



# Suffield Public Schools

School Enrollment Projections Update

April 2021



# Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

State Department of Education released an *Analysis of Preliminary Public School Enrollment* in November 2020. Key statewide trends include:

- **The greatest declines are seen in the earliest grades, which suggests that parents are choosing to delay the start of public schooling for their youngest children due to the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Pre-K Enrollment declined by 20%** with the greatest decrease in Alliance Districts
- **Kindergarten enrollment fell by nearly 12%** since the 2019-20 school year
  - There was not a corresponding drop in births that explains this decrease. Much of this decline is surmised to be due to delayed entry
- Grades 1 through 7 all saw net out-migration. These grades typically see net in-migration
- **There is a six-fold increase in the number of students who are homeschooled** which has contributed to the net out-migration trend seen this year
- **There was about 20% drop in the number of new students enrolling in Connecticut Public Schools** indicating that fewer new students enrolled this year compared to recent years



# Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

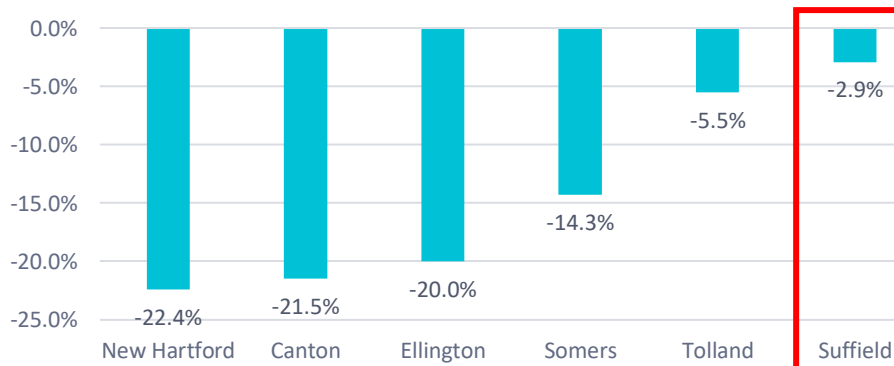
## Greater Hartford DRG C Trends

- Overall enrollment in SPS dropped by 2.5% since last year, similar to many DRG C peers
- Kindergarten enrollments are down by about 16.7% in nearby DRG C schools. SPS trend is much lower at a 2.9% decrease

Total PK-12 Enrollment Change in DRG C Schools in Northern CT: 2019-20 to 2020-21



Total Kindergarten Enrollment Change in DRG C Schools in Northern CT: 2019-20 to 2020-21



Based on preliminary numbers reported by CTSDE. Subject to revision. May differ slightly from district-reported enrollment counts



# Projections Comparison

- Enrollment projections last updated in 2016.
- As of 10/1/2020, actual K-12 enrollment is 4.0% lower than projected in 2016.
- Elementary, intermediate, and middle school enrollments are all lower than projected in 2016 due to smaller-than-projected kindergarten classes and lower levels of in-migration.
- High school enrollment is higher than projected due to growth from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade

K-12	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Actual</b>	2165	2109	2080	2032
<b>Projected</b>	2183	2180	2136	2114
<b>Difference</b>	-18	-71	-56	-82
<b>% Difference</b>	-0.8%	-3.4%	-2.7%	-4.0%

Elementary	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Actual</b>	395	391	407	413
<b>Projected</b>	398	430	452	475
<b>Difference</b>	-3	-39	-45	-62
<b>% Difference</b>	-0.8%	-10.0%	-11.1%	-15.0%

Intermediate	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Actual</b>	440	422	415	393
<b>Projected</b>	465	468	469	432
<b>Difference</b>	-25	-46	-54	-39
<b>% Difference</b>	-5.7%	-10.9%	-13.0%	-9.9%

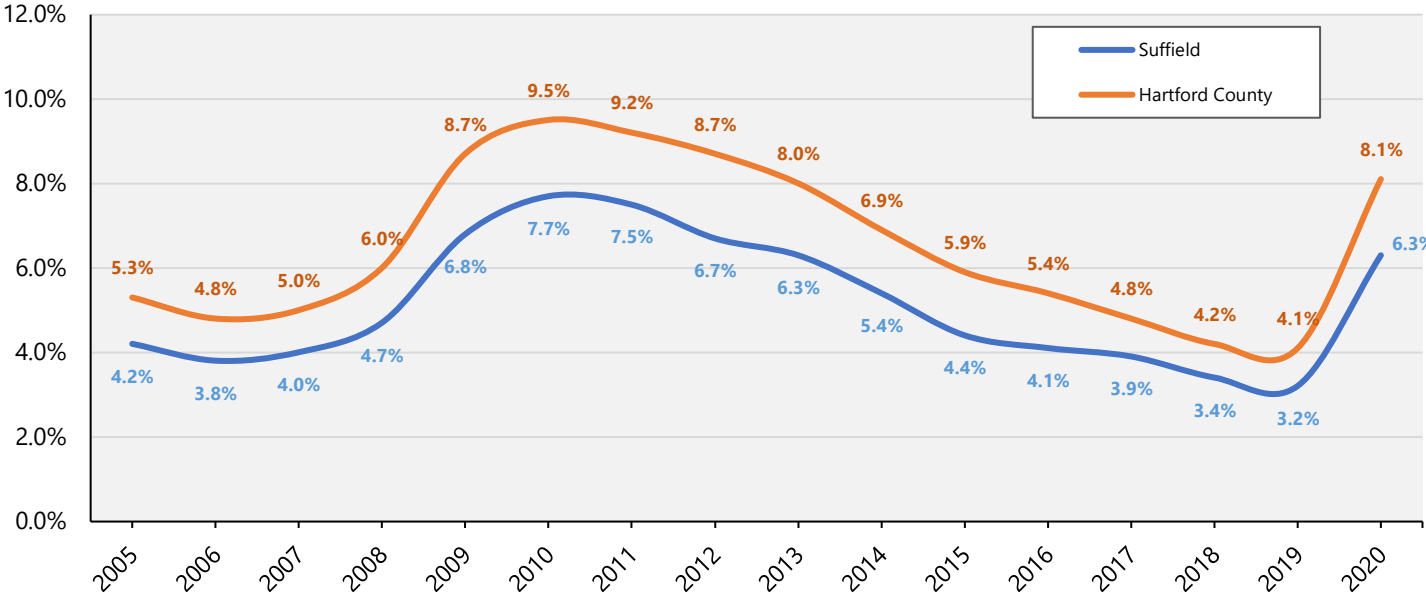
Middle	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Actual</b>	522	477	475	440
<b>Projected</b>	522	489	493	488
<b>Difference</b>	0	-12	-18	-48
<b>% Difference</b>	0.0%	-2.5%	-3.8%	-10.9%

High	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Actual</b>	808	819	783	786
<b>Projected</b>	798	793	722	719
<b>Difference</b>	10	26	61	67
<b>% Difference</b>	1.2%	3.2%	7.8%	8.5%



# Employment

**Unemployment Rate in Suffield and Hartford County: 2005 to 2020**



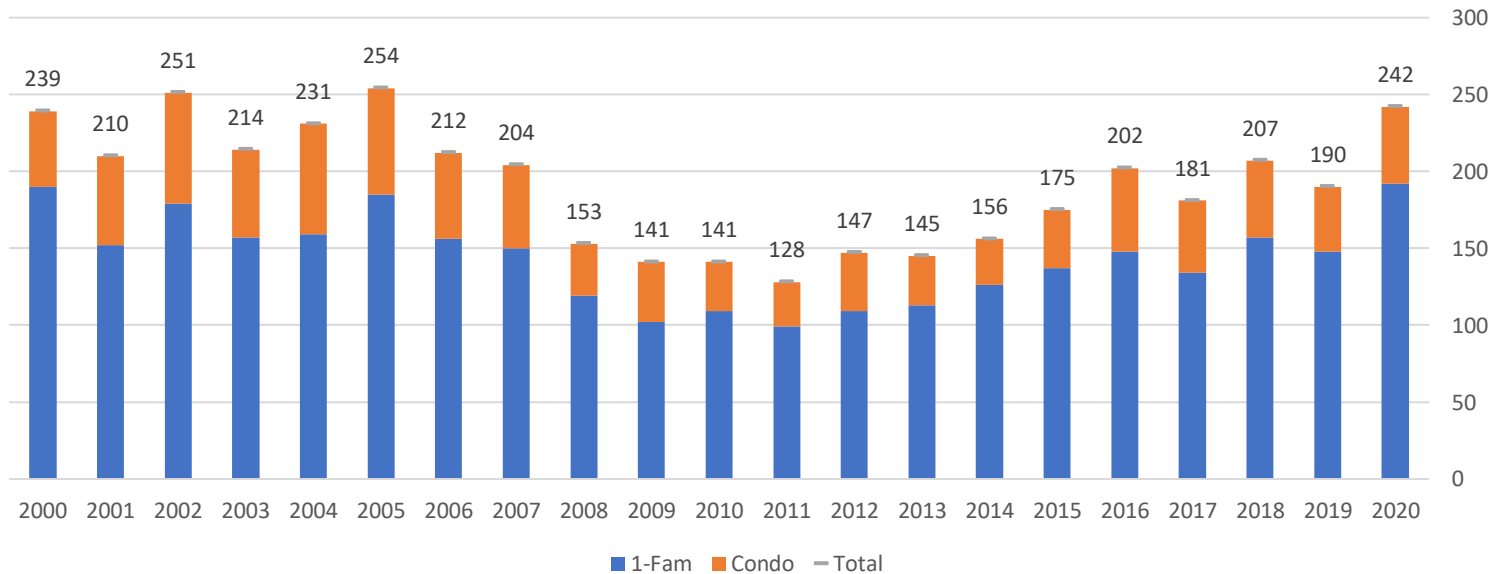
Source: CT Department of Labor

- Significant increase in unemployment due to COVID-19 pandemic
  - Unemployment rate as of Jan. 2021 in Suffield is 7.2%, and 8.6% in Hartford County
  - Rate of economic recovery will impact housing market and migration trends



# Home Sales

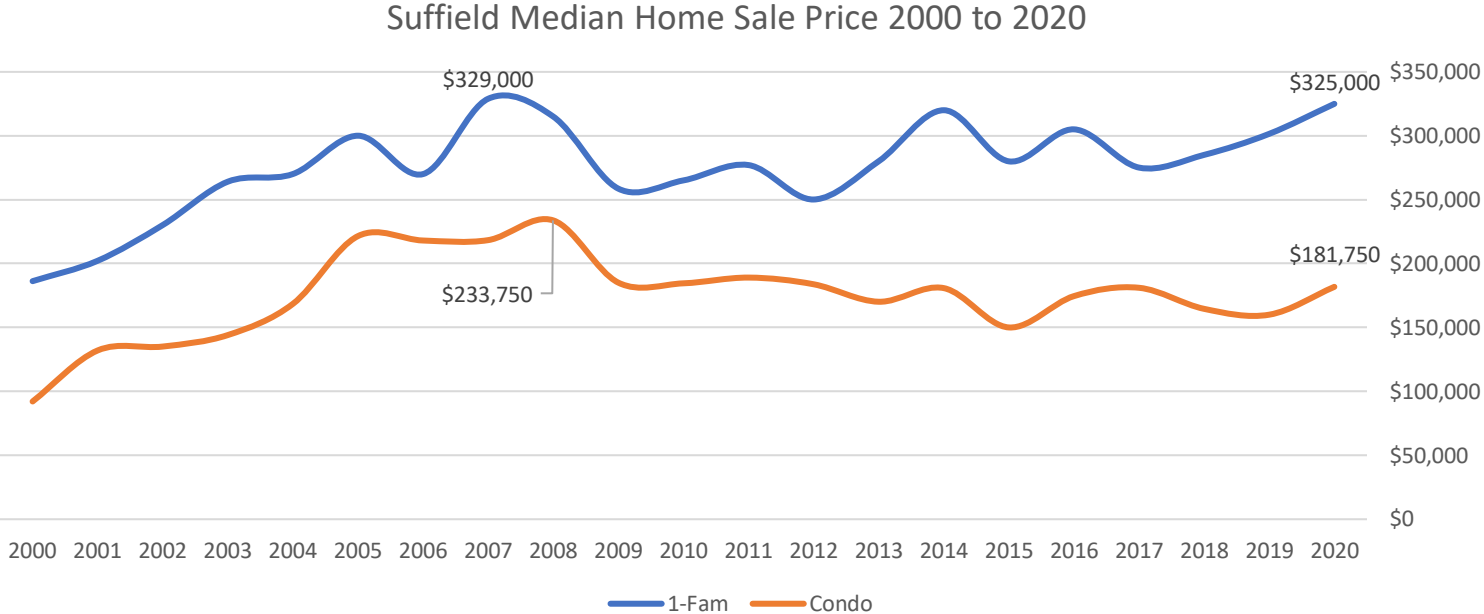
Number of Home Sales by Type



- Total sales were generally stable between 2015 and 2019, averaging 191 sales per year
- Large increase in sales in 2020, driven by single-family sales. Highest sales activity since mid 2000s
- Over the last 5 years, condo average ~24% of overall sales



# Home Sales

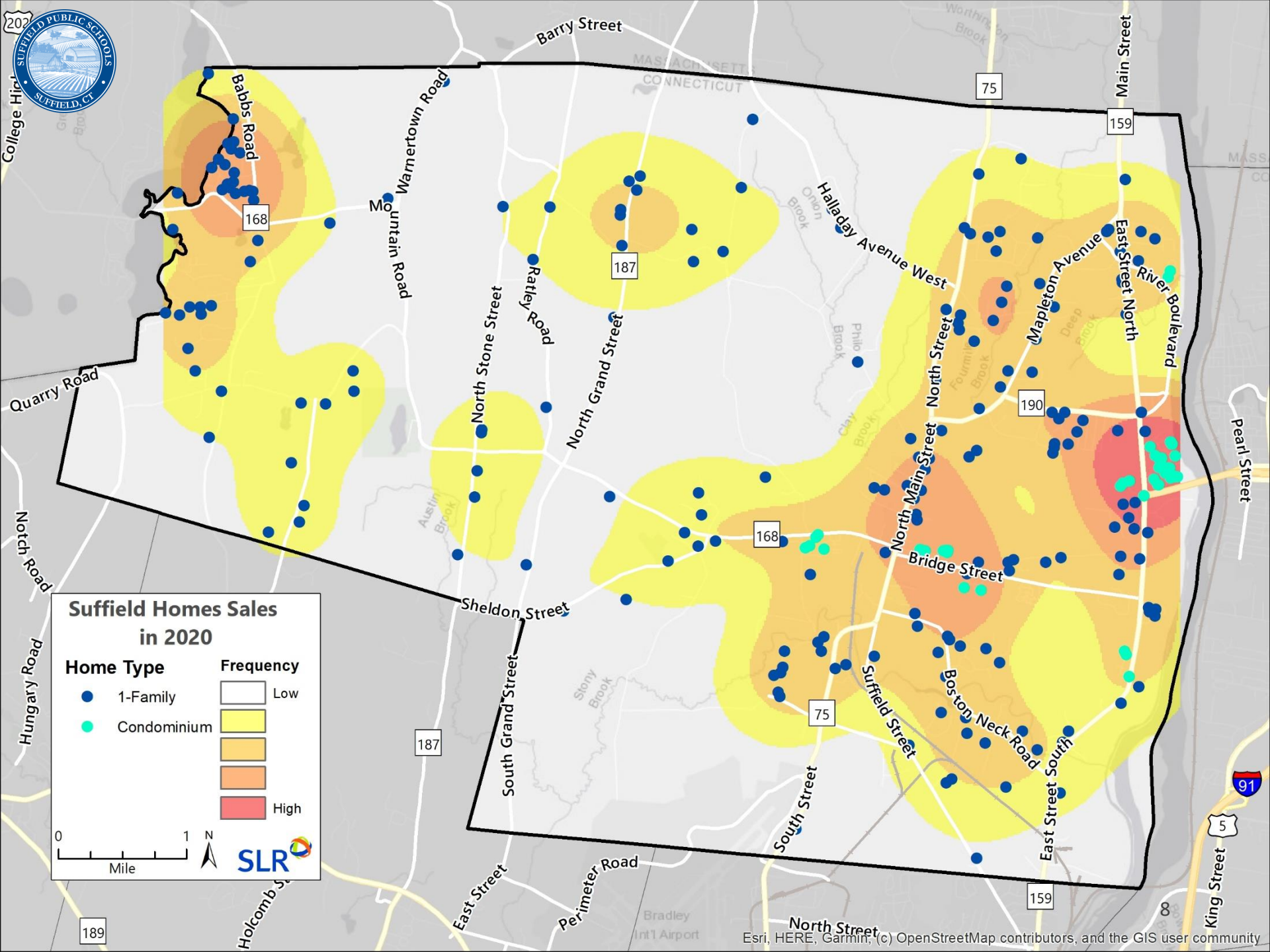


- Median sale price for single family homes in 2020 is about \$23,500 higher than last year
- Median condominium sale prices in 2020 increased \$21,800 from last year
- Sales price in 2020 is close to peaks in 2007 and 2008





College Hill  
Suffield, CT



**Suffield Homes Sales in 2020**

Home Type	Frequency
● 1-Family	Low
● Condominium	Low
	Yellow
	Orange
	High

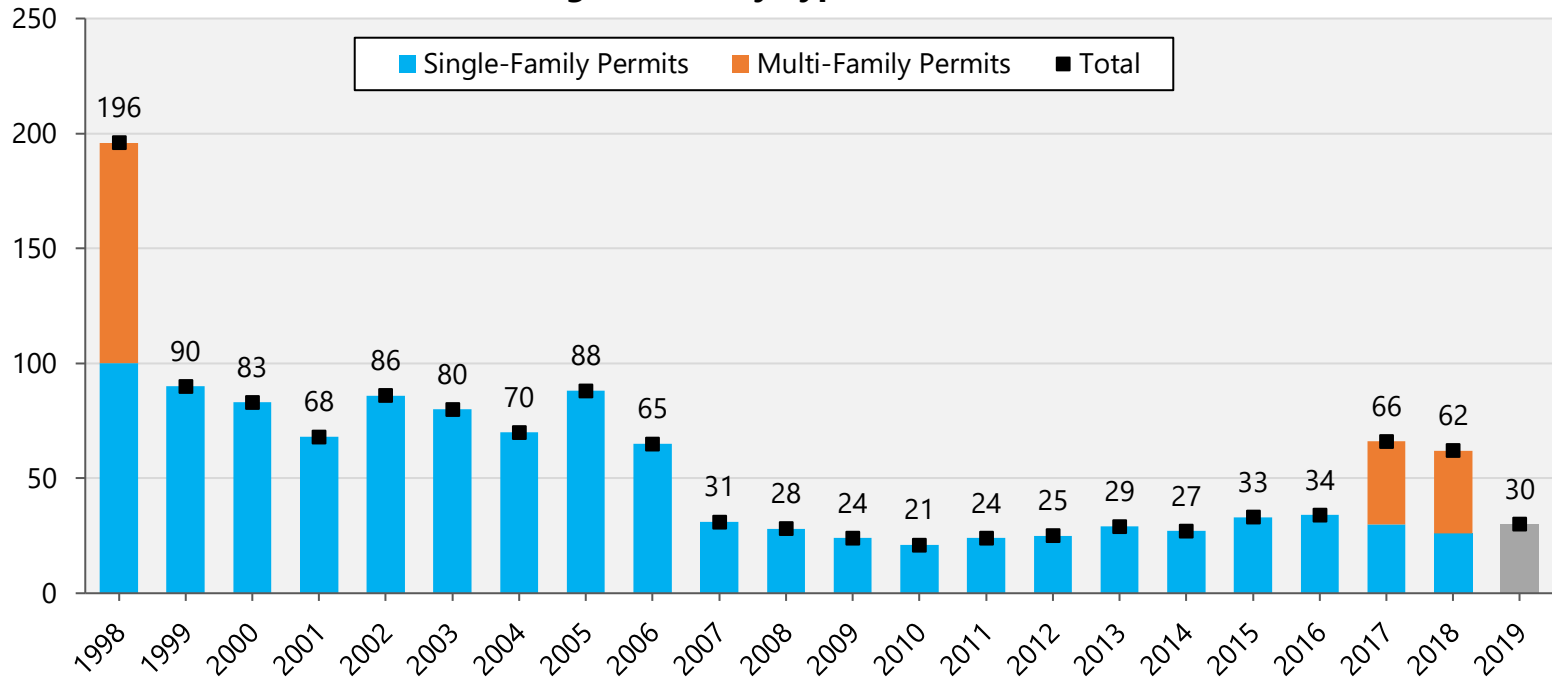
0 1 Mile





# Housing Permits

Suffield Housing Permits, by Type: 1998-2019



Source: Connecticut DECD, Annual Housing Permits  
2019 data does not include a breakdown by unit type.

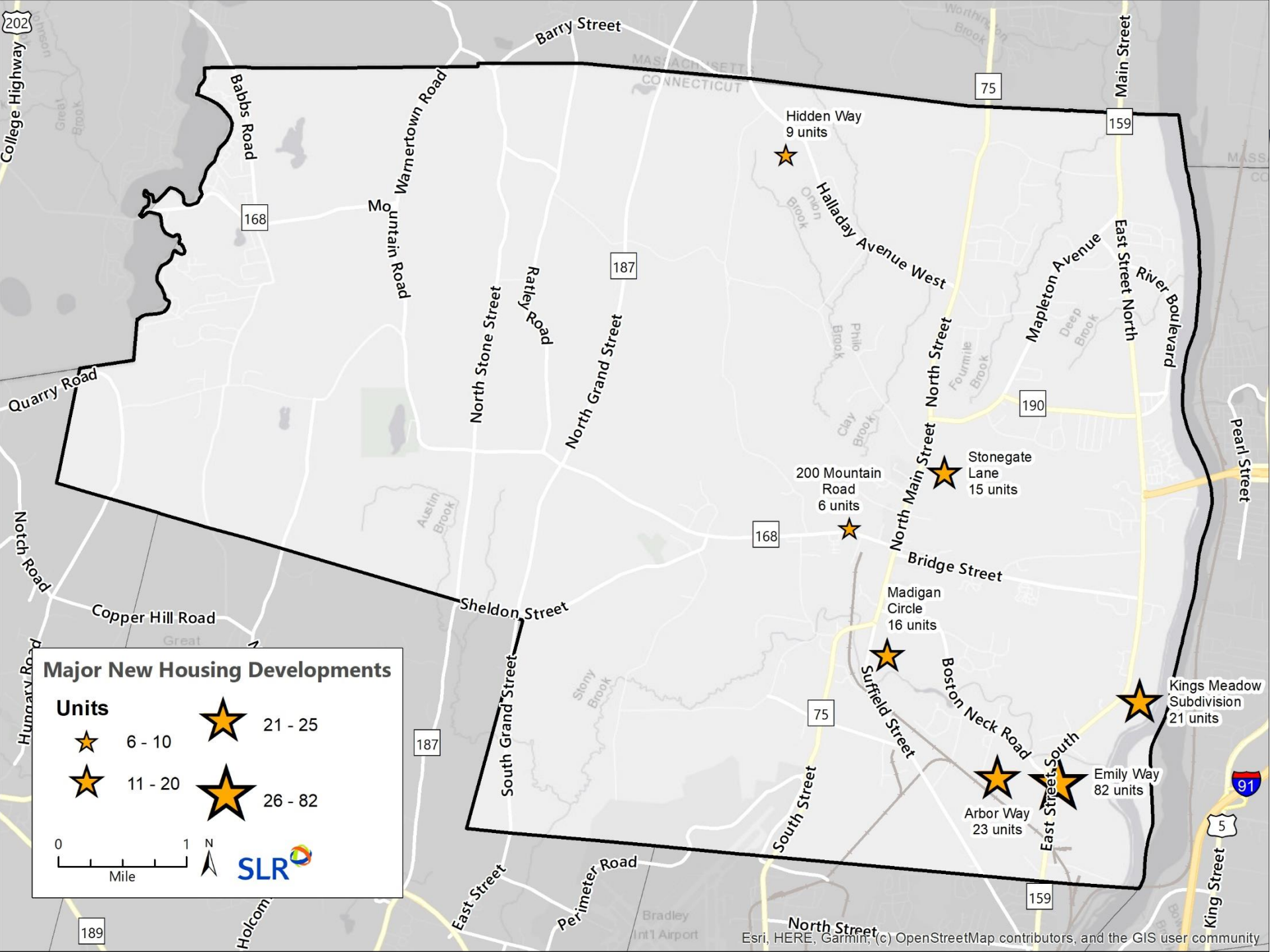
- Recent uptick in multi-family permits
- Since 2015, Suffield has averaged about 45 new housing permits per year







# Future Housing Development

Location	Type	Status	# of Units to be Built
Emily Way (Off East Street South)	Apartment/Townhouse	Under Construction	82
Arbor Way	Single Family	Under Construction	23
Kings Meadow Sub. near 414 East St. South	Single Family	Under Construction	21
Madigan Circle (Off Limric Lane)	Single Family	Approved	16
Stonegate Lane	Single Family	Under Construction	15
Hidden Way (Off Halladay Ave. West)	Single Family	Under Construction	9
200 Mountain Road	Condominium	Under Construction	6
Developments with fewer than 5 units	Single Family	Under Construction/ Approved	10
<b>Total</b>			<b>182</b>










- There are 182 housing units expected to come online in the near future
- About half of these units will be single family
- Single family developments tend to generate more school aged children than apartments or condominiums



### Major New Housing Developments

- Units**
-  6 - 10
  -  11 - 20
  -  21 - 25
  -  26 - 82

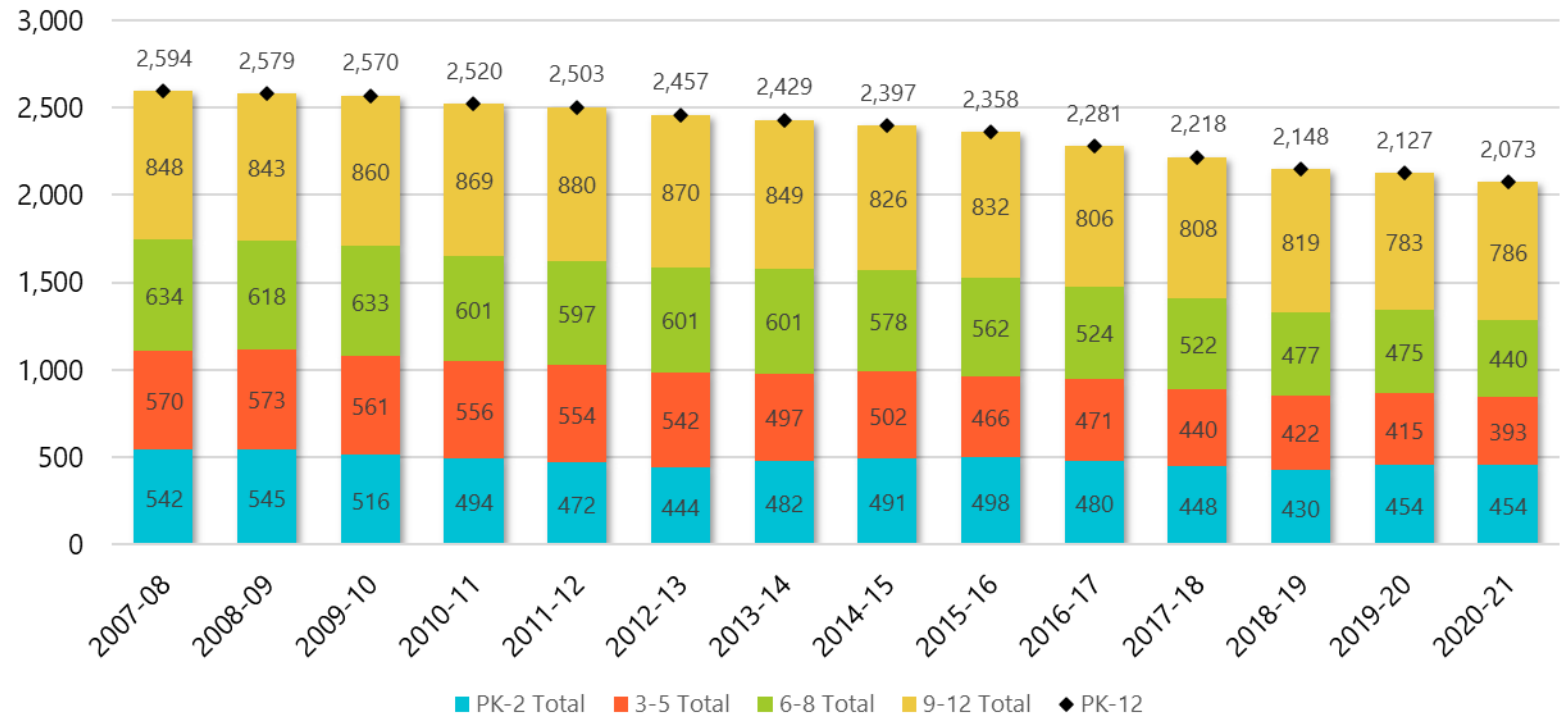


-  Hidden Way  
9 units
-  200 Mountain Road  
6 units
-  Stonegate Lane  
15 units
-  Madigan Circle  
16 units
-  Suffield Street
-  Arbor Way  
23 units
-  East Street, South
-  Kings Meadow Subdivision  
21 units
-  Emily Way  
82 units



# Enrollment Trends: District

### Suffield Historic Enrollments, 2007-08 to 2020-21



- Overall, enrollment in grades PK-12 enrollment experienced a 2.5% decrease from last year
- Total enrollment has been continually declining
- PK-2 enrollment has stabilized over the last three school years

\* District provided enrollment may differ slightly from the preliminary data reported by the State Department of Education





# Student Withdrawals

## Student Withdrawals, by Grade Grouping

Grade Grouping	School Year of Withdrawal		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
K-2 Total	26	22	41
3-5 Total	29	17	29
6-8 Total	33	24	24
9-12 Total	47	39	45
<b>K-12 Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>139</b>

School Year runs from July 1st to July 30th

## Homeschool Withdrawals, by Grade Grouping

Grade Grouping	School Year of Withdrawal		
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
K-2 Total	1	3	19
3-5 Total	1	0	14
6-8 Total	0	3	8
9-12 Total	0	2	5
<b>K-12 Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>46</b>

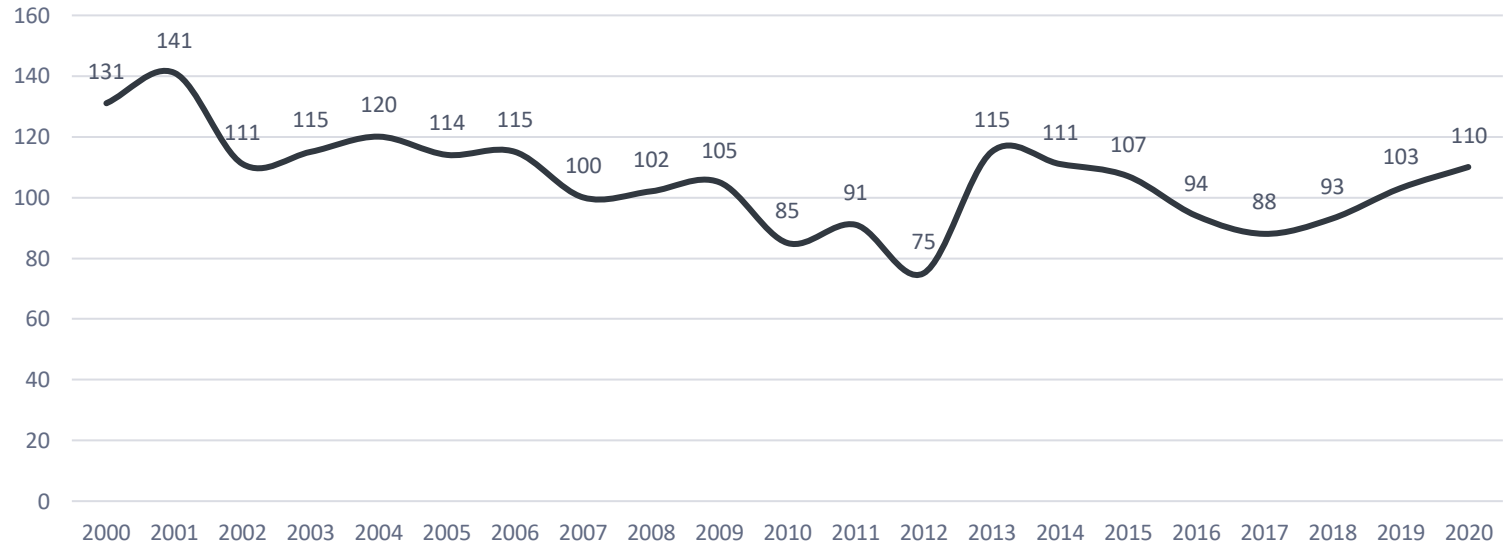
School Year runs from July 1st to July 30th

- **Elevated levels of student withdrawals for the 2020-21 school year, especially for the elementary (K-2) grades**
- **Student withdrawals due to homeschooling are significantly higher than the previous two years, with the greatest increases in the elementary (K-2) and intermediate (3-5) grades**
  - Many of these students are likely to return to SPS



# Births

Suffield Births 2000 to 2020



Source: CT Department of Public Health

- Births have fluctuated over the last ten years
  - Averaging 98 births in the last 5 years
- Births have steadily increased since 2018



# Enrollment Projections





# Projections Building Blocks

## Starting Data

Critical to the overall accuracy of the projections, as each year builds upon the last.

### District Projections

**Town of Suffield Births**

*Obtained from CT DPH*

**Historic Enrollment Trends**

*Obtained from SPS and CT SDE*

## Projection Assumptions

Several projection models are developed by applying different persistency ratios to building blocks

**5-Year Average**

**3-Year Average**

**Exponential Trends**

## Demographic and Housing Data

Used to inform model selection

**Unemployment (Town, Region)**

**Housing Permit Activity & Multipliers**

**Home Sales (1-family, condos)**

**Women of Child-Bearing Age**

**Population Projections & Development Capacity**



# Projections Primer

## Cohort Survival Method

- Based on Cohort Survival Methodology - Standard method for enrollment projections
- Methodology accepted by CSDE School Construction Projects (CGS 10-283)
- The Cohort Survival Methodology relies on **observed data from the recent past in order to predict the near future**
- Methodology works well for stable populations, including communities that are growing or declining at a steady rate



# Projections Primer

## Persistency Ratios

- Persistency ratios are calculated from historic enrollment data to determine growth or loss in a class as it progresses through school system.
- Persistency ratios account for the various external factors affecting enrollments, including housing characteristics, residential development, economic conditions, student transfers in and out of the system, and student mobility.
  - **Recent pace of housing construction is accounted for in the persistency ratios.**
- Persistency Ratio of 1.0 means cohort size remains the same; 1.05 means the cohort size increases by 5%, or a cohort of 100 grows to 105 the following year.
- Changes in population, housing stock and tenure, and economic conditions help explain persistency ratios.



# Projections Assumptions

These projections are predicated on the following assumptions:

- 32 students who withdrew from SPS due to homeschooling in the elementary and intermediate grades re-enroll in SPS for the 2021-22 school year
- Pre-K enrollment will return to its historic average of about 50 students;
- Housing and economic assumptions at the districtwide level will prove accurate;
- The recent pace of new home construction will continue;
- Enrollment of Suffield residents in other public, magnet, charter, or private schools continues at historic levels; and
- Enrollment of non-resident students in the Vo-Ag program at Suffield High School continues at historic levels



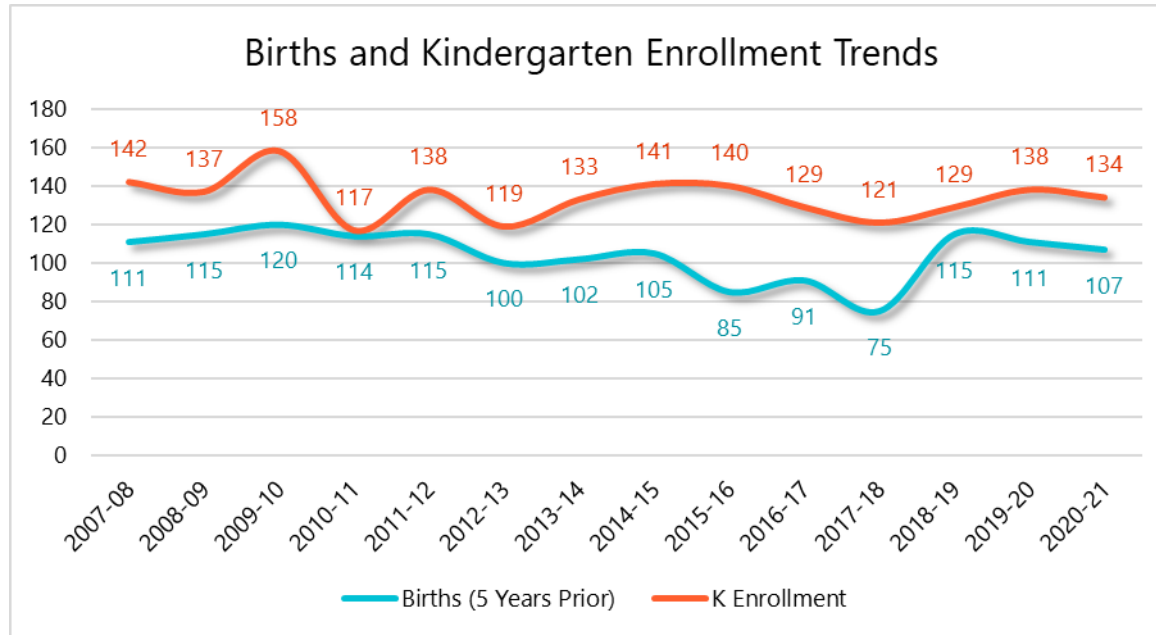
# Persistency Ratios

Kindergarten through 12th Grade Persistency Ratios by School Year 2007-08 to 2020-21														
Year	Birth-K	K-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	Migration Estimate (2-7 to 3-8)
2008-09	1.1913	1.1197	1.0909	0.9744	1.0055	1.0000	1.0479	1.0000	1.0316	0.9726	1.0000	0.9636	0.9807	0.93%
2009-10	1.3167	1.0949	1.0189	1.0417	0.9632	0.9727	1.0100	1.0508	0.9956	1.1429	1.0000	0.9814	1.0000	0.59%
2010-11	1.0263	1.0759	1.1067	1.0247	1.0050	1.0328	1.0337	1.0248	1.0145	1.0268	0.9554	0.9812	1.0237	2.21%
2011-12	1.2000	1.0513	1.0000	1.0422	1.0723	1.0100	1.0582	1.0163	1.0145	1.0714	0.9783	1.0374	0.9952	3.41%
2012-13	1.1900	1.1449	1.0976	1.0471	1.0347	1.0393	1.0246	1.0250	1.0053	1.0524	0.9467	0.9556	0.9955	2.88%
2013-14	1.3039	1.1345	1.0063	1.0519	1.0169	0.9721	0.9838	1.0385	0.9902	1.0745	0.9774	1.0094	1.0047	0.73%
2014-15	1.3429	1.0376	1.0667	1.0440	1.0141	1.0608	1.0057	1.0110	1.0139	1.0443	0.9653	0.9722	0.9721	2.47%
2015-16	1.6471	1.1064	1.0217	1.0556	1.0301	0.9931	1.0052	1.0514	1.0054	1.0685	0.9670	0.9897	0.9524	2.29%
2016-17	1.4176	1.0429	0.9936	1.0355	1.0066	1.0058	1.0280	1.0155	0.9837	1.0432	0.9615	0.9951	0.9534	1.12%
2017-18	1.6133	1.0000	0.9932	0.9355	0.9658	1.0065	0.9767	1.0272	1.0357	1.1436	0.9845	1.0044	0.9069	-0.72%
2018-19	1.1217	1.0661	1.0310	0.9655	0.9862	0.9858	1.0260	1.0000	1.0000	1.0690	0.9855	1.0105	0.9115	-0.55%
2019-20	1.2432	1.0775	1.0078	1.0000	0.9714	1.0210	1.0216	1.0000	1.0417	1.1457	1.0092	0.9951	0.9792	1.02%
2020-21	1.2523	0.9928	1.0216	0.9769	0.9699	1.0074	0.9726	1.0070	0.9810	1.1600	1.0173	0.9635	0.9655	-1.42%

- Generally, classes are stable as they matriculate through the system (PRs near 1.0)
- Estimate of migration tracks changes in grades 2-7 one year compared to grades 3-8 the following year – this year was a record low
- Impact of pandemic noticeable with lower persistency ratios, especially for the lower grades
- Birth-K ratios and estimate of migration have both been lower than the historic average over the last 3 to 4 years



# Birth-K Persistency Ratios

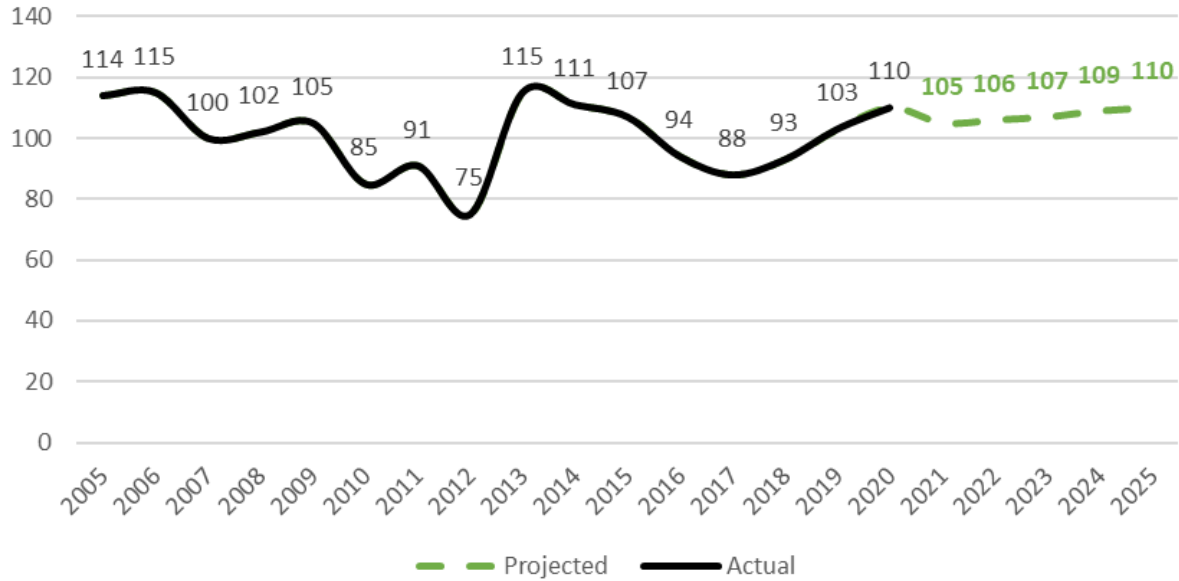


- **Birth-K persistency ratios have averaged 1.3** – or 130 kindergarteners for every 100 births 5-years prior. Smaller birth cohorts typically produce larger Birth-K ratios
- Despite significant variation in the size of birth cohorts, kindergarten enrollment has stayed very stable since 2013-14, ranging from 121 to 141 students.
  - Suggests that in-migration plays a significant role in kindergarten enrollments



# Birth Projections

### Suffield Historic and Projected Births: 2005 - 2025



Source: Connecticut Department of Public Health; MMI Projections

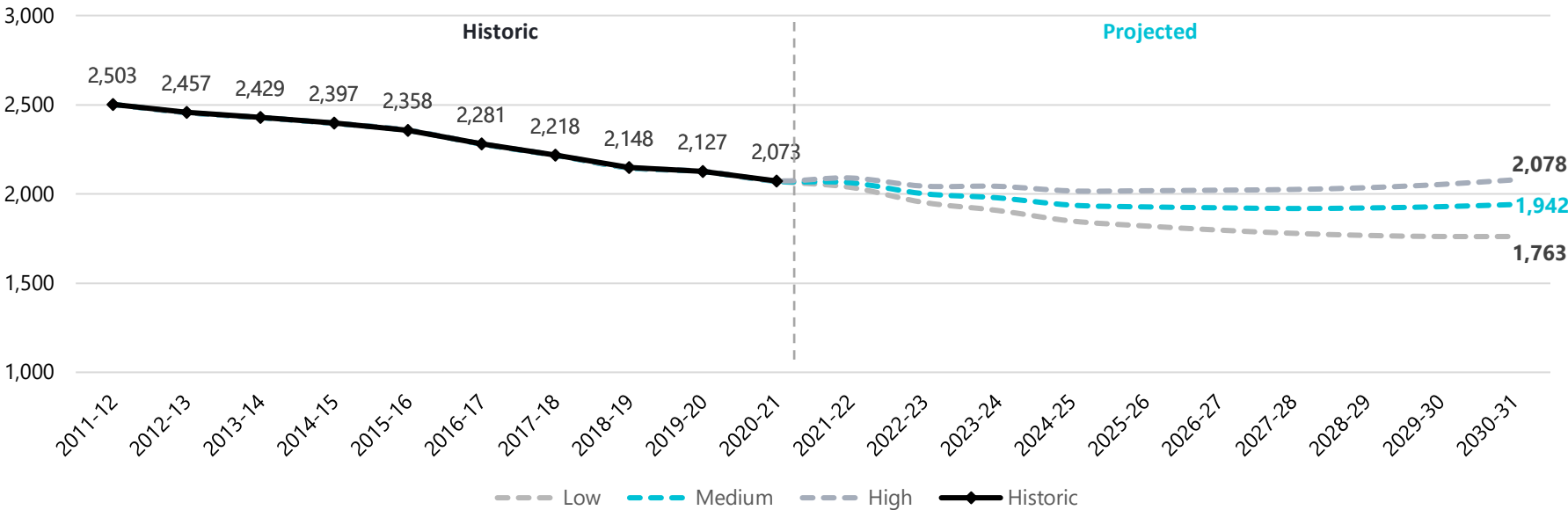
- Births projected (10-year exponential growth trend )from 2021 through 2025 corresponding with projected kindergarten classes for 2026-27 through 2030-31
- Suffield births projected to stay stable ranging from 105 to 110 annually





# Districtwide Projections

### Suffield Public Schools Actual and Projected PK-12 Enrollment: 2011-12 to 2030-31



- All three projections models show a modest decrease in enrollment over the next five years, followed by a stabilization over the final five years
  - Largely driven by smaller cohorts already in the system
- **Medium model (recommended)** assumes a modest rate of recovery from Pandemic. High model would assume a more rapid recovery, while the low model assumes a prolonged recovery



# Districtwide Projections (Medium)

**Enrollment Projections, by Grade: 2020-21 to 2030-31 (Medium)**

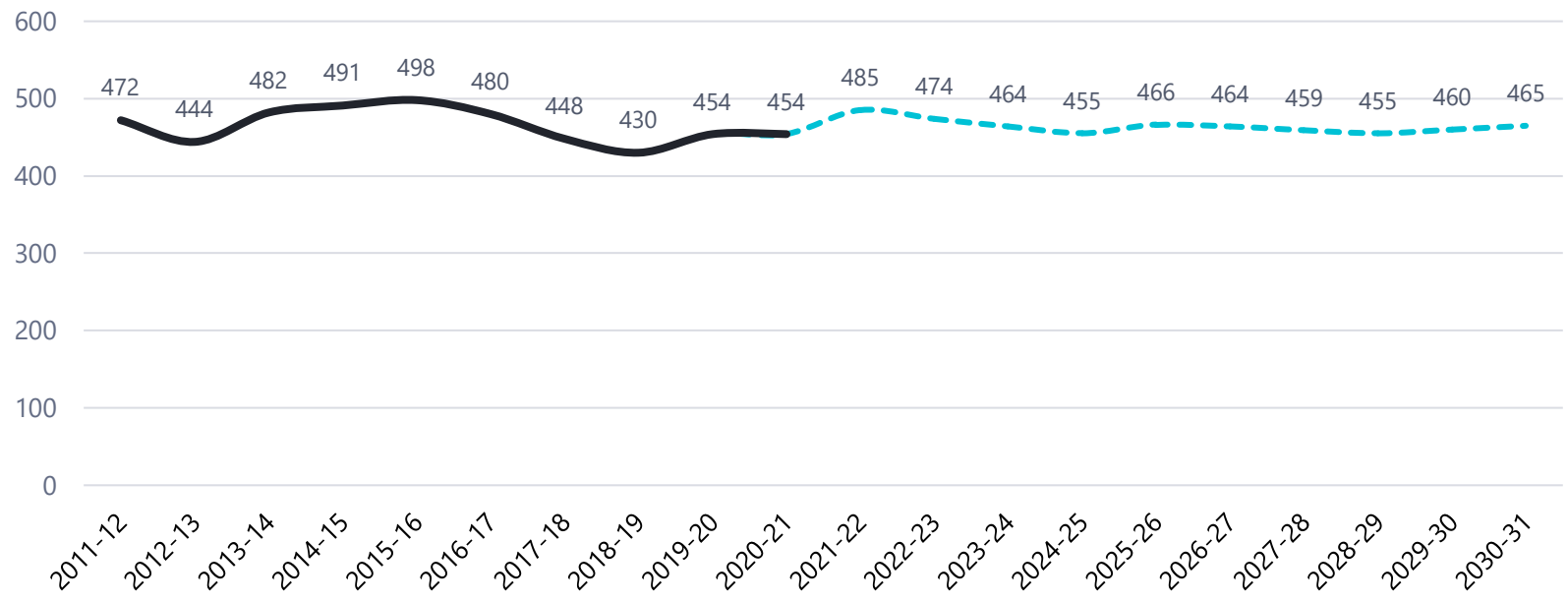
School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK	PK-2 Total	3-5 Total	6-8 Total	9-12 Total	PK-12 Total
2020-21	134	137	142	127	129	137	142	143	155	203	176	211	196	41	454	393	440	786	2,073
2021-22	143	147	145	144	129	134	139	144	145	171	200	176	198	50	485	407	428	745	2,065
2022-23	124	150	150	143	141	130	136	140	146	160	168	200	165	50	474	414	422	693	2,003
2023-24	131	130	153	148	140	142	132	137	142	161	158	168	188	50	464	430	411	675	1,980
2024-25	135	137	133	151	145	141	144	133	139	156	159	158	158	50	455	437	416	631	1,939
2025-26	135	141	140	131	148	146	143	146	135	153	154	159	148	50	466	425	424	614	1,929
2026-27	129	141	144	138	129	149	148	145	148	149	151	154	149	50	464	416	441	603	1,924
2027-28	130	135	144	142	136	130	151	150	147	163	147	151	144	50	459	408	448	605	1,920
2028-29	131	136	138	142	140	137	132	153	152	162	161	147	142	50	455	419	437	612	1,923
2029-30	134	137	139	136	140	141	139	133	155	167	160	161	138	50	460	417	427	626	1,930
2030-31	135	140	140	137	134	141	143	140	135	171	165	160	151	50	465	412	418	647	1,942

- Years projected based on preliminary birth data
- Years projected based on projected birth data



# Elementary Projections (Medium)

**Suffield Public Schools Actual and Projected PK-2 Enrollment: 2011-12 to 2030-31**

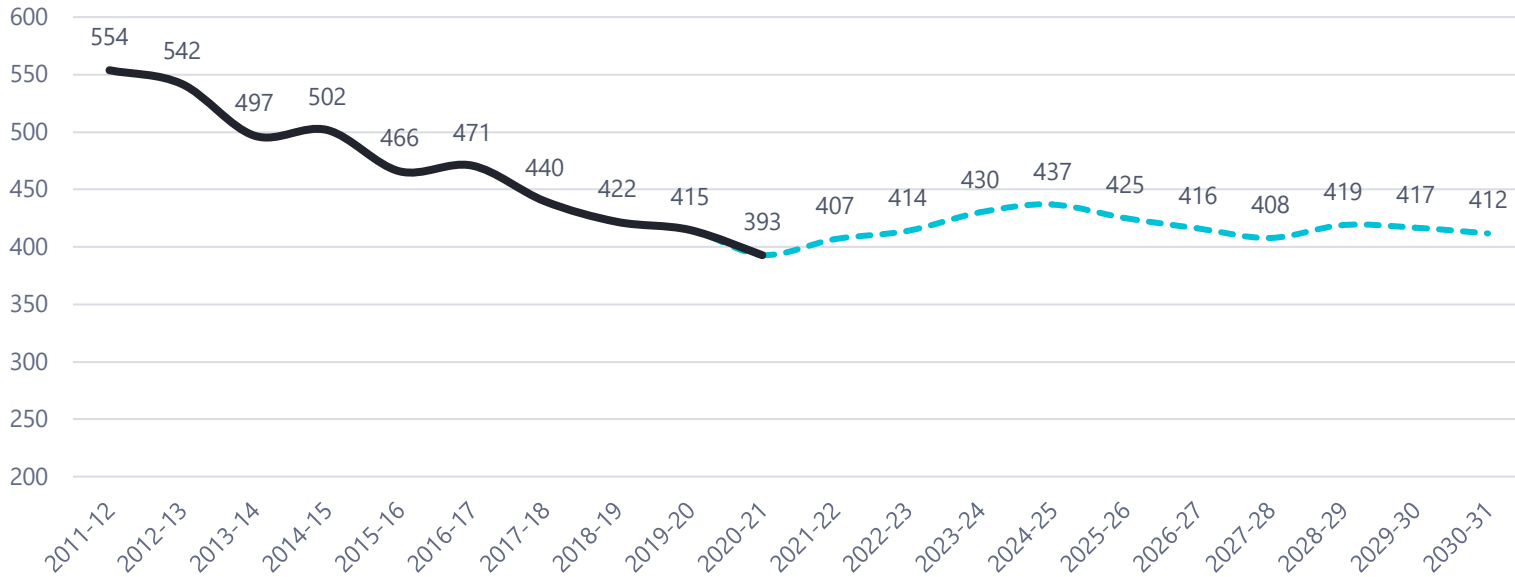


- **Elementary (PK-2) enrollment is project to increase next year as homeschool students and delayed entry students return.**
- Elementary enrollment is projected to stay relatively stable over the final 9 years of the projections, ranging from 455 to 475 students.
- Stable incoming kindergarten classes beginning in 2022-23 ranging from 124 to 135 annually.



# Intermediate Projections (Medium)

**Suffield Public Schools Actual and Projected 3-5 Enrollment: 2011-12 to 2030-31**

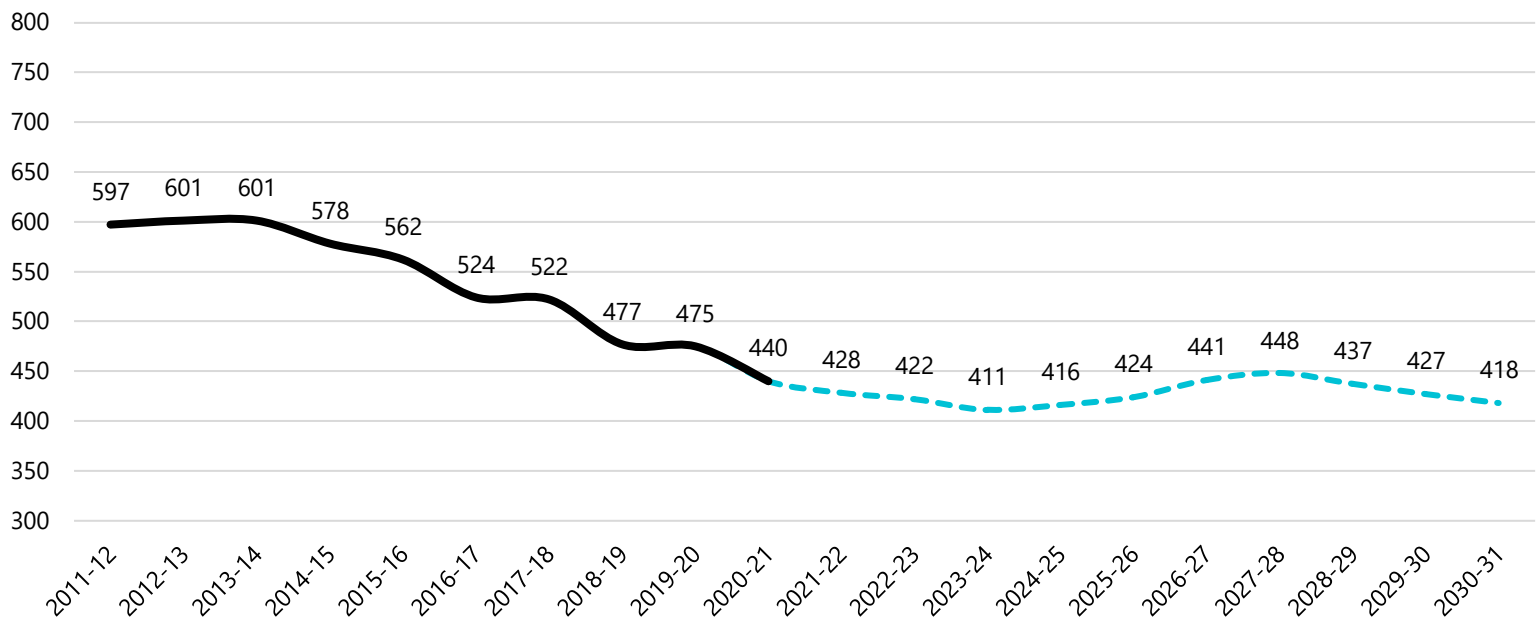


- **Intermediate school enrollment (3-5) has reached its historic low**
- Intermediate school enrollment is projected to grow to 437 students by 2024-25 before leveling off over the final six years of the projections at between 408 and 425 students



# Middle School Projections (Medium)

Suffield Public Schools Actual and Projected 6-8 Enrollment: 2011-12 to 2030-31

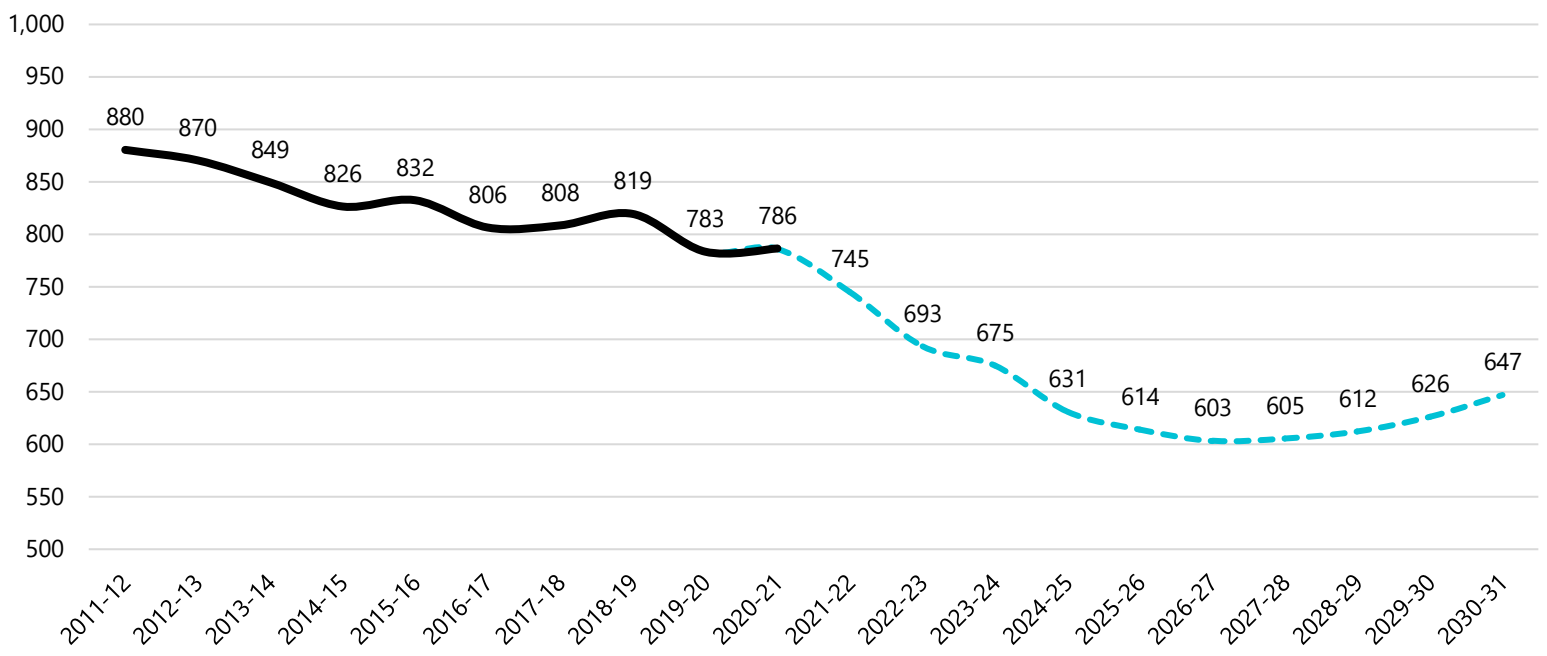


- **Middle school enrollment is projected to decrease over the next three years, reaching a low of 411 students in 2023-24**
- Enrollment is projected to increase to 448 students by 2027-28 as larger elementary and intermediate school cohorts begin matriculating up



# High School Projections (Medium)

**Suffield Public Schools Actual and Projected 9-12 Enrollment: 2011-12 to 2030-31**



- High school enrollment projected to decrease to 603 students by 2027-28, reflecting smaller cohorts currently in elementary and intermediate school.
- High school enrollment projected to rebound to 647 students over the final four years of the projection horizon.



# Enrollment Projections Takeaways

- Projected uptick in elementary and intermediate school enrollment for 2021-22 school year as home school students return to SPS
- Elementary enrollment is projected to stay relatively stable over the next ten years at between 455 and 485 students
- Intermediate school enrollment is projected to increase slightly over the next four years before leveling off over the final six years of the projections
- Middle School enrollment is projected to decrease over the next three years before increasing slightly over the final seven years of the projections
- High school enrollment is projected to decrease modestly through 2026-27, as smaller cohorts currently in elementary, intermediate, and middle school matriculate up. High school enrollment projected to rebound beginning in 2027-28





# Appendix

## Low and High Projections Models

*The medium projections model best aligns with observed trends. The high and low model represent the range of possible outcomes and should be considered as part of the District's long range planning efforts*



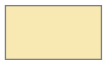
# Districtwide Projections (Low)

**Enrollment Projections, by Grade: 2020-21 to 2030-31 (Low Model)**

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK	PK-2 Total	3-5 Total	6-8 Total	9-12 Total	PK-12 Total
2020-21	134	137	142	127	129	137	142	143	155	203	176	211	196	41	454	393	440	786	2,073
2021-22	136	147	143	141	127	133	137	142	144	170	199	173	197	50	476	401	423	739	2,039
2022-23	118	142	148	138	137	127	133	137	143	158	167	195	161	50	458	402	413	681	1,954
2023-24	124	123	143	143	134	137	127	133	138	156	155	164	182	50	440	414	398	657	1,909
2024-25	128	130	124	138	139	134	137	127	134	151	153	152	153	50	432	411	398	609	1,850
2025-26	128	134	131	120	134	139	134	137	128	147	148	150	142	50	443	393	399	587	1,822
2026-27	122	134	135	127	117	134	139	134	138	140	144	145	140	50	441	378	411	569	1,799
2027-28	124	128	135	131	124	117	134	139	135	151	137	141	135	50	437	372	408	564	1,781
2028-29	125	130	129	131	127	124	117	134	140	148	148	135	131	50	434	382	391	562	1,769
2029-30	127	131	131	125	127	127	124	117	135	153	145	145	126	50	439	379	376	569	1,763
2030-31	128	133	132	127	122	127	127	124	118	148	150	142	135	50	443	376	369	575	1,763



Years projected based on preliminary birth data



Years projected based on projected birth data



# Districtwide Projections (High)

**Enrollment Projections, by Grade: 2020-21 to 2030-31 (High Model)**

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK	PK-2 Total	3-5 Total	6-8 Total	9-12 Total	PK-12 Total
2020-21	134	137	142	127	129	137	142	143	155	203	176	211	196	41	454	393	440	786	2,073
2021-22	150	149	144	146	130	133	139	145	145	177	205	173	203	50	493	409	429	758	2,089
2022-23	130	159	150	144	145	130	135	142	147	165	179	201	166	50	489	419	424	711	2,043
2023-24	138	138	161	150	143	145	131	138	144	168	167	176	193	50	487	438	413	704	2,042
2024-25	141	146	139	161	149	143	147	133	140	164	170	164	169	50	476	453	420	667	2,016
2025-26	142	149	147	139	160	149	145	150	135	160	166	167	158	50	488	448	430	651	2,017
2026-27	135	150	150	147	138	160	151	148	152	154	161	163	161	50	485	445	451	639	2,020
2027-28	137	143	151	150	146	138	162	154	150	173	155	158	157	50	481	434	466	643	2,024
2028-29	138	145	144	151	149	146	140	165	156	171	175	152	152	50	477	446	461	650	2,034
2029-30	140	146	146	144	150	149	148	143	167	178	173	172	146	50	482	443	458	669	2,052
2030-31	142	148	147	146	143	150	151	151	145	190	180	170	165	50	487	439	447	705	2,078

- Years projected based on preliminary birth data
- Years projected based on projected birth data