



# **Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools Demographic and Enrollment Study**

**October 2017**

*Ross Haber & Associates*

# Introduction

The Hewlett-Woodmere Union Free School District has requested that Ross Haber and Associates, LLC provide an enrollment and demographic study. The last study completed for the District was in March 2016. That study indicated that the enrollment in the public schools showed stability from the base year of 2010-11 to the 2015-16 school year. The total enrollment in 2010-11 was 3,032. The enrollment as of 2015-16 was 3,069. At that time, the projection for 2017-18 was 3,070. The actual enrollment as of this report (October 2017) is 3,037, excluding ungraded students.<sup>1</sup> With an additional 22 ungraded students, the District total is 3,059, showing the stability of the student enrollment.<sup>2</sup> The current study extends to the 2024-25 school year. The projection shows that the student enrollment in the public schools will decline to 2,917 (a decline of 120 students, excluding ungraded) in 2024-25. This is a decrease of approximately 4% during the next seven years.

**Table 1: Public School Enrollment Trends**

School District	2012-13	2016-17	Difference	Percent
East Meadow	7,166	7,028	-138	-1.93%
Great Neck	6,296	6,394	98	1.56%
Hewlett-Woodmere	3,043	3,037	-6	-0.20%
Lawrence	2,834	2,645	-189	-6.67%
Long Beach	3,726	3,673	-53	-1.42%
Lynbrook	2,791	2,768	-23	-0.82%
Massapequa	7,647	7,124	-523	-6.84%
North Shore CSD	2,757	2,687	-70	-2.54%
Oceanside	5,732	5,578	-154	-2.69%
Port Washington	5,091	5,283	192	3.77%
Roslyn	3,188	3,138	-50	-1.57%
Seaford	2,452	2,283	-169	-6.89%
Syosset	6,493	6,247	-246	-3.79%
Wantagh	3,317	3,012	-305	-9.20%

<sup>1</sup>The range of ungraded students average between 10 and 20 per year. It is difficult to project these students. For the purposes of this study the projections would assume 20 ungraded students per year which can be added to the total number of students District-wide.

<sup>2</sup>Enrollment data as of September, 2017

Table 1 shows a number of randomly selected Nassau County School Districts. The table shows that only two in the sample have shown growth (Great Neck and Port Washington). The others show decline ranging from slight to significant. Hewlett-Woodmere, in terms of this table, has shown stability. Even with the projected decrease of 120 students, this would only amount to 4% which would be about mid-range in the County regarding enrollment changes. For this study, the Board has also requested that an enrollment projection be completed for the non-public school students who reside within the Hewlett-Woodmere School District boundaries. While projections for non-public school students were not made in previous reports, there were references made to the numbers of students attending these schools.

**Table 2: Comparison of Enrollment Percentage of School Aged Children:  
Public and Non-Public Schools**

Year	School Aged Children	Total Public	Percentage Public	Total Non-Public	Percentage Non-Public
2012-13	4263	3043	71.38%	1220	28.62%
2013-14	4304	3065	71.21%	1239	28.79%
2014-15	4336	3038	70.06%	1298	29.94%
2015-16	4393	3048	69.38%	1345	30.62%
2016-17	4612	3063	66.41%	1549	33.59%
2017-18	4644	3037	65.40%	1607	34.60%
2018-19	4707	3015	64.05%	1692	35.95%
2019-20	4769	3000	62.91%	1769	37.09%
2020-21	4797	2986	62.25%	1811	37.75%
2021-22	4832	2960	61.26%	1872	38.74%
2022-23	4831	2952	61.11%	1879	38.89%
2023-24	4834	2922	60.45%	1912	39.55%
2024-25	4800	2917	60.77%	1883	39.23%

Table 2 shows that the non-public school enrollment increased steadily between 2012-13 and 2015-16.<sup>3</sup> This was an average growth of approximately 45 students per year. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, there was a significant spike in non-public school enrollment.

<sup>3</sup>Non-public school enrollment is based upon a combination of textbook distribution and transportation applications for each school year.

The number increased from 1,345 to 1,549. This was an increase of 204 students or approximately 13.1%. For the 2017-18 school year, the non-public school student enrollment is 1,607, an increase of 58 students, which is much consistent with past enrollment increases. The **average** increase through 2024-25 is projected to be 40 students per year. While the non-public school enrollment is projected to grow, it does appear that it is showing a trend toward leveling off. At this point, statistically, the one spike in non-public school enrollment (2015-16 to 2017-18) is being considered an anomaly. If the numbers in the future show more yearly jumps more closely replicating the 2015-16 to 2016-17, then this would be an indication of a trend toward a larger number of students attending non-public schools.

## Executive Summary

1. The total enrollment for the District decreased from 3,043 in 2012-13 to 3,037 in 2017-18. This is virtually no change in the total enrollment in the public schools. The total District enrollment is projected to decrease from the current 3,037 to 2,917 in 2024-25. This is a decrease of 120 students or approximately 4%.
2. The PK-1 enrollment decreased from 473 in 2012-13 to 444 in 2017-18. This is a decrease of 29 students or approximately 6.1%. The PK-1 enrollment is projected to decrease slightly from the current 444 to 441 in 2024-25.
3. The enrollment in grades 2-5 increased from 827 in 2012-13 to 831 in 2017-18. This enrollment is projected to decrease from the current 831 to 752 in 2024-25. This is a decrease of 79 students or approximately 9.5%.
4. The middle school enrollment decreased from 708 students in 2012-13 to 696 students in 2017-18. The middle school enrollment is projected to decrease from the current 696 to 638 in 2024-25. This is a decrease of 57 students or approximately 8.2%.
5. The high school enrollment increased from 1,033 in 2012-13 to 1,066 in 2017-18. This is an increase of 33 students or approximately 3.1%. The high school enrollment is projected to increase from the current 1,066 to 1,084 in 2024-25. This is a projected decrease of 18 students or approximately 1.7%.
6. The non-public school student enrollment increased from 1,220 in 2012-13 to 1,607 in 2017-18. This was an increase of 387 students or approximately 24.1%. It is important to note that there was a jump between 2015-16 and 2016-17 of 204 students which accounted for 52% of that growth. At this point this is considered an anomaly. The projection indicates that the non-public school student enrollment will continue to grow to 1,883 in 2024-25. This is an increase of 16.7% with an indication of leveling out in 2024-25.

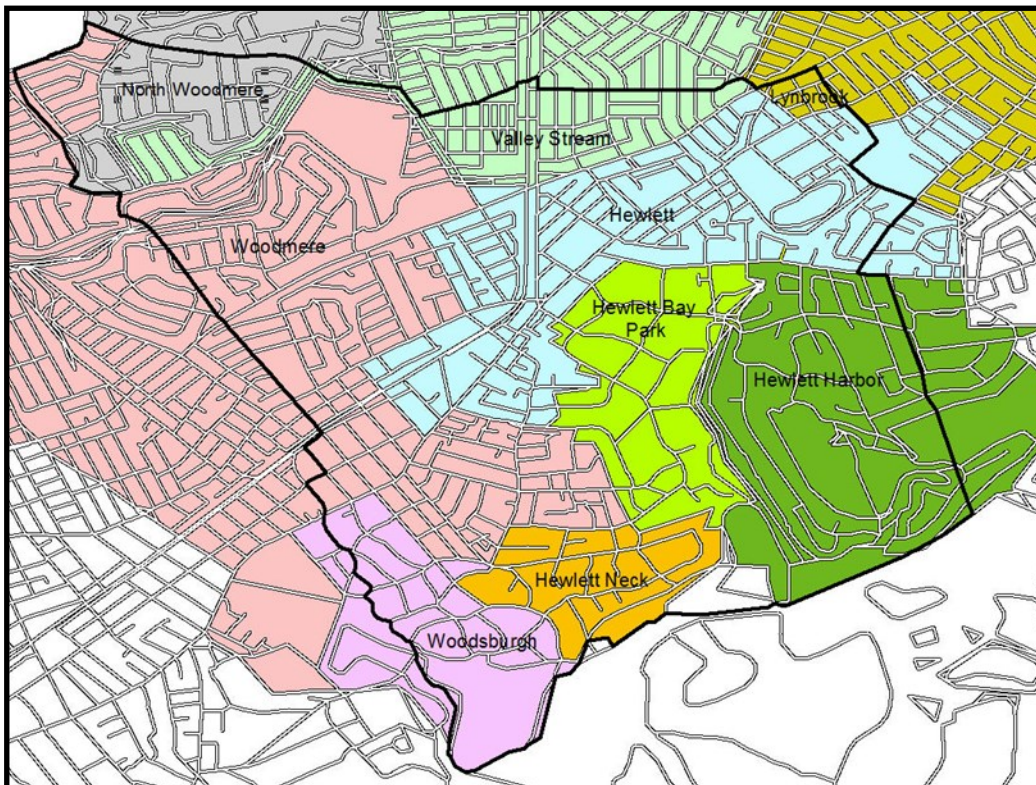
The District enrollment has remained remarkably stable during the past six years. While the public schools will see about a 4% decline over the next five years, this does not indicate a major enrollment drop and appears to be at about the mid-point of where other Nassau County school districts appear to be.

## Methodology

This study used the cohort survival method for enrollment projections. The cohort survival method follows students as they move from grade to grade and calculates the percentage of growth and/or decline as they move through the system. This is tracked for six years and an average rate of growth is calculated to produce a five-year growth/decline ratio. The final year of actual enrollment is then multiplied by the average growth/decline ratio (also referred to as the migration ratio) to project the next five years of enrollment. Kindergarten projections are based upon a comparison of children born in a given year and the number of kindergarten students enrolled five year later. For example, students born in 2007 became kindergarten students in 2012. This ratio of birth to kindergarten is calculated over a six year period to develop a five year average migration ratio (e.g.-if 100 children were born in 2007 and there were 75 kindergarten students in 2012 the migration ratio would be .75). This average is then applied to each year's live births for the projections. The birth data is provided by the State Education Department which attributes the births to the school districts and not the municipalities. This is important, especially in a District like Hewlett-Woodmere, which comprises several municipalities.

Cohort projections do not include any growth based upon projected construction (that is housing that is either under construction or that has been approved by the Town Planning Board). In discussions with the Planning Board we determined that there is little room for major development and most new housing is a result of either teardowns or random lots.

## Municipalities Comprising Hewlett-Woodmere U.F.S.D.



# Analysis

The Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools have remained stable during the past six years. The projections indicate that there will be a decrease in enrollment of approximately 4%. It appears that the lower grades are slowly decreasing in enrollment which eventually will filter through the entire system. It is our opinion that the only real driver of enrollment in the District is housing sales. Since 2014, 439 homes have been sold in Woodmere. While it is difficult to attribute a precise number of these sold homes to the Hewlett-Woodmere District it is reasonable, based upon the map, to assume that approximately 220 of these sold homes are in the District. Another 212 homes were sold in Hewlett in the same time period. That brings the total number of homes sold in these two communities to approximately 432 homes. There are sold homes in the other municipalities, but it is not possible to determine exactly how many impact the District. Based upon the approximate number of homes sold and the relationship in terms of percentage of changes in enrollment (public vs. non-public), it is a rational assumption that the majority of homes sold in the District are being purchased by families choosing to send their children to non-public schools.

There are currently (depending upon which website visited) between 132 and 161 homes for sale in the District (all municipalities), so this appears to be what could be a limiting factor in any rapid increase in the numbers of families with children entering the District. It might be possible to work with realtors in the community in order to determine the choice of schools that new families make when they move into the District. This could help the District better understand the impact of housing sales on the public school enrollment.

With regard to non-public school students, as of this time, the data indicates that the one year significant increase in non-public school student enrollment is an anomaly. It also appears that in a fully built out community where, at least at this point, there is no room for large scale development, that the number of students coming into the District does have limitations. However, it is also important to compare housing sales with the numbers of students coming into the District. To this point, while the number of houses sold in the District is fairly substantial, it appears that despite the growth of the non-public student enrollment, the public schools have remained stable. However, the correlation between housing sales and student enrollment should be monitored. The next section of this study contains the tables and charts supporting the findings.

# Public School Enrollment History and Projection

Year	Births	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK-1	2-5	6-8	9-12	Total	
2012-13	190	0.95	121	181	171	198	199	216	216	229	251	228	258	242	267	266	473	829	708	1033	3043
				1.03	1.05	1.08	1.03	1.03	1.05	1.04	1.06	1.07	1.02	1.01	1.01						
2013-14	198	0.90	128	179	186	179	213	204	223	227	238	267	243	264	245	269	493	819	732	1021	3065
				1.02	1.04	1.02	1.01	1.03	1.04	1.03	1.05	1.00	1.03	1.03	1.00						
2014-15	172	1.08	119	185	182	193	183	215	211	233	233	249	268	250	272	245	486	802	715	1035	3038
				1.04	1.01	1.05	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.04	1.05	1.03	1.00	1.04	0.99						
2015-16	209	0.85	131	177	193	183	202	187	219	216	243	244	257	268	259	269	501	791	703	1053	3048
				1.10	1.03	1.04	1.07	1.09	1.06	1.11	1.05	1.08	1.04	1.00	1.02						
2016-17	174	1.02	96	177	194	198	190	216	204	233	240	254	264	266	267	264	467	808	727	1061	3063
				1.03	1.02	1.03	1.04	1.08	1.05	1.06	0.98	1.05	1.01	1.01	0.99						
2017-18	174	0.88	108	153	183	198	203	197	233	214	248	234	266	266	269	265	444	831	696	1066	3037
Av		0.91		1.04	1.03	1.04	1.03	1.05	1.05	1.06	1.04	1.05	1.02	1.02	1.00						
Year		PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PK-1	2-5	6-8	9-12	Total	
2018-19	165		112	150	160	188	206	210	207	244	226	257	245	271	271	269	421	811	727	1056	3015
2019-20	189		105	172	157	164	196	213	220	217	258	234	269	249	276	271	434	793	709	1065	3000
2020-21	182		108	166	179	161	171	202	224	231	229	267	245	274	254	276	454	758	726	1049	2986
2021-22	177		108	161	173	184	168	176	212	234	244	237	279	250	278	254	442	741	715	1061	2960
2022-23	177		107	161	168	178	192	173	185	222	248	252	248	284	254	279	437	728	722	1065	2952
2023-24	178		108	162	168	173	185	198	182	194	235	256	264	253	289	254	439	738	685	1060	2922
2024-25	181		108	164	169	173	180	191	208	190	205	243	268	269	257	290	441	752	639	1084	2917

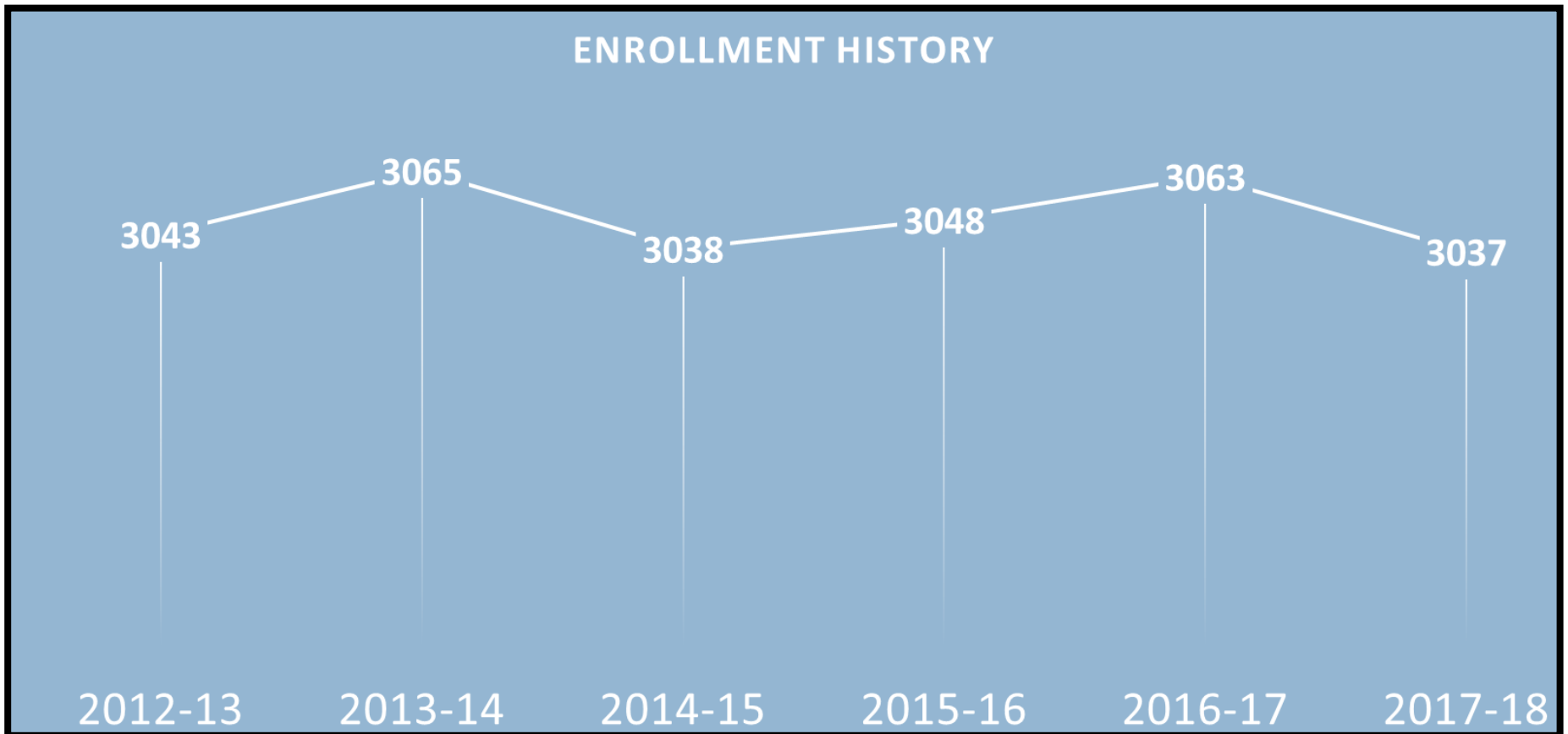
This table shows the enrollment history and projection for the public schools. Ungraded students are not included in this table, but on average they constitute between 15 and 20 students per year. The years from 2018-19 through 2024-25 are projected counts.

## History of Live Births

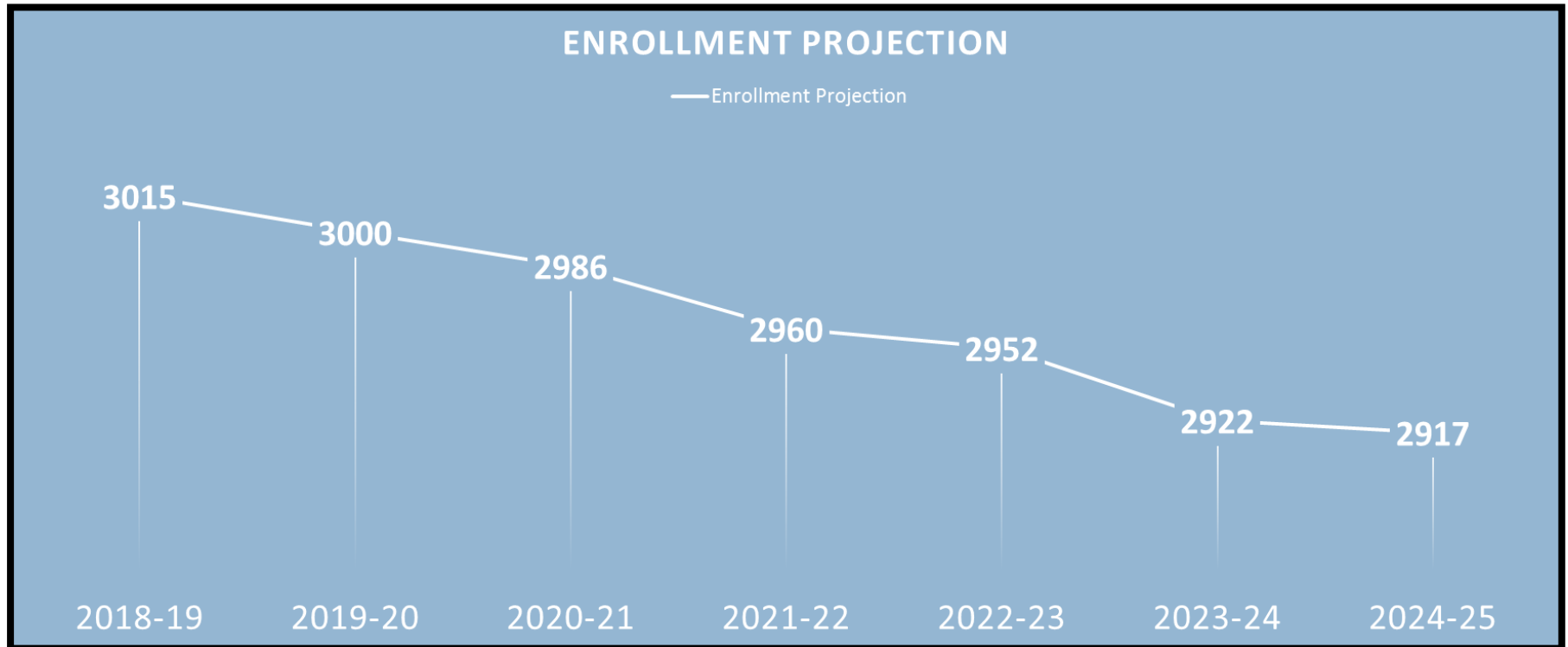
Birth Data		
Year	Live-Births	Kindergarten Year
2007	190	2012-13
2008	198	2013-14
2009	172	2014-15
2010	209	2015-16
2011	174	2016-17
2012	165	2017-18
2013	189	2018-19
2014	182	2019-20
2015	184	2020-21
2016	179	2021-22
2017	147	2022-23
2018	176	2023-24
2019	173	2024-25

The areas shaded in blue are estimated births using a moving average. The State Education Department is generally on a 2 to 3 year lag in updating births by school district. Of course, for the last half of 2017 and all of 2018 and 2019, no children have been born yet. The last years of the birth rate are an estimate based upon the averages of the previous years.

## Public School Enrollment History

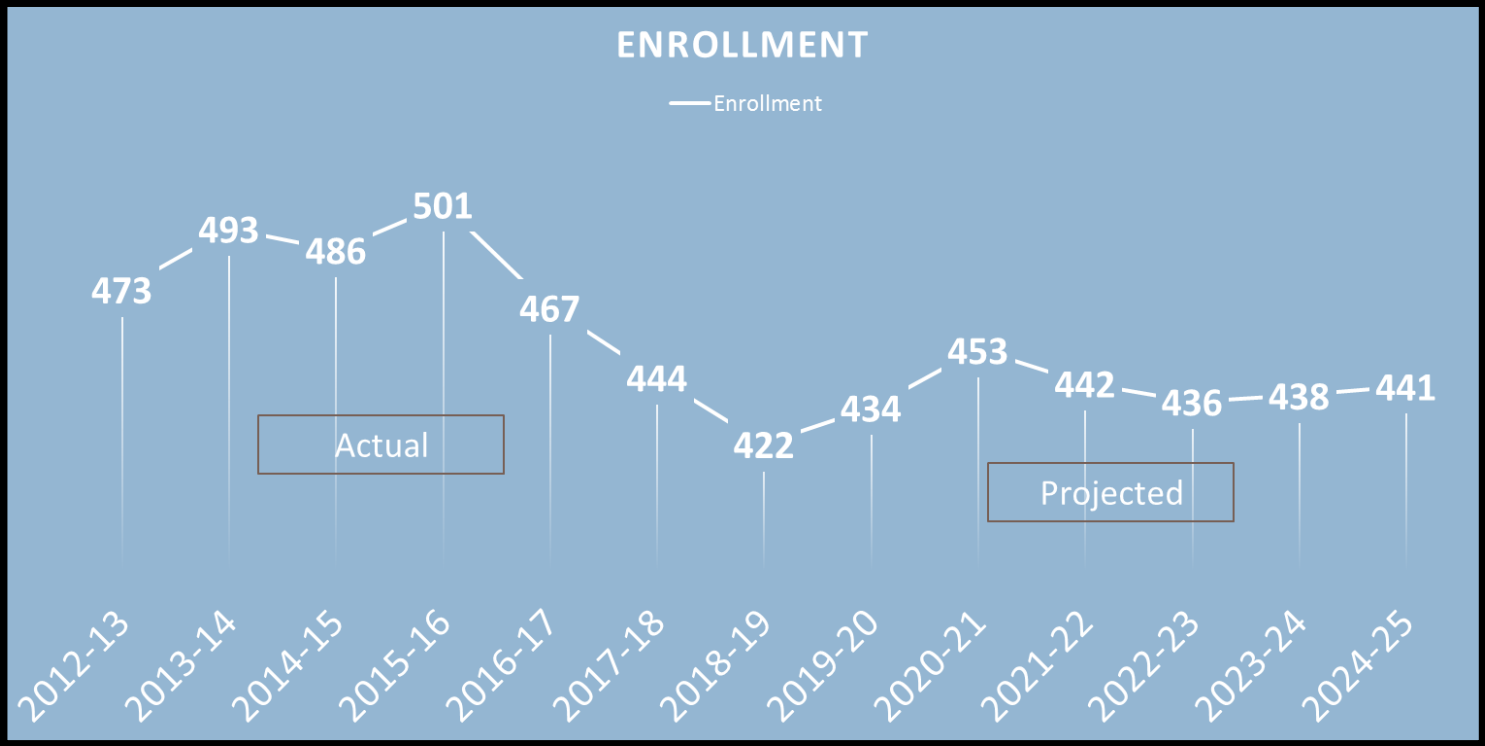


# Public School Enrollment Projection



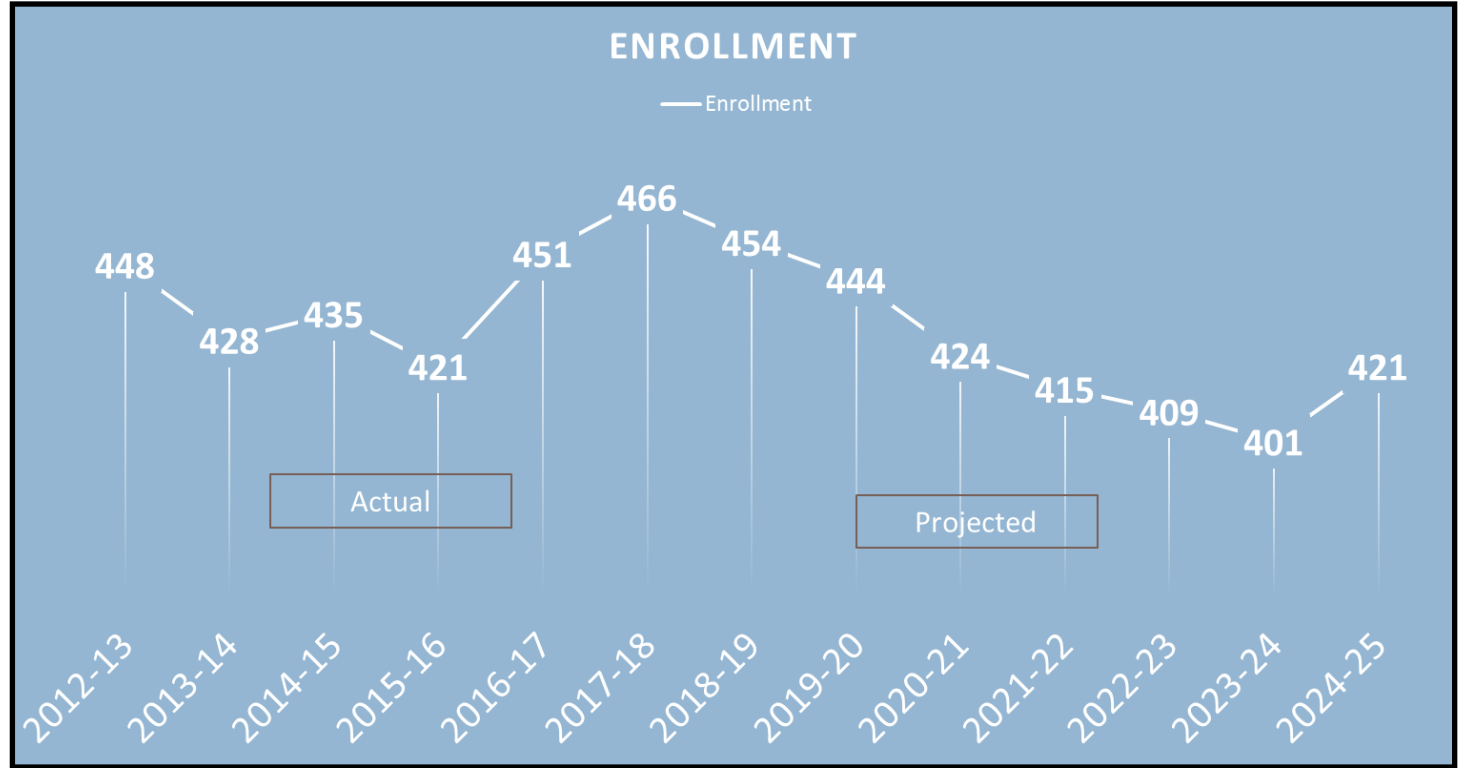
# Franklin Early Childhood Center

Year	Births	PK	K	1	Total
12-13	190	121	181	171	473
13-14	198	128	179	186	493
14-15	172	119	185	182	486
15-16	209	131	177	193	501
16-17	174	96	177	194	467
17-18	165	108	153	183	444
18-19	189	112	150	160	422
19-20	182	105	172	157	434
20-21	184	108	166	179	453
21-22	179	108	161	173	442
22-23	147	107	161	168	436
23-24	176	108	162	168	438
24-25	173	108	164	169	441



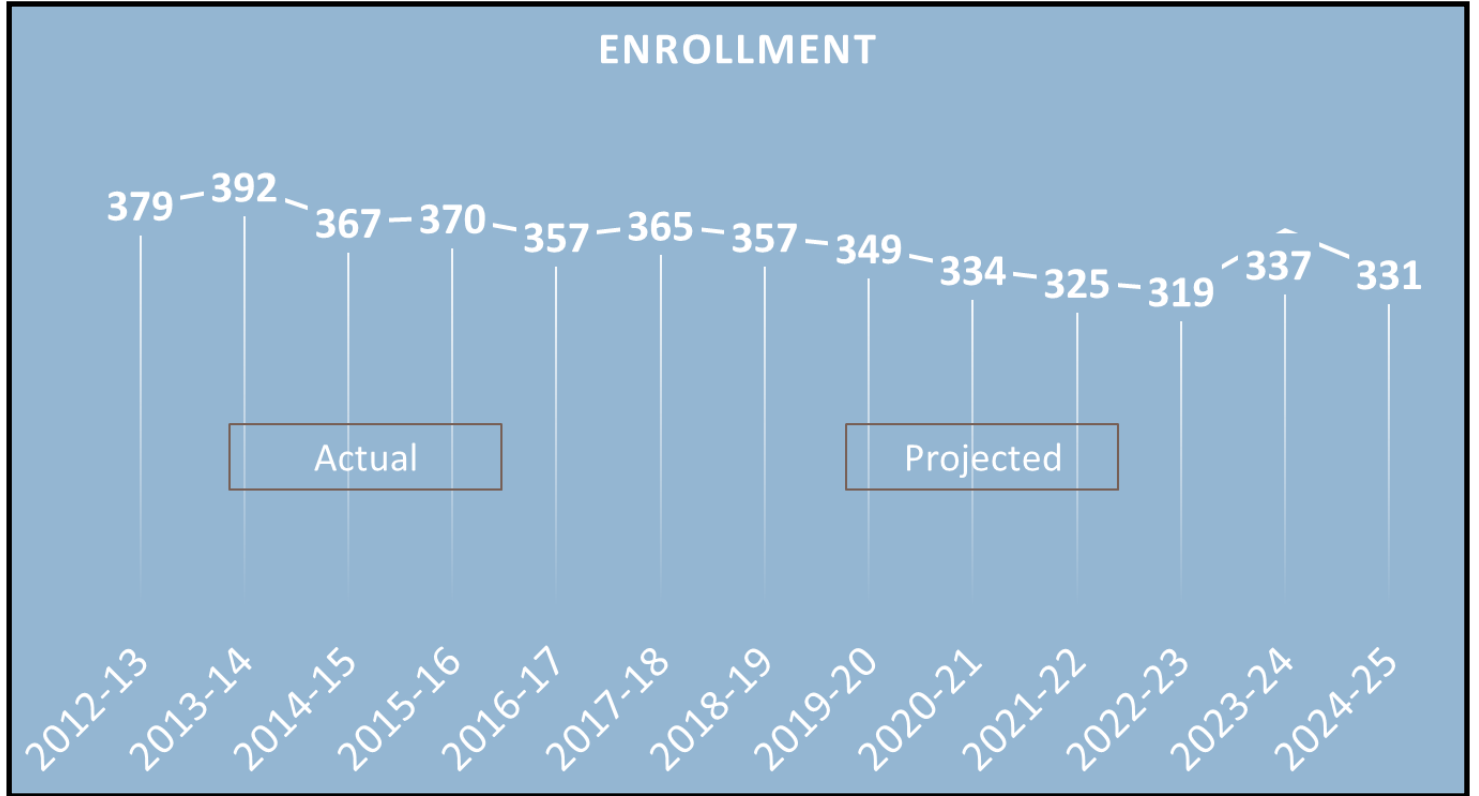
# Hewlett Elementary School

Year	2	3	4	5	Total
12-13	96	107	117	128	448
13-14	95	106	109	118	428
14-15	115	100	106	114	435
15-16	91	122	104	104	421
16-17	105	99	129	118	451
17-18	113	108	104	141	466
18-19	105	115	118	116	454
19-20	92	110	119	123	444
20-21	90	96	113	125	424
21-22	103	94	99	119	415
22-23	100	108	97	104	409
23-24	92	100	109	100	401
24-25	97	101	107	116	421



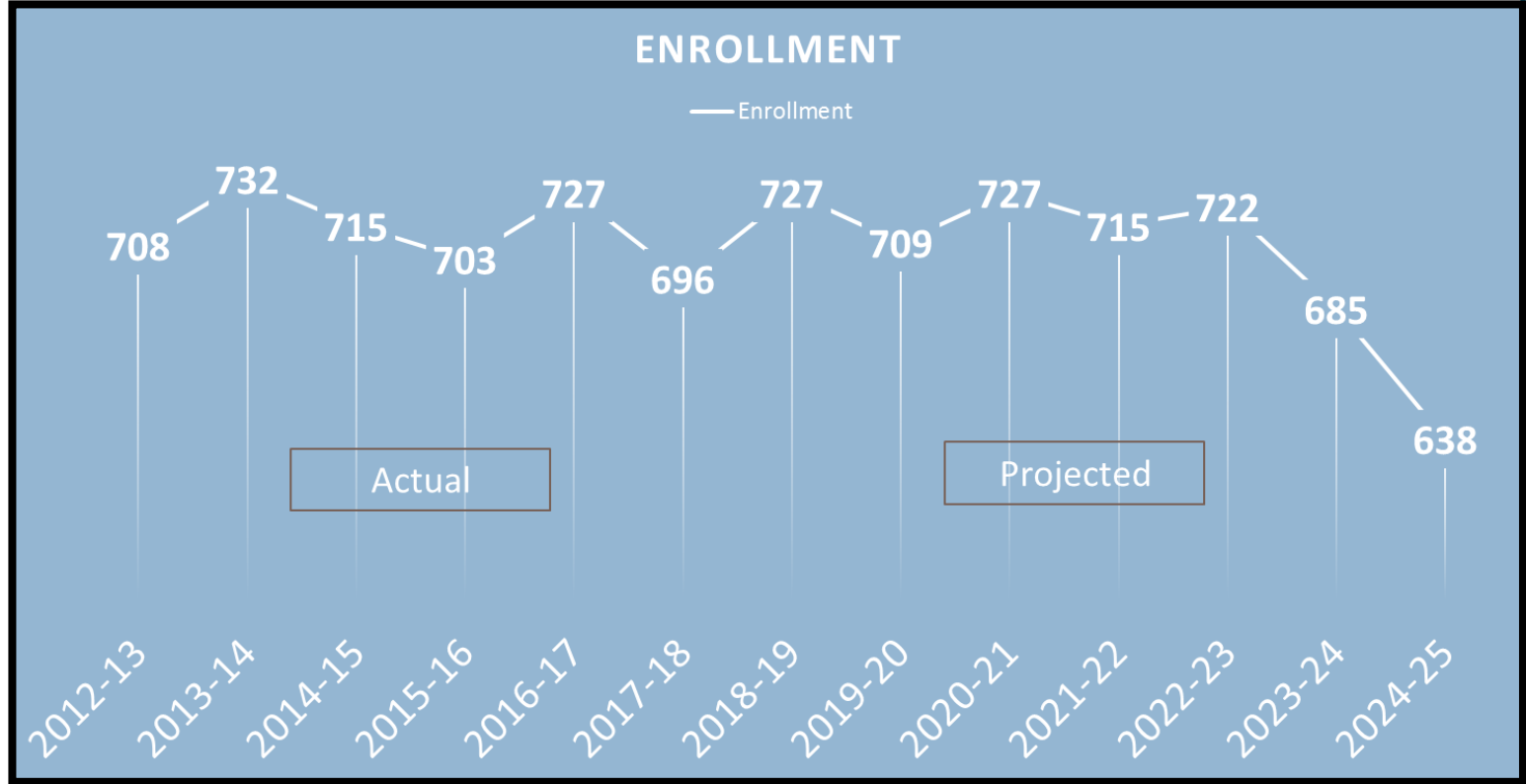
# Ogden Elementary School

Year	2	3	4	5	Total
12-13	100	92	99	88	379
13-14	84	108	95	105	392
14-15	78	83	109	97	367
15-16	92	80	83	115	370
16-17	93	91	87	86	357
17-18	85	95	93	92	365
18-19	83	91	92	91	357
19-20	72	86	94	97	349
20-21	71	75	89	99	334
21-22	81	74	77	93	325
22-23	78	84	76	81	319
23-24	81	85	89	82	337
24-25	76	79	84	92	331



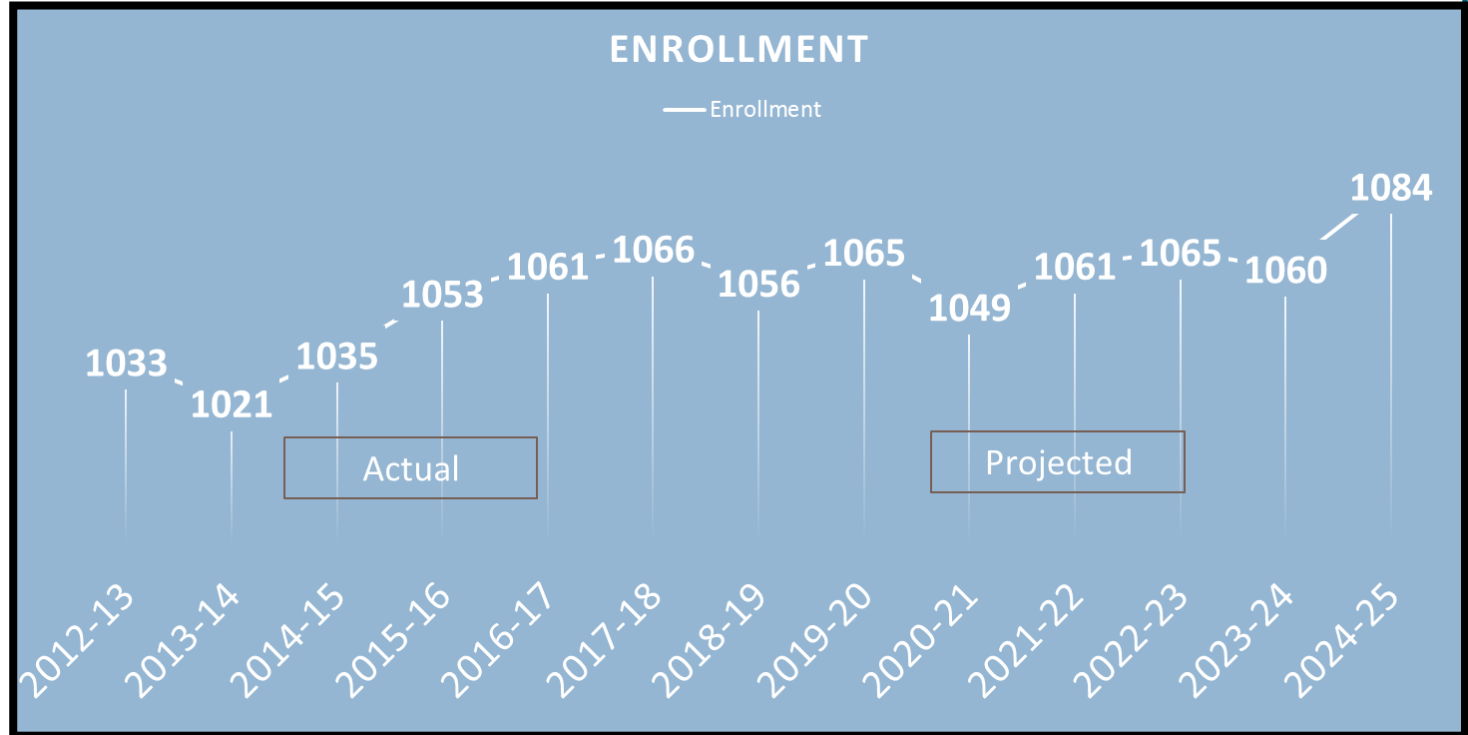
# Woodmere Middle School

Year	6	7	8	Total
12-13	229	251	228	708
13-14	227	238	267	732
14-15	233	233	249	715
15-16	216	243	244	703
16-17	233	240	254	727
17-18	214	248	234	696
18-19	244	226	257	727
19-20	217	258	234	709
20-21	231	229	267	727
21-22	234	244	237	715
22-23	222	248	252	722
23-24	194	235	256	685
24-25	190	205	243	638

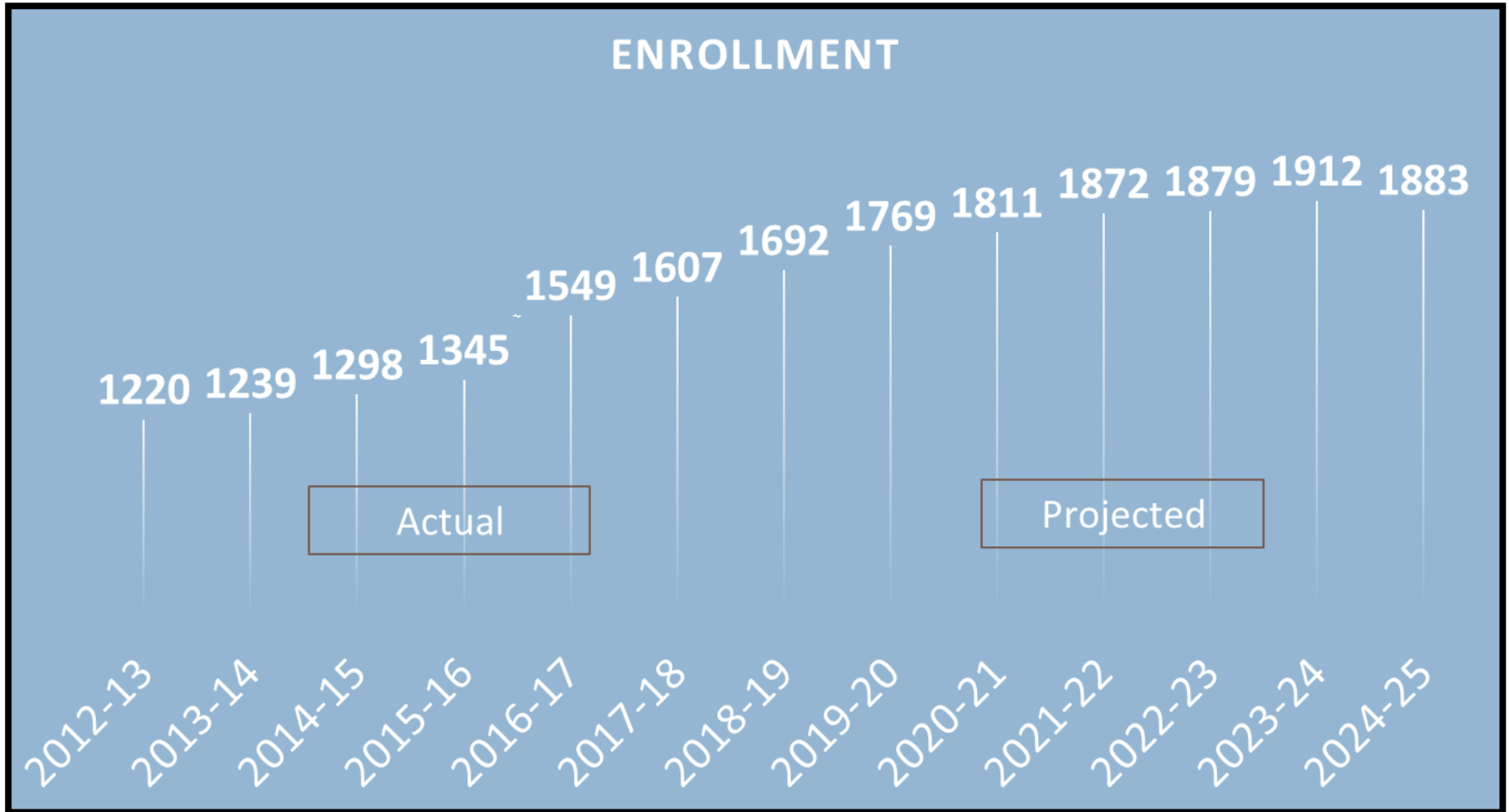


# Hewlett High School

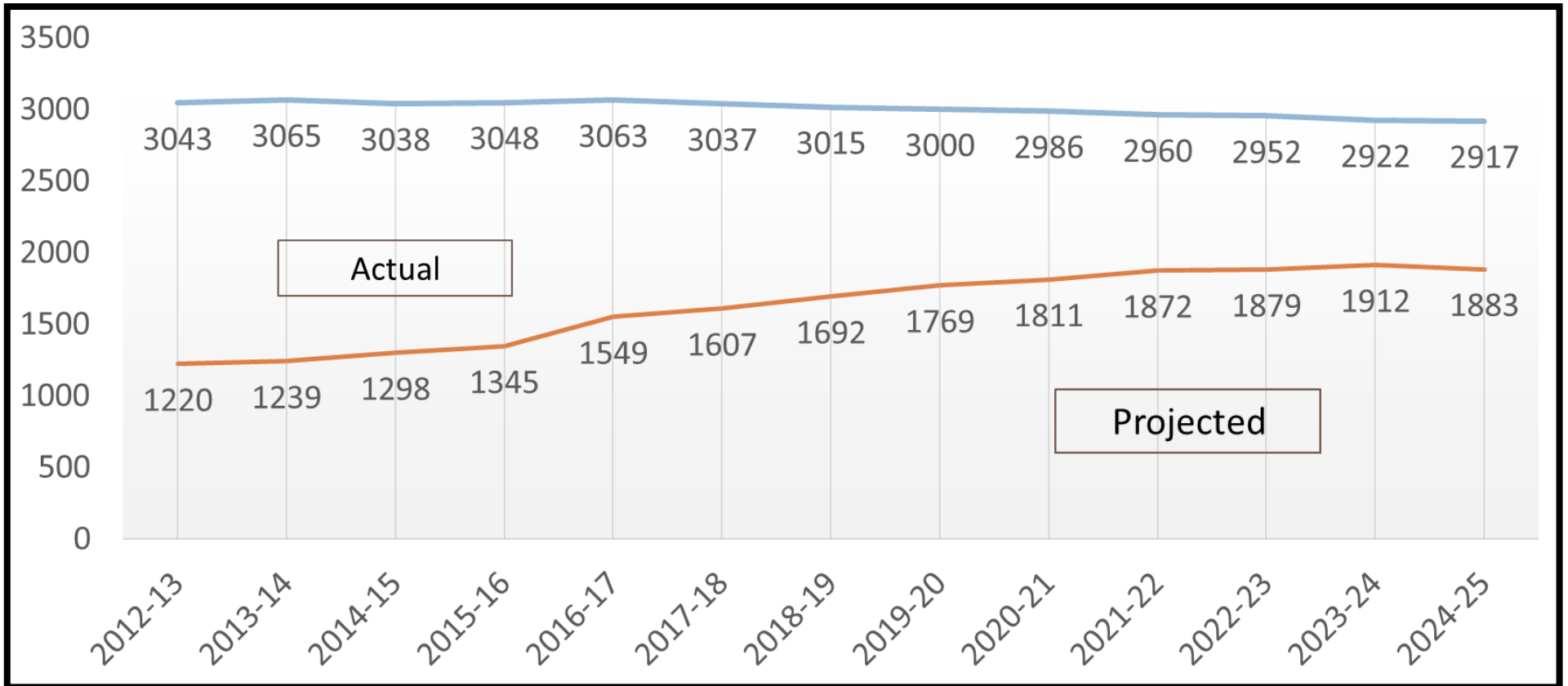
Year	9	10	11	12	Total
12-13	258	242	267	266	1033
13-14	243	264	245	269	1021
14-15	268	250	272	245	1035
15-16	257	268	259	269	1053
16-17	264	266	267	264	1061
17-18	266	266	269	265	1066
18-19	245	271	271	269	1056
19-20	269	249	276	271	1065
20-21	245	274	254	276	1049
21-22	279	250	278	254	1061
22-23	248	284	254	279	1065
23-24	264	253	289	254	1060
24-25	268	269	257	290	1084



## Non-Public School History and Projection



## Comparison between Public & Non-Public Enrollment Trends

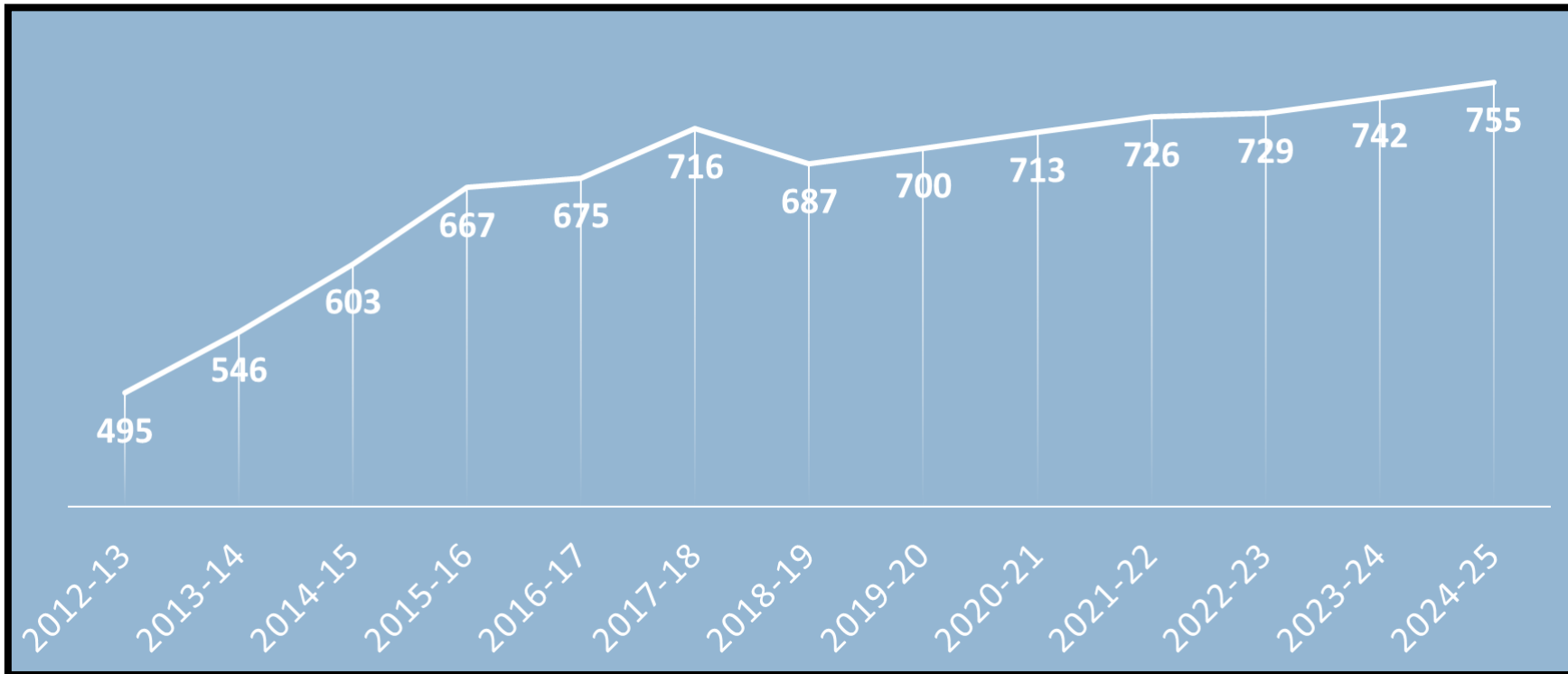


# Ethnic History and Projection

Year	Total White	Percent	Yearly Change	Af Amer	Percent	Yearly Change	Hispanic	Percent	Yearly Change	Asian	Percent	Yearly Change	Nat Am PI/Hawi	Percent	Yearly Change	Multi Racial	Percent	Yearly Change	Undefined	Percentage	Yearly Change	
2012-13	3043	2,073	68.12%	181	5.95%		406	13.34%		316	10.38%		17	0.56%		57	1.87%		9	0.30%		
2013-14	3065	2,047	66.79%	-1.34%	201	6.56%	0.61%	419	13.67%	0.33%	329	10.73%	0.35%	17	0.55%	0.00%	62	2.02%	0.15%	8	0.26%	-0.03%
2014-15	3038	2,023	66.59%	-0.20%	204	6.71%	0.16%	422	13.89%	0.22%	314	10.34%	-0.40%	18	0.59%	0.04%	66	2.17%	0.15%	8	0.26%	0.00%
2015-16	3048	1,994	65.42%	-1.17%	221	7.25%	0.54%	445	14.60%	0.71%	315	10.33%	0.00%	17	0.56%	-0.03%	70	2.30%	0.12%	7	0.23%	-0.03%
2016-17	3063	1,972	64.38%	-1.04%	248	8.10%	0.85%	458	14.95%	0.35%	316	10.32%	-0.02%	15	0.49%	-0.07%	68	2.22%	-0.08%	6	0.20%	-0.03%
2017-18	3037	1,952	64.27%	-0.11%	264	8.69%	0.60%	451	14.85%	-0.10%	299	9.85%	-0.47%	13	0.43%	-0.06%	73	2.40%	0.18%	6	0.20%	0.00%
<b>Average</b>			<b>65.93%</b>	<b>-1.18%</b>		<b>7.21%</b>	<b>2.05%</b>		<b>14.22%</b>	<b>1.39%</b>		<b>10.33%</b>	<b>-0.17%</b>		<b>0.53%</b>	<b>-0.09%</b>		<b>2.16%</b>	<b>0.48%</b>		<b>0.24%</b>	<b>-0.03%</b>
2018-19	3015	1,907	63.25%		265	8.79%		452	14.99%		298	9.88%		13	0.43%		74	2.45%		6	0.20%	
2019-20	3000	1,880	62.67%		262	8.73%		463	15.43%		297	9.85%		14	0.47%		78	2.60%		6	0.20%	
2020-21	2986	1,858	62.22%		272	9.11%		466	15.61%		296	9.83%		14	0.47%		75	2.51%		5	0.17%	
2021-22	2960	1,826	61.69%		273	9.22%		471	15.91%		296	9.82%		14	0.47%		75	2.55%		5	0.17%	
2022-23	2952	1,803	61.08%		276	9.35%		475	16.09%		300	9.95%		16	0.54%		77	2.61%		5	0.17%	
2023-24	2922	1,765	60.40%		284	9.72%		483	16.53%		299	9.93%		15	0.51%		71	2.43%		5	0.17%	
2024-25	2917	1,748	59.92%		290	9.94%		489	16.76%		299	9.97%		15	0.51%		71	2.45%		5	0.17%	

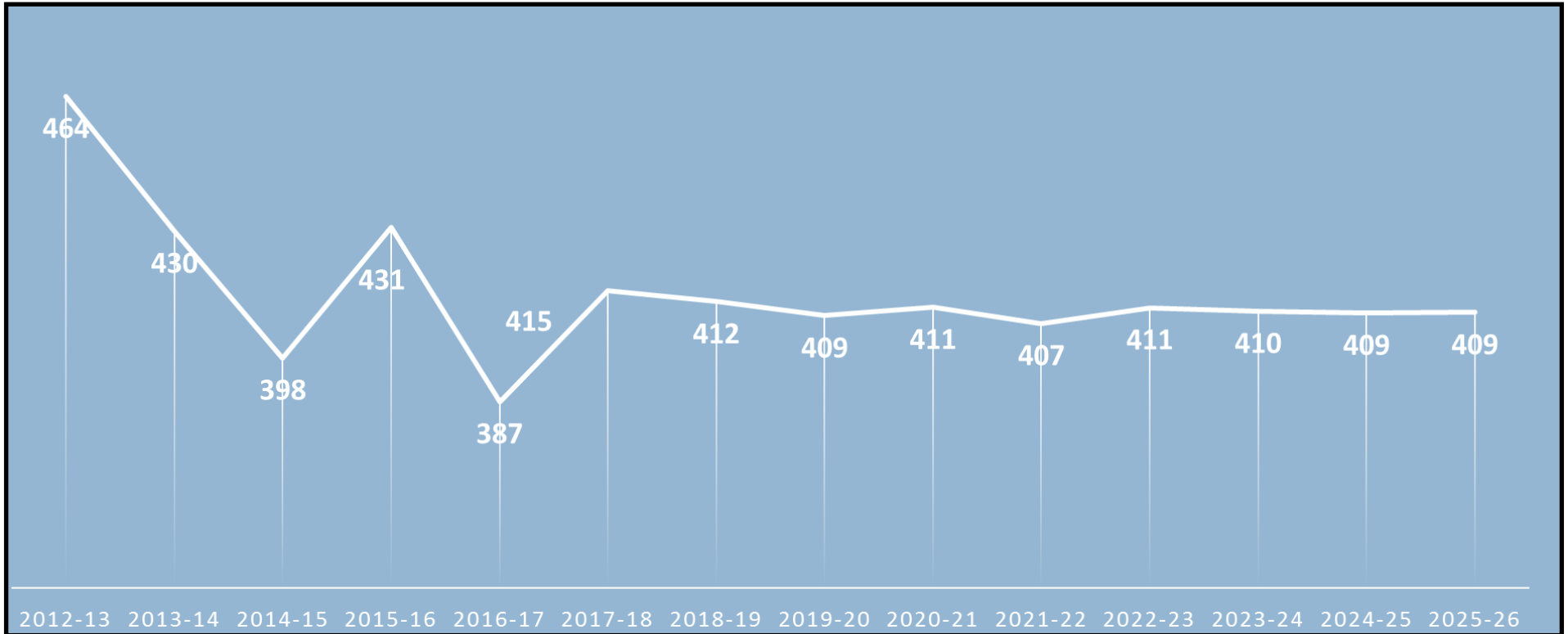
The table above shows changes in the ethnic balances in the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. The projections in this table use a modified cohort survival method. The growth/decline ratios are based upon the three highest yearly change estimates for each group. This is done to prevent significant drops in any particular group in a given year and is less likely to distort the projection.

## Economically Disadvantaged Students



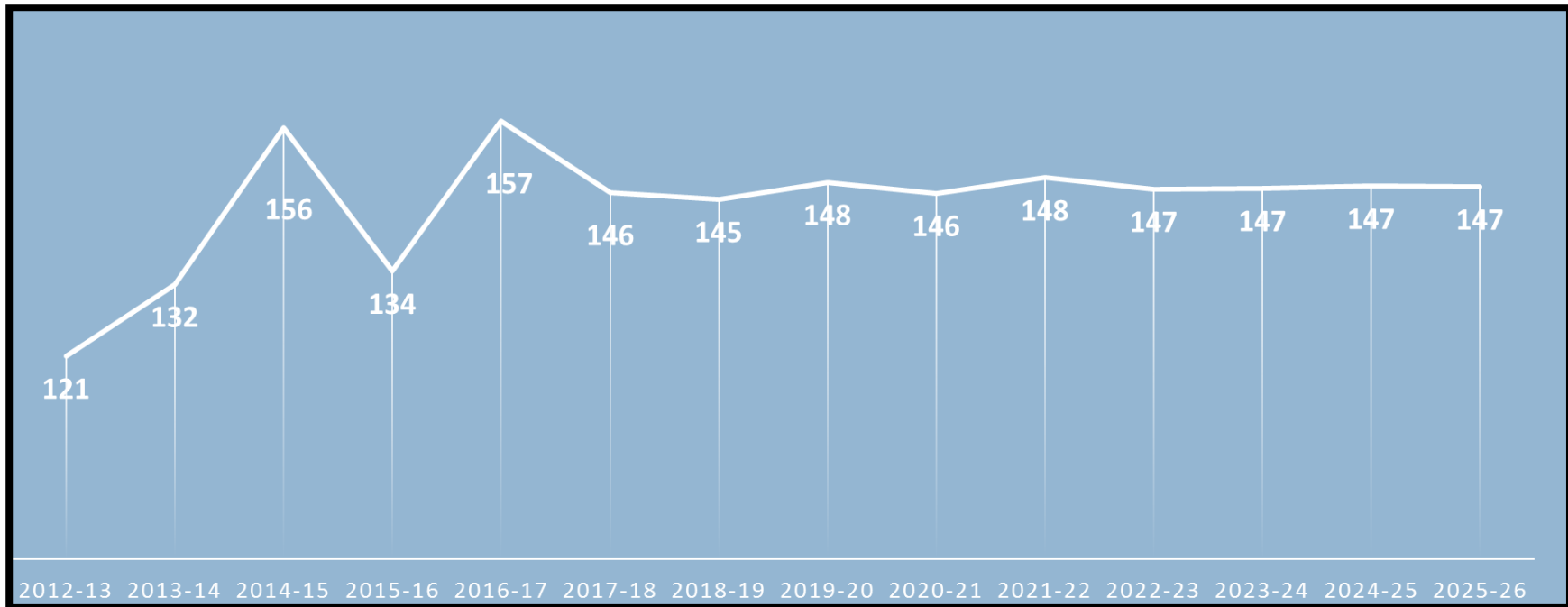
In 2012-13 the number of students considered economically disadvantaged comprised 16.21% of the total District enrollment. In 2016-17 this percentage reached 23.41%. Based upon a moving average this percentage could climb to 25.26% by 2024-25.

## Public School Students with Disabilities



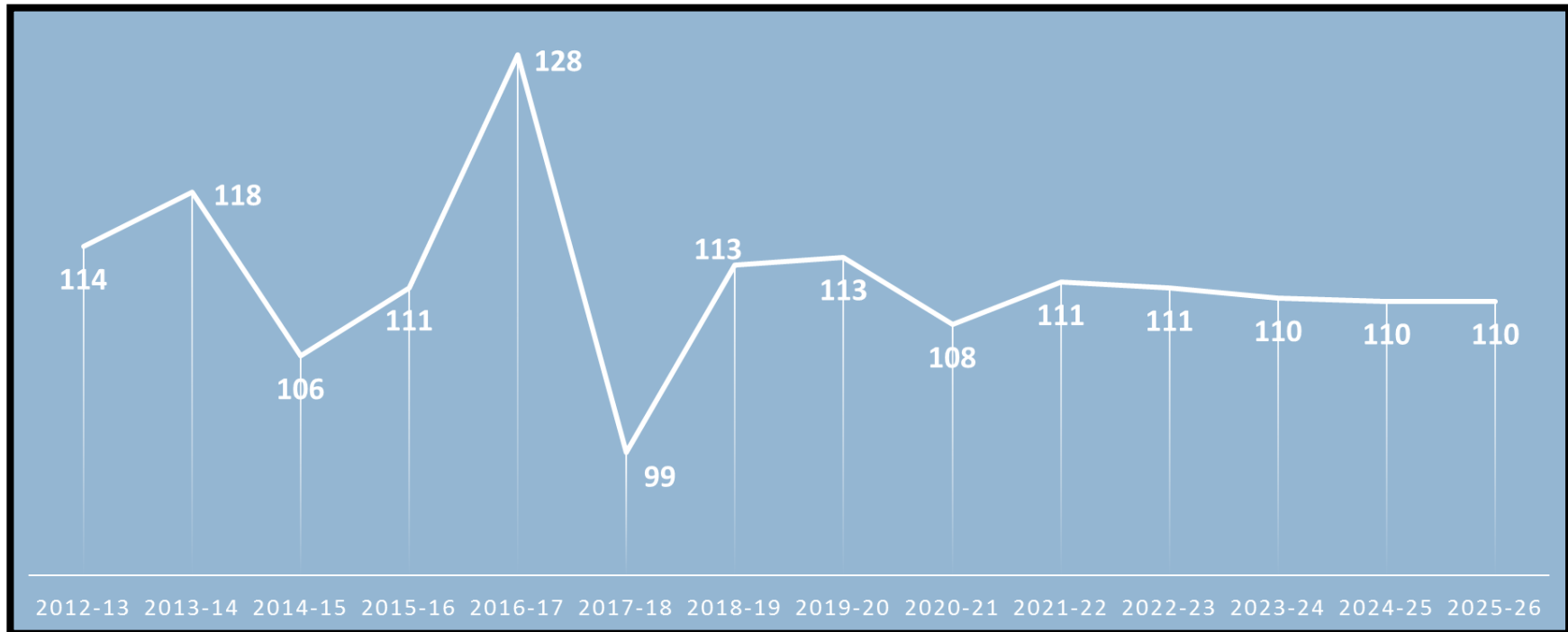
From 2012-13 to 2016-17 the number of public school students with disabilities remained stable from year to year. As of the beginning of 2017-18 this number spiked substantially (69 students). As of this study this spike is treated as an anomaly and it is assumed that moving forward the number of students with disabilities should be more of a reflection of the historical numbers.

## Non-Public School Students with Disabilities



The majority of the non-public school students with disabilities reside outside of the Hewlett-Woodmere School District and attend non-public schools located within the District. As a result these students are not counted as a percentage of the Hewlett-Woodmere enrollment.

## Students with Limited English Speaking Skills



The number of ELL students increased between 2014-15 and 2016-17. In 2017-18 the number fell by 29 students. The projection shows that the total number of ELL students projected should return to historical ranges.