smith, Manager of Student Assignments

DATE: December 13, 2021

RE: 5-Year Enrollment Projections (2021-22 to 2026-27)

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

Background

District 65 prepares annual five-year enrollment projections by District, grade, and school each year. Enrollment projections estimate staffing needs, space usage, revenues and expenditures, transportation needs, and more. This year we have the unique opportunity to compare our annual process to actual demography data that uses birth rate projections. Projections provided in this memorandum are based on October 1st enrollment numbers. We continue to trend low enrollment for some of our grades. We are seeing more registrations than usual since the vaccine for 5 to 12 year-olds has become available. We anticipate an increase in enrollment for some of the younger grades by the end of the school year. We also expect that there will be higher attrition due to the loss of enrollment in private schools.

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. These are critical factors during the past two years as COVID has significantly impacted several said influences.

This year’s enrollment numbers are similar to last year, but we have a smaller difference of projected versus actual kindergarten students this year. Despite our mitigation and safety efforts, we could not recoup the 141 kindergarten students we projected last year. However, we did not lose any kindergarten students who are now 1st-grade students this year. We must

prepare for the possibility that students will return to District 65, though we cannot be sure. A return of kindergarten students mid-year will result in higher than average 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. Our special education evaluation requests and McKinney Vento student enrollment have dramatically increased this year. We did anticipate some increase but not at the rates we saw this year. We have adjusted for how we serve students and have a plan for continued support.

Overall Findings

For the 2021-22 school year, 6,829 students were projected, and a total of 6,497 students were enrolled (-332 students or an error rate of -4.86%). There were 722 kindergarten students projected, and the actual kindergarten enrollment was 634 (-88 students or an error rate of -12.19%). This year the schools with the largest difference of projections vs actuals are Chute (57), Orrington (52), and King Arts (46). Even with these variances, we are still struggling with capacity issues at many of our schools due to 3 ft social distancing guidelines. At a school that would normally be able to seat 6 students at a table, they can now only seat 3 or 4. In classes that would normally have 25 students, they now accommodate 20 or 21. This has created a lot of movement of students to other local area schools and an increased enrollment at King Arts and Bessie Rhodes.

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.

As mentioned, this year we have the exciting opportunity to have demographic data from a licensed demographer. Charles Kofron, Ph.D. LLC is a consultant that specializes in vital statistics processing for school enrollment projections, land use and community housing studies, changes in administrative boundaries and school district attendance areas, and impacts of demographic and housing changes on local government and educational services. Dr. Kofron worked with our leadership team to develop 10 years of enrollment data projection using actual birth rates and birth projections.

The projections provided by Dr. Kofron’s analysis are based on a high, mid, and low series using weighted averages of cohort survival ratios. He also included a snapshot series which used only cohort survival ratios from enrollments over the last two years.

I have added to our tables the mid-series projections from this study to our 5-year projections for comparison. The five-year projections from both our annual process and Dr. Kofron’s study are very close, with a difference of 58 students. In some years, the projections have more significant gaps. We will follow this and lean more toward the demography numbers for planning since these numbers are based on birth rate and do not account for COVID influences. Over the next five years, we particularly need to keep an eye on schools that have a difference of more than 30 students from our projection compared to Dr. Kofron’s projections. Several schools have higher projections in Dr. Kofron’s model, but they do not account for magnet schools, selective enrollment programs, private schools, or permissive transfers. We will use comparisons to better understand enrollment in future years.

Five-Year Enrollment Projections

Table 3 "5-Year Enrollment Future Year Projections," highlights the district grade level projections from 2022-23 through 2026-27. The projections for District 65 predict a downward-trend enrollment trend with a total projected decline of 224 students (or a -3.48% decline) from 2022 to 2027. This trend has been consistent since 2017 and doesn't seem to be moving in the other direction anytime soon. The decline isn't as significant as last year's, a difference of 566 students. This school year we saw some relief in re-enrolled 3rd – 8th grade students.

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 total enrollment at the magnet schools; it assumes consistency in special education and bilingual programs and the same level of interest in selective enrollment magnet schools and programs. Due to COVID, we are still seeing lower numbers in our kindergarten and 1st-grade classes which will continue to weigh the step-down process we use for future projections.

We are seeing similarly low numbers in this year's kindergarten enrollment, and registration is seeing a slight increase in families returning since the 5 to 12-year-old vaccine is available. Only two of our K-5 schools will have increased enrollment in the next five years, and the increase is minimal. Haven and Nichols Middle Schools will continue to grow slightly, while Chute will decline by 55 students over five years. Chute’s projections assume there isn't a spike in re-registrations. King and Rhodes are interesting because we had to place students in our magnet schools this year due to the 3 ft capacity maximum at local area schools. Their projections are a bit of an anomaly, but we project that King will decrease in enrollment and Rhodes will increase.

Overall District enrollment projections from the 2022-23SY to the 2026-27SY:

Kindergarten - 5 th Grade Schools: -163	Middle Schools (6 th - 8 th Grade): -38
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Schools with projected **increases** in enrollments from the 2022-23SY to the 2026-27SY are:

Rhodes: + 19 (Skewed due to placement of students this year based on capacity challenges associated with 3ft social distancing)	Kingsley: +13
Nichols: +7	Oakton: + 32
Haven: +15	Nichols: +7

Schools with projected **decreases** in enrollments from the 2020-21SY to the 2024-25SY are:

Dawes: -42	Dewey: -16	Lincoln: -17	Lincolnwood: -23
Orrington: -25	Walker: -33	Washington: -47	Willard: -13

Chute: -55	King: -23		
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Planned Actions

The District 65 leaders have worked very hard to create safer, cleaner, and socially distant school environments for all of our students to support in-person learning. We are excited that the CDC has approved a covid vaccine for 5 to 12-year-old children. We anticipate that we will continue to increase enrollment for the younger students after the majority of our school population is vaccinated.

This month registration opened for the 2022-23 school year, and with a year under our belt, we were able to answer questions about the school environment, mask mandates, and social distancing. We are also changing the enrollment process and magnet school and lottery selection date so our leaders can better plan for needed sections, teachers, and support staff allocations. This year we are opening the lottery from December 6th – March 18th, and this will allow us the proper planning time and educator notification of assignments and changes for the 22-23 school year.

In December, the Student Assignment, Registration, and Records team is hosting two community events. We also met with the early childcare collective, Childcare Network of Evanston, the Evanston Public Library to support Spanish-speaking families, and our JEH preschool team. All communications and presentations are in both English and Spanish.

Enrollment Management

Twice a week, the manager of student assignment edits enrollment numbers based on suggested class sizes and enrollment projections. If the 3ft social distancing recommendation from ISBE remains for the 23-24 school year, we will use the spring and summer to plan for student enrollment if we begin to run out of space at local area schools. We will be more proactive with offering spaces at King and Rhodes to families within walking distance and elevating selective enrollment programs to registering and current families.

Historical, Current and Projected Enrollments

Table 1 | 5-Year Enrollments (by school)

Location	2017-18				2018-19				2019-20				2020-21				2021-22			
	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	7,546	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%	6,829	6,497	-332	-4.86%
Dawes	381	377	-4	-1.05%	379	370	-9	-2.37%	374	362	-12	-3.21%	357	333	-24	-6.72%	331	321	-10	-3.02%
Dewey	556	508	-48	-8.63%	558	484	-74	-13.26%	510	464	-46	-9.02%	469	418	-51	-10.87%	416	393	-23	-5.53%
Kingsley	370	390	20	5.41%	348	398	50	14.37%	389	382	-7	-1.72%	370	354	-16	-4.32%	338	349	11	3.25%
Lincoln	525	523	-2	-0.38%	505	518	13	2.57%	522	522	0	-0.06%	504	459	-45	-8.93%	446	413	-33	-7.40%
Lincolnwood	383	405	22	5.74%	371	390	19	5.12%	400	374	-26	-6.50%	365	356	-9	-2.47%	353	330	-23	-6.52%
Oakton	411	405	-6	-1.46%	412	375	-37	-8.98%	395	391	-4	-0.93%	388	385	-3	-0.77%	388	375	-13	-3.35%
Orrington	413	417	4	0.97%	416	378	-38	-9.13%	397	387	-10	-2.44%	374	332	-42	-11.23%	329	277	-52	-15.81%
Walker	367	364	-3	-0.82%	354	387	33	9.32%	373	376	3	0.80%	369	378	9	2.44%	371	376	5	1.35%
Washington	546	558	12	2.20%	543	536	-7	-1.29%	546	533	-13	-2.44%	545	519	-26	-4.77%	489	482	-7	-1.43%
Willard	528	509	-19	-3.60%	519	501	-18	-3.47%	515	496	-19	-3.75%	484	449	-35	-7.23%	428	412	-16	-3.74%
Chute	582	588	6	1.03%	588	611	23	3.91%	600	665	65	10.83%	672	641	-31	-4.61%	632	575	-57	-9.02%
Haven	831	835	4	0.48%	853	859	6	0.70%	842	859	17	1.98%	861	843	-18	-2.09%	816	783	-33	-4.04%
Nichols	740	723	-17	-2.30%	812	784	-28	-3.45%	742	767	25	3.42%	771	743	-28	-3.63%	728	686	-42	-5.77%
Rhodes	353	341	-12	-3.40%	342	270	-72	-21.05%	324	280	-44	-13.58%	288	268	-20	-6.94%	275	282	7	2.55%
King	560	539	-21	-3.75%	548	561	13	2.37%	559	538	-21	-3.70%	534	498	-36	-6.74%	489	443	-46	-9.41%

Table 2 | 5-Year Enrollments (by grade)

Grade	2017-18				2018-19				2019-20				2020-21				2021-22			
	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	829	802	-27	-3.26%	822	762	-60	-7.30%	822	768	-54	-6.57%	777	636	-141	-18.15%	722	634	-88	-12.19%
1	815	819	4	0.49%	829	818	-11	-1.33%	829	775	-54	-6.51%	768	748	-20	-2.60%	636	636	0	0.00%
2	845	845	0	0.00%	815	813	-2	-0.25%	829	796	-33	-3.98%	775	727	-48	-6.19%	748	696	-52	-6.95%
3	835	846	11	1.32%	845	844	-1	-0.12%	815	805	-10	-1.23%	796	772	-24	-3.02%	727	706	-21	-2.89%
4	833	828	-5	-0.60%	835	829	-6	-0.72%	845	834	-11	-1.30%	805	757	-48	-5.96%	772	754	-18	-2.33%
5	921	907	-14	-1.52%	833	815	-18	-2.16%	835	840	5	0.60%	834	826	-8	-0.96%	757	751	-6	-0.79%
6	831	809	-22	-2.65%	921	919	-2	-0.22%	833	830	-3	-0.36%	840	780	-60	-7.14%	826	773	-53	-6.42%
7	817	812	-5	-0.61%	831	814	-17	-2.05%	921	914	-7	-0.76%	830	824	-6	-0.72%	780	763	-17	-2.18%
8	820	814	-6	-0.73%	817	818	1	0.12%	831	834	3	0.36%	914	907	-7	-0.77%	824	784	-40	-4.85%

Table 3 | 5-Year Future Year Projections (by grade)

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	634	636	696	706	754	751	773	763	784	6497	7411
2022-23	726	634	636	696	706	754	751	773	763	6439	7158
2023-24	712	726	634	636	696	706	754	751	773	6388	6954
2024-25	691	712	726	634	636	696	706	754	751	6306	6702
2025-26	710	691	712	726	634	636	696	706	754	6264	6475
2026-27	704	710	691	712	726	634	636	696	706	6215	6273

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

Dawes								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	43	46	59	57	59	57	321	352
2022-23	47	43	46	59	57	59	311	356
2023-24	44	47	43	46	59	57	296	342
2024-25	45	44	47	43	46	59	284	331
2025-26	45	45	44	47	43	46	270	339
2026-27	45	45	45	44	47	43	269	332

Dewey								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	54	70	61	59	71	78	393	451
2022-23	64	54	70	61	59	71	379	435
2023-24	62	64	54	70	61	59	370	411
2024-25	60	62	64	54	70	61	371	406
2025-26	62	60	62	64	54	70	372	388
2026-27	61	62	60	62	64	54	363	371

King								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	34	38	59	48	46	49	274	N/A
2022-23	47	34	38	59	48	46	272	N/A
2023-24	41	47	34	38	59	48	267	N/A
2024-25	41	41	47	34	38	59	260	N/A
2025-26	43	41	41	47	34	38	244	N/A
2026-27	42	43	41	41	47	34	248	N/A

Kingsley								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	65	52	50	58	60	64	349	481
2022-23	57	65	52	50	58	60	342	460
2023-24	57	57	65	52	50	58	339	448
2024-25	60	57	57	65	52	50	341	447
2025-26	58	60	57	57	65	52	349	452
2026-27	58	58	60	57	57	65	355	443

Lincoln								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	62	68	56	72	81	74	413	597
2022-23	68	62	68	56	72	81	407	564
2023-24	64	68	62	68	56	72	390	535
2024-25	65	64	68	62	68	56	383	498
2025-26	66	65	64	68	62	68	393	458
2026-27	65	66	65	64	68	62	390	422

Lincolnwood								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	50	46	49	57	69	59	330	499
2022-23	50	50	46	49	57	69	321	502
2023-24	49	50	50	46	49	57	301	513
2024-25	50	49	50	50	46	49	294	488
2025-26	50	50	49	50	50	46	295	458
2026-27	49	50	50	49	50	50	298	452

Oakton								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	68	58	68	48	66	67	375	529
2022-23	68	68	58	68	48	66	376	530
2023-24	68	68	68	58	68	48	378	520
2024-25	68	68	68	68	58	68	398	496
2025-26	68	68	68	68	68	58	398	491
2026-27	68	68	68	68	68	68	408	456

Orrington								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	38	34	49	46	57	53	277	307
2022-23	43	38	34	49	46	57	267	293
2023-24	40	43	38	34	49	46	250	275
2024-25	40	40	43	38	34	49	244	250
2025-26	41	40	40	43	38	34	236	252
2026-27	40	41	40	40	43	38	242	256

Rhodes								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	34	31	28	32	26	26	177	N/A
2022-23	36	34	31	28	32	26	187	N/A
2023-24	35	36	34	31	28	32	196	N/A
2024-25	35	35	36	34	31	28	199	N/A
2025-26	35	35	35	36	34	31	206	N/A
2026-27	35	35	35	35	36	34	210	N/A

Walker								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	54	63	61	68	69	61	376	574
2022-23	57	54	63	61	68	69	372	565
2023-24	58	57	54	63	61	68	361	558
2024-25	56	58	57	54	63	61	349	547
2025-26	57	56	58	57	54	63	345	527
2026-27	57	57	56	58	57	54	339	522

Washington								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	66	73	78	85	89	91	482	479
2022-23	73	66	73	78	85	89	464	469
2023-24	69	73	66	73	78	85	444	454
2024-25	69	69	73	66	73	78	428	448
2025-26	70	69	69	73	66	73	420	443
2026-27	70	70	69	69	73	66	417	433

Willard								
Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	67	57	79	76	61	72	412	383
2022-23	68	67	57	79	76	61	408	344
2023-24	63	68	67	57	79	76	410	325
2024-25	66	63	68	67	57	79	395	316
2025-26	66	66	63	68	67	57	387	287
2026-27	65	66	66	63	68	67	395	262

Middle Schools (6-8)

Chute

Year	6	7	8	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	173	187	215	575	835
2022-23	199	189	232	620	795
2023-24	187	211	189	587	760
2024-25	186	212	211	609	716
2025-26	191	186	212	589	691
2026-27	188	191	186	565	694

Haven

Year	6	7	8	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	275	259	251	785	976
2022-23	272	275	259	806	948
2023-24	274	272	275	821	956
2024-25	274	274	272	820	919
2025-26	273	274	274	821	870
2026-27	274	273	274	821	850

Nichols

Year	6	7	8	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	232	222	232	686	824
2022-23	234	232	222	688	785
2023-24	230	234	232	696	755
2024-25	232	230	234	696	743
2025-26	232	232	230	694	703
2026-27	231	232	232	695	671

King

Year	6	7	8	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	56	57	56	169	N/A
2022-23	56	56	57	169	N/A
2023-24	56	56	56	168	N/A
2024-25	56	56	56	168	N/A
2025-26	56	56	56	168	N/A
2026-27	56	56	56	168	N/A

Rhodes

Year	6	7	8	Total	Demogr. Proj.
2021-22 (actuals)	37	38	30	105	N/A
2022-23	34	37	38	109	N/A
2023-24	35	34	37	106	N/A
2024-25	35	35	34	104	N/A
2025-26	35	35	35	105	N/A
2026-27	35	35	35	105	N/A