

March 2023

Demographics Q&A – Follow Up Questions from Community Conversation #2 at Frenchtown School

Q1. How does NESDEC compare with McKibben Demographics?

A: The NESDEC enrollment report was completed in 2022 and projects enrollment through year 2032-33. The report models one projection level, which is used for comparison with our findings below:

	DEMOGRAPHER	2019-20	Highest Enrollment over 10 YRS
ELEMENTARY	NESDEC	3,036 (historical)	3,192 (forecast)
	McKibben Demographics	3,036 (historical)	3,228 (forecast)
MIDDLE	NESDEC	1,622 (historical)	1,725 (forecast)
	McKibben Demographics	1,622 (historical)	1,660 (forecast)
HIGH	NESDEC	2,129 (historical)	2,346 (forecast)
	McKibben Demographics	2,129 (historical)	2,268 (forecast)

From this data, we can see that the highest enrollment projected by NESDEC is similar across all educational tiers to the highest enrollment forecasted by McKibben Demographics.

Q2. How does Milone and MacBroom compare with McKibben Demographics?

A: The Milone and MacBroom report was completed in 2019 and projects school enrollment from year 2018-19 through year 2028-29. The report models three projection levels: high, medium and low. For comparison with our findings, the medium projection from Milone and MacBroom will be referenced:

	DEMOGRAPHER	2019-20	Highest Enrollment over 10 YRS
ELEMENTARY	Milone & MacBroom	2,811 (forecast)	3,133 (forecast)
	McKibben Demographics	3,036 (historical)	3,228 (forecast)

MIDDLE	Milone & MacBroom	1,616 (forecast)	1,741 (forecast)
	McKibben Demographics	1,622 (historical)	1,660 (forecast)
HIGH	Milone & MacBroom	2,139 (projection)	2,248 (forecast)
	McKibben Demographics	2,129 (historical)	2,268 (forecast)

From this data, we can see that the highest enrollment in the medium projection forecasted by Milone and MacBroom is similar across all educational tiers to the highest enrollment forecasted by McKibben Demographics.

Q3. How does the enrollment data from the last 10 years compare with the next 10 years in the McKibben Demographics forecast?

A: The district had a “wave” of students in the middle and high school grades in the first half of the last decade. As these larger cohorts graduated out of the system, total enrollment declined. Over the next decade, there will be an increasing number of elder empty nest households downsizing. This will allow new, young families with children to move in (particularly after 2025). This will result in larger elementary cohorts entering the system and lead to a slow, but steady increase in total enrollment.

Q4. Is there data available for out placement from the District, and specifically for magnet and private schools?

A: This specific data by school for magnets, charters, home schools, etc. is only available from those schools and not collected as a part of our analysis. However, the state of Connecticut does track these by district similar to other states. We have to assume the residual population aged 5-17 years old (total population minus students enrolled to the district equals the residual population) attend non-public schools, both within and out of the district. The numbers used in our forecast are provided below:

LEVEL	TOTAL 2022-23 POPULATION	ENROLLED 2022-23 IN DISTRICT	RESIDUAL POPULATION TOTALS
Elementary Schools	3,430	3,161	169
Middle Schools	1,640	1,553	87
High School	2,290	2,180	110
TOTALS	7,360	6,894	366 (5%) of Total Population

Q5. Why was the 2010 Census data used, and why not more recent census information (e.g. 2020)?

A: The only file released so far from the 2020 Decennial Census with data at the block level is the Redistricting File (PL-94-171), and it only has five variables in it: total population, voting age population, households, race/ethnicity, and group quarters. We used this data as much as we could in our analysis. Home sales data for 2021 and 2022 was available to the address level from different sources, and we used that as well. The rest of the data from the 2020 Decennial Census is scheduled to be released this May 2023, but we do not know what the quality of this data will be.

Q6. How do the last 5 years of enrollment compare to the previous demographics?

A: COVID-19 caused an unnatural decrease in total enrollment in 2020, resulting in a net loss as students chose non-public educational options. Most of these students returned in 2021, resulting in an abnormally large increase in enrollment. Moving forward, if existing home sales stay strong and older empty nest households move out, the district should see modest, but sustained enrollment increases over the next 10 years.

Q7. Will any recently completed or planned multifamily developments impact enrollment, and if so, how was this impact accounted for in the forecast?

A: Multifamily housing affects enrollment differently than single family housing. Multifamily housing tends to have households that haven't completed their family formation and have a much higher percentage of their children in the preschool ages. Thus, if the households stay in the apartments for 5 years or more, their children age into system. Consequently, you don't see the impact on enrollment immediately.

Additionally, apartment dwellers are much more mobile than homeowners. Households in multifamily housing move an average of every 2 years where homeowners move an average of every 14 years.