



## BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

We will teach them One and All  
Young to Old and Big to Small  
Inspire, engage and educate  
Improve our world and make it great  
Challenge All to grow, exceed  
So one day They will take the lead...

# Demographic and Enrollment Study

## Executive Summary

The Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District comprises one high school (grades 9-12); one middle school (grades 7-8); two middle schools (grades 5-6) and seven elementary schools (grades prekindergarten-4). The enrollment in the district declined from 8,540 students in 2016-17 to 8,070 students in 2021-22. That is an overall decrease of 470 students or approximately 5.50%. The enrollment is projected to decline over the next five years to 7,823 students or approximately 3.06%. Although there is the possibility of new housing construction in the Township as of this writing there were no large-scale developments that had approval or a site plan available for creating a projection which included school aged children from new housing. While there has been an average annual turnover rate of existing housing 4.48% in Bridgewater and 2.71% in Raritan (over the past three years) these sales have not produced any changes in enrollment trends. Crim has shown an increase in enrollment (45 students) over that period and Kennedy, Hamilton and the middle school have shown marginal growth. The long-range projection indicates that Adamsville, Milltown, and Van Holten Road will experience growth over the next five years (with the remaining elementary school enrollments leveling off).

Table 1 below represents a ten-year overview of enrollment changes from the base year of (2016-17) to the current year (2021-22) and to the final projected year (2026-27).

**Table 1: Ten Year Projection Overview**

	2016-17	2021-22	Difference	Percent	2026-27	Diff	Percent
				Difference			
District	8,540	8,070	-470	-5.50%	7823	-247	-3.06%
Adamsville	473	443	-30	-6.34%	461	18	4.06%
Bradley Gardens	259	229	-30	-11.58%	233	4	1.75%
Crim Primary	323	368	45	13.93%	358	-10	-2.72%
Hamilton	491	501	10	2.04%	501	0	0.00%
John F. Kennedy	423	435	12	2.84%	431	-4	-0.92%
Milltown	397	265	-132	-33.25%	313	48	18.11%
Van Holten Rd	437	297	-140	-32.04%	336	39	13.13%
Eisenhower	718	654	-64	-8.91%	635	-19	-2.91%
Hillside	569	545	-24	-4.22%	540	-5	-0.92%
Middle School	1330	1,387	57	4.29%	1232	-155	-11.18%
High School	2835	2,620	-215	-7.58%	2442	-178	-6.79%
Self-contained Sp Ed	159	167	8	5.03%	190	23	13.77%
Prekindergarten	76	80	4	5.26%	57	-23	-28.75%
Preschool Disabled	50	79	29	58.00%	94	15	18.99%

## Methodology

This study is using a modified cohort survival method. The cohort survival model for projecting school enrollment follows groups of students as they move from grade to grade and then measures the average growth and/or decline as these students move from grade to grade. For example, if there are 100 students in grade 1 and this group increases to 110 in grade 2 that is a growth of 1.10. A five-year average of the growth from first to second grade is calculated and the projections are made based upon that average. Kindergarten projections are based upon the average between students entering kindergarten and live births attributable to the community five years earlier (children born in 2016 became kindergarten students in 2021). This is average for six years and the average is used to multiply live births to project kindergarten students (live births are based upon data from the New Jersey Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics) and these usually are on a two-year lag, so the last two years of births are based upon a five-year moving average<sup>1</sup>

## Selected Demographics

**Table 2 : Bridgewater Demographics**

Bridgewater Township			
	2015	2020	Change
Population	44,467	45,977	1,510
Median Age	43.2	43.2	0
Median Income	\$114,510.00	\$ 133,342.00	\$18,832.00
Mean Income	\$143,298.00	\$ 161,500.00	\$18,202.00
Race			Percentage of Population
White	28,554	27,547	59.91%
Black	944	1,268	2.76%
Asian	10,660	11,080	24.10%
Hispanic	3,843	4,517	9.82%
Native Am/Alaskan	0	42	0.09%
Multi-racial	466	1,523	3.31%

**Table 3 : Raritan Demographics**

Raritan Borough			
	2015	2020	Change
Population	7,328	7,835	507
Median Age	38.9	43.9	5.00
Median Income	\$ 73,287.00	\$ 79,362.00	\$6,075.00
Mean Income	\$ 98,155.00	\$104,430.00	\$6,275.00
Race			Percentage of Population
White	4,428	4,120	52.58%
Black	271	247	3.15%
Asian	1,114	1,558	19.89%
Hispanic	1,303	1,672	21.34%
Native Am/Alaskan		6	0.08%
Multi-racial	212	232	2.96%

Tables 2 and 3 show selected demographics for both communities served by the Regional. In both communities there was growth in the overall enrollment. This may be indicative of some younger families moving into the communities (which may explain the growth and/or

<sup>1</sup> The enrollment data for this report was provided by the Bridgewater-Raritan administration. Birth data is from the New Jersey Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

stability in elementary schools. The median age in Bridgewater is 43.2 years and that has not changed over the past five years. The median age in Raritan increased from 38.9 to 43.9 years. In both of these communities the median age is at the higher end of child producing years and future growth will come from housing resales and/or new housing developments as these homes turn over. The median age in the State of New Jersey is 38.9 and it is 41.7 in Somerset County.

## **New Housing Units**

In order to obtain information regarding new developments in the Township we requested an OPRA. We received responses concerning two potential developments.

1. **Eden Woods Patriot Gardens** has been on the books since 2005. It originally was proposed as an age restricted development. Over the years this has changed. As of this date there are no firm plans. This project is in limbo according to Eden Woods Realty, the developer. As of now there is no means to project students from Patriot Gardens.
2. **Center of Excellence** has been before the Planning Board on a number of occasions. The document provided to me by the Board was extensive. We reviewed the block and lot information of the location (Block 483 Lots 17, 18 and 19) with a street address of 1041 Route 202/206. The indications are that four sections are designated commercial and four designated as vacant land. There does not appear to be any construction on these sites and although the OPRA response indicates there may be residential units to be built, but at this point it is too vague and speculative to make a projection. We have tried to reach the Board for clarification but beyond providing the OPRA they have not returned phone calls. Our advice, regarding units which may come online as the residential section of the Center of Excellence, is that the Board of Education monitor the progress of this development and when there are more specifics, such as the number and types of units, bedroom counts and percentage of affordable units, that the enrollment projection be updated.

## **Sales of Existing Housing**

Between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2021, two thousand one hundred and forty-two homes were sold in Bridgewater. This total only includes actual sales as opposed to a number of “paper sales.” These are generally homes that are exchanges between family members and are not purchased at market price (we eliminated from our count homes that were sold for less than \$ 1,000). The majority of homes that we included in the count were generally homes with a value greater than \$ 200,000 (homes in this value range have a greater possibility of producing school aged children. This represented an average of 741 homes sold in each of the past three years.<sup>2</sup> This represents an approximate housing turnover of 4.48% per year. Despite the housing turnover the enrollment did continue to decline by 470 students between 2016-17 and 2021-22. However, there is some indication the trend is beginning to change as the lower grades are beginning to experience growth. The projection

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<sup>2</sup> Information provided by New Jersey njpropertyrecords.com (coincidentally this company is located in Whitehouse Station, NJ).

to the 2026-27 school year shows a lesser decline of approximately 247 school aged children. While this will not bring the enrollment back to the current school year these students will continue to move through the system and overtime begin to return to be similar to current enrollments. This also may be supplemented by any future residential units which may come online. However, for the period covered by this projection the enrollment will remain lower than the current school year.

Raritan had a total of 251 non paper sales between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2021. This represents an average of 86 homes per year or approximately 2.71%.

## Projection Tables

**Table 4: District-Wide Enrollment History and Projection<sup>3</sup>**

Table 4 shows the district wide projection. Kindergarten enrollment is projected by calculating the difference between current kindergarten enrollment and children born five years earlier. The live births are those attributable to both Bridgewater and Raritan. The growth between grades is averaged over a five year period and the average growth between grades serves as the multiplier for projections. This is the cohort model and is the model required by the State Education Department when filing a Long-Range Facility Report.

Bridgewater-Raritan Enrollment History and Projection Cohort Only																												
Year	Births		K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	K-4	5-6	7-8	9-12	Sub	Total	PK	PSD	Total				
																				K-12	SC							
2016-17	445	0.874	389	527	639	599	649	660	641	670	660	708	702	729	696	2803	1301	1330	2835	8269	159	69	43	8540				
			1.455	1.061	1.003	1.028	1.028	1.003	1.005	1.025	1.042	0.910	11	0.953	0.960													
2017-18	468	0.818	383	566	559	641	616	667	662	644	687	688	644	669	700	2765	1329	1331	2701	8126	160	88	108	8482				
			1.405	1.025	1.029	1.020	1.041	1.024	1.045	1.020	1.023	0.948	1.011	0.988														
2018-19	479	0.808	387	538	580	575	654	641	683	692	657	703	652	651	661	2734	1324	1349	2667	8074	165	71	95	8405				
			1.460	1.020	1.033	1.017	1.018	1.037	1.012	1.010	1.038	0.915	0.997	1.006														
2019-20	498	0.769	383	565	549	599	585	666	665	691	699	682	643	650	655	2681	1331	1390	2630	8032	155	77	118	8382				
			1.319	1.002	0.978	0.997	0.985	1.020	1.011	1.009	0.948	0.956	1.009	0.998														
2020-21	452	0.750	339	505	566	537	597	576	679	672	697	663	652	649	649	2544	1255	1369	2613	7781	155	68	100	8104				
			1.481	1.053	1.023	1.007	1.012	1.033	1.041	1.012	1.001	0.961	0.971	1.005														
2021-22	504	0.762	384	502	532	579	541	604	595	707	680	698	637	633	652	2538	1199	1387	2620	7744	167	80	79	8070				
Av		0.797	1.424	1.032	1.013	1.014	1.017	1.023	1.023	1.015	1.010	0.938	0.988	0.991														
Year			K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	K-4	5-6	7-8	9-12	Sub	Total	PK	PSD	Total				
																				K-12	SC							
2022-23	484		386	547	518	539	587	550	618	609	718	687	655	629	627	2577	1168	1327	2598	7670	165	80	100	8015				
2023-24	487		388	550	565	525	547	597	563	632	618	725	644	647	623	2575	1160	1250	2639	7624	180	77	98	7979				
2024-25	461		367	555	574	593	542	564	619	580	644	621	676	638	647	2631	1183	1224	2582	7620	190	71	99	7980				
2025-26	478		381	523	573	581	601	551	577	633	589	650	582	668	632	2659	1128	1222	2532	7541	187	60	95	7883				
2026-27	478		381	543	540	580	589	611	564	590	642	595	610	575	662	2633	1175	1232	2442	7482	190	57	94	7823				

<sup>3</sup> SC Column = self-contained special education; PK=prekindergarten; PSD = preschool disabled.

**Table 5: Adamsville Elementary**

Adamsville											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	77	78	121	101	96	473		31		504
2017-18	468	88	112	79	126	108	513		28	41	582
2018-19	479	59	106	109	73	126	473		18	26	517
2019-20	498	93	82	110	99	82	466		18	31	515
2020-21	452	53	109	87	107	98	454		30	48	532
2021-22	504	83	75	97	84	104	443	4	13	38	498
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	484	74	96	94	85	101	450	4	16	37	507
2023-24	487	75	97	102	83	94	451	4	19	36	510
2024-25	461	71	98	104	94	93	460	4	19	38	521
2025-26	428	73	92	104	92	104	465	4	19	39	527
2026-27	428	73	96	98	92	102	461	4	20	38	523

**Table 6: Bradley Gardens Elementary**

Bradley Gardens											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	38	46	66	63	46	259	6			265
2017-18	468	31	55	46	66	68	266	13	21	16	316
2018-19	479	27	49	58	49	62	245	9	17	19	290
2019-20	498	42	45	41	57	47	232	10	18	21	281
2020-21	452	38	45	43	39	56	221	12	14	16	263
2021-22	504	55	46	47	44	37	229	17	6	13	265
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	484	42	48	44	44	50	228	10	11	17	266
2023-24	487	42	48	48	43	46	227	12	13	17	269
2024-25	461	40	49	49	49	46	233	12	12	17	274
2025-26	428	41	48	46	48	50	233	13	11	16	273
2026-27	428	41	48	46	48	50	233	13	11	16	273



**Table 7: Crim Elementary**

Crim Primary											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	43	65	64	66	85	323	10	23	23	379
2017-18	468	57	69	74	66	67	333	14	26	18	391
2018-19	479	62	79	70	78	70	359	13	18	19	409
2019-20	498	48	93	81	75	77	374	11	16	27	428
2020-21	452	36	73	82	69	68	328	14			342
2021-22	504	35	88	81	87	77	368	21			389
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	484	47	86	73	73	72	351	8			359
2023-24	487	47	87	80	71	67	352	13			365
2024-25	461	44	88	81	80	67	360	16			376
2025-26	428	46	83	81	78	74	362	18			380
2026-27	428	46	86	76	78	72	358	18			376

**Table 8: Hamilton Elementary**

Hamilton											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	41	74	125	125	126	491				491
2017-18	468	51	67	109	137	143	507				507
2018-19	479	51	80	110	132	143	516				516
2019-20	498	45	85	109	133	139	511				511
2020-21	452	46	69	106	123	133	477				477
2021-22	504	55	70	113	132	131	501				501
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	484	51	79	102	122	135	489				489
2023-24	487	51	79	111	119	126	486				486
2024-25	461	48	80	113	135	124	500				500
2025-26	428	50	75	113	132	138	508				508
2026-27	428	50	78	106	132	135	501				501

**Table 9: John F. Kennedy**

John F. Kennedy											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	63	77	106	65	112	423				423
2017-18	468	65	81	88	101	62	397				397
2018-19	479	84	84	75	87	106	436				436
2019-20	498	73	100	85	74	86	418				418
2020-21	452	80	88	100	77	82	427				427
2021-22	504	78	92	93	99	73	435				435
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	484	81	94	82	79	86	422				422
2023-24	487	82	95	90	77	80	424				424
2024-25	461	77	96	91	87	79	430				430
2025-26	428	80	90	91	86	88	435				435
2026-27	428	80	94	86	85	86	431				431

**Table 10: Milltown Elementary**

Milltown											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	59	98	77	81	82	397	17	11	27	452
2017-18	468	53	92	85	65	68	363	36	22	12	433
2018-19	479	54	74	76	76	63	343	33	49		425
2019-20	498	36	79	60	75	73	323	29	64		416
2020-21	452	58	55	69	57	75	314	28	60		402
2021-22	504	44	73	39	57	52	265	29	14	28	336
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	50	50	73	57	62	65	307	18	42	25	392
2023-24	487	50	73	62	61	61	307	27	37	25	396
2024-25	461	47	74	63	69	60	313	33	37	25	408
2025-26	428	49	70	63	67	66	315	33	28	25	401
2026-27	428	49	72	59	67	66	313	34	23	25	395

**Table 11: Van Holten Rd Elementary**

Van Holten Rd											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2016-17	445	68	89	80	98	102	437	49	11		497
2017-18	468	41	92	79	86	101	399	17			416
2018-19	479	50	66	82	80	84	362	13			375
2019-20	498	46	81	63	86	81	357	14			371
2020-21	452	28	66	79	65	85	323	11			334
2021-22	504	34	58	62	76	67	297	13			310
Av											
Year	Births	K	1	2	3	4	K-4	SC	PK	PSD	Total
2022-23	484	41	70	67	72	78	328	8			336
2023-24	487	41	71	73	70	73	328	12			340
2024-25	461	39	71	74	79	72	335	14			349
2025-26	428	40	67	74	78	80	339	14			353
2026-27	428	40	70	69	78	79	336	14			350

**Table 12: Eisenhower IS**

Eisenhower					
Year	5	6	5-6	SC	Total
2016-17	374	344	718	9	727
2017-18	378	380	758	12	770
2018-19	361	381	742	18	760
2019-20	365	368	733	14	747
2020-21	319	370	689	15	704
2021-22	330	324	654	19	671
Av					
Year	5	6	5-6	SC	Total
2022-23	296	333	629	9	638
2023-24	324	303	627	15	642
2024-25	305	334	639	18	657
2025-26	298	312	610	18	628
2026-27	330	305	635	19	654

**Table 13: Hillside IS**

Hillside					
Year	5	6	5-6	SC	Total
2016-17	280	289	569	8	569
2017-18	288	282	570	4	574
2018-19	280	302	582	5	587
2019-20	301	297	598	9	607
2020-21	257	309	566	8	574
2021-22	273	272	545	7	551
Av					
Year	5	6	5-6	SC	Total
2022-23	254	285	539	4	543
2023-24	274	259	533	7	540
2024-25	259	285	544	8	552
2025-26	253	265	518	9	527
2026-27	281	259	540	9	549

**Table 14: Middle School**

Bridgewater Middle School					
Year	7	8	Sub Total	SC	Total
2016-17	678	675	1353	20	1373
2017-18	644	687	1331	13	1344
2018-19	692	657	1349	13	1362
2019-20	691	699	1390	15	1405
2020-21	672	697	1369	15	1384
2021-22	707	680	1387	15	1402
Year	7	8	Sub Total	SC	Total
2022-23	609	718	1327	15	1342
2023-24	632	618	1250	14	1264
2024-25	580	644	1224	15	1239
2025-26	633	589	1222	15	1237
2026-27	590	642	1232	15	1247

**Table 15: High School**

Bridgewater High School							
Year	9	10	11	12	Sub Total	SC	Total
2016-17	712	665	705	730	2812	40	2852
2017-18	688	644	669	700	2701	51	2752
2018-19	703	652	651	661	2667	61	2728
2019-20	682	643	650	655	2630	53	2683
2020-21	663	652	649	649	2613	52	2665
2021-22	698	637	633	652	2620	50	2670
Year	9	10	11	12	Sub Total	SC	Total
2022-23	687	655	629	627	2598	51	2649
2023-24	725	644	647	623	2639	53	2692
2024-25	621	676	638	647	2582	53	2635
2025-26	650	582	668	632	2532	52	2584
2026-27	595	610	575	662	2442	52	2494

## Conclusion

- The district showed significant decline in enrollment between 2016-17 and 2021-22.
- The decline is projected to continue through the 2026-27 school year but at a slower rate than the previous five years.
- There is an indication that this decline will level off based upon what appear to be increasing enrollment in the lower grades, although the impact of this across the entire district is beyond the five years of this projection.
- The two housing developments for which the Planning Board provided information did not provide enough information for any kind of projection. Eden Woods, as per the developer, is in limbo, and there is no site plan, to the best of our knowledge, for residential units on or around the Center for Development.
- There did not appear to be any significant new housing developments in Raritan.
- The district should monitor any progress on the status of the Center for Excellence development.