

## 2005 DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

In 2005, HUSD contracted Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc. (LGDR) to provide enrollment forecasts to support planning for future HUSD facilities needs. The demographic study looked at three enrollment forecast scenarios: Low, Medium and High. Low is based on pessimistic assumptions of future enrollment trends. High is based on optimistic assumptions of future enrollment trends. Medium is based on the most likely assumptions of future enrollment trends. HUSD chose the LGDR recommended medium forecast scenario, which planned for slow but stable growth. A copy of the full 2005 Demographic Study, including methodology, is available in the Appendix.

## ENROLLMENT FORECASTS

The 2005 enrollment forecasts based on the Medium scenario are summarized as follows:

Elementary (K-6) enrollment forecasted to decline from 13,323 to 13,193 between 2004 and 2008

- Forecast: loss of 130 students (-1.0%)
- **Actual: loss of 670 students (-5.0%)**

Middle School (7-8) enrollment forecasted to decline from 3,467 to 3,298 between 2004 and 2015

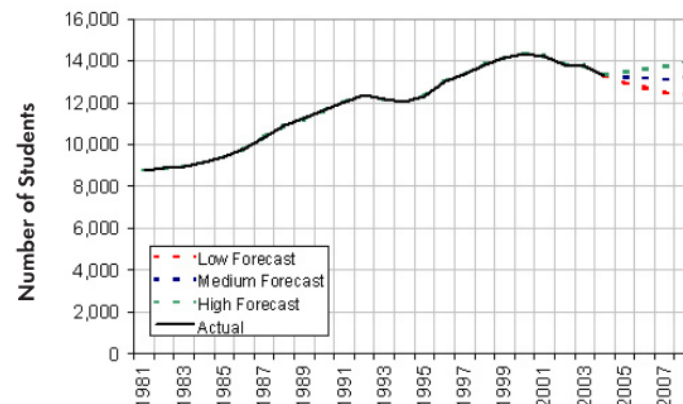
- Forecast: loss of 169 students (-4.9%)
- **Actual: loss of 234 students (-6.8%)**

High School (9-12) enrollment forecasted to decline from 6,582 to 5,975 between 2004 and 2017

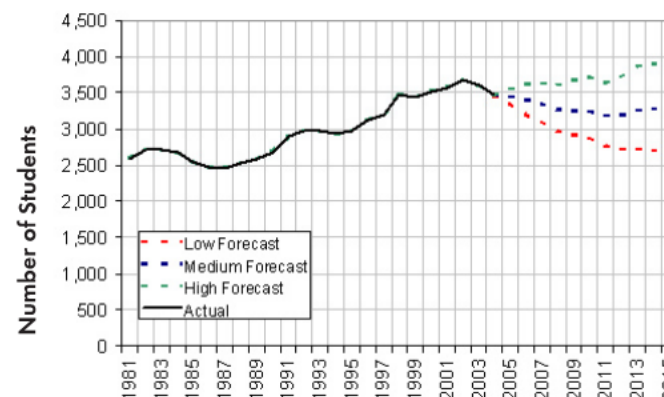
- Forecast: loss of 607 students (-9.2%)
- **Actual: loss of 1,312 (-19.9%)**

The figures on the right present the 2005 enrollment forecasts for HUSD Elementary, Middle, and High School populations.

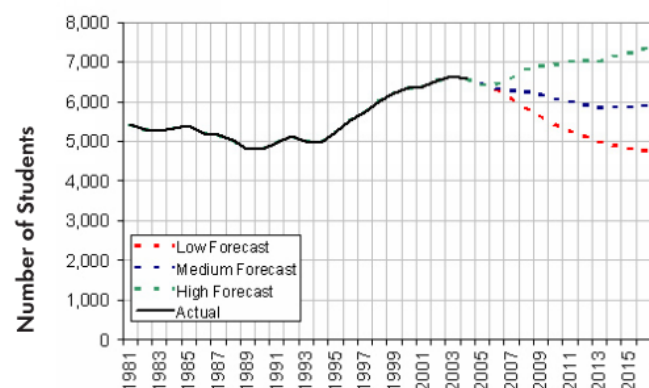
Elementary School Enrollments (Grades K to 6)



Middle School Enrollments (Grades 7 and 8)



High School Enrollments



In the years leading up to 2005, there was an apparent exodus of children from the District. Students moved out of the City, County and Bay Area. At the time, US Census Bureau population estimates showed Alameda County had been losing residents for several years. LGDR noted several factors affecting local population trends and HUSD enrollment forecasts:

- The declining enrollments are at least partly a result of a change in Hayward's demographic makeup, a process called "gentrification," in which middle-class or affluent people migrate into an area, displacing residents who are generally less affluent.
- Hayward's housing prices have increased significantly and people with fewer children are replacing residents with more children.
- Larger families are leaving Hayward.
- The number of births declined nationwide after 1990, producing lower enrollments as the smaller groups of children progress through the grades; this birth decline has affected many school districts and is one explanation for HUSD's enrollment decline.
- Despite recent housing growth, enrollments have declined, meaning new housing is generating relatively few students.

## CONCLUSIONS

By comparing actual enrollment data to the 2005 forecasts, we can draw the following conclusions:

- It is difficult to be confident in enrollment forecasts when the underlying trends have been unstable; because the LGDR forecasts were based on historical patterns, it is important to understand that unstable history increases the amount of uncertainty associated with forecasts.
- Although the Medium forecast scenario seemed reasonable at the time, it appears this was an overly-optimistic assumption as actual enrollments are significantly lower.
- The fact that out-migration has continued so long suggests that a structural change may have occurred in the community's demographics.